



**St. Alban's Earsdon**



**Earsdon Methodist**



# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**September  
2022**

**£1.00**



**Our Lady & St. Edmund,  
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

## SEPTEMBER 2022

September is often the month when we celebrate Harvest Festival, the tradition that pre-dates Christianity and dates back to pagan times, the name being derived from the Old English word ‘Haerfest’ meaning ‘Autumn’. Today’s church celebrations only began in earnest in Victorian times, when in 1843 a Cornish clergyman, the Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker invited his parishioners to a special harvest thanksgiving service. Since then it has been celebrated far and wide, and after the service any display of food has been distributed to local people in some kind of need. Of course, the idea is to give thanks for ‘all good gifts around us’ and to encourage us all to share that which we have.

However, sharing is not always easy, as in the case of two farm hands who were having an argument about being able to share in an unfair world. George was trying to convince Bill that ‘share and share alike’ was the best principle by which to live, and that sharing was caring.

“Just take me through it,” asked Bill.

And so George explained, “It means that if you have something that someone hasn’t, then you give them half.”

Then Bill asked, “You mean, if you had £1,000 you’d give me £500?”

“Yes,” said George.

“And if you had two motor cars, you’d give me one?”

“Certainly,” said George.

“And if you had two pigs, you’d give me one?” asked Bill.

To which George replied, “Now wait a minute, that’s not so easy – I’ve got 2 pigs.”

Well, we may not keep pigs, but as well as sharing our food, or donating to a world crisis, amongst the other things we can share is an interest in the people we know, and sharing our time with them; or sharing of a trouble or a worry or a concern that others may express to us; or simply sharing in genuine old fashioned good conversation ~ all are within our gift.

As one harvest hymn puts it:

Father, Providing  
Food for your children,  
Your wisdom guiding  
Teaches us share  
One with another,  
So that rejoicing  
With us, your people  
May know your care.

Happy Harvest.

*Wes Blakey.*



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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:

#### A BUSY MONTH WITH LOTS OF EVENTS

Our season of Open Gardens has been extremely successful and we still have two gardens left on the list.

Linda and Keith Reynold's garden is open from 1.30-4.30 on Sat. 3rd September

Cathryn Richardson's from 10.00-2.30 on Sat. 10th September.

The Heritage Open Weekend and Earsdon Scarecrow Festival take place on Sat. 17th and Sun 18th September.

The church will be open 10.00-4.00 on both days and there will be guides to talk about our interesting church. On Sunday 18th there is a special Scarecrow Service.

Music at No. 27. On Saturday 24th September, David Stannard will be giving a classical piano recital at No.27. Seats are limited so please let me know if you would like to come.

Donations are for The Netty Fund.

On Saturday 1st October, there will be our Harvest Supper in The Eccles Hall. A two course meal with "In house" entertainment for £7.50.

Sunday 2nd October is our Harvest Festival service at 10.00 am.

If you require any more details about these events please give me a ring 0191 2529239 or email [rolyjoan@icloud.com](mailto:rolyjoan@icloud.com)

See you there..... Joan

## **Notice from Fr. Andrew Beeston.**

On Thursday 29th September, I shall be celebrating 20 years of being an ordained priest, and to mark the occasion, I shall be presiding and preaching at the Festival of Saint Michael and all Angels at Saint George's Church, Cullercoats at 7.30pm. There will be cake, nibbles and a glass of something afterwards in the Church Hall opposite the church. As it is a public service, any who wish to come will be very welcome.

Thank you, Fr. Andrew Beeston.

## **Advance Notice from Susan Goodchild of St Alban's**

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.

## **A message from Keith Blackburn to St Alban's and St John's:**

I would like to thank everyone for the bottle of wine and card. It is reassuring to know there are people who care at times like this.  
Keith.

## August's Toddler Church

It being August, St John's latest 'Toddler Church' had a beach theme. Barbara (Golightly) made some lovely cakes in the shape of an ice cream. Kathy (Henzell) brought along the family sand pit. The children got to play in the sand as we thought about Jesus' story 'The House on the Rock'. Jesus loves us. He knows that our life is tough sometimes, and wants to give us a strong foundation for living. If we hear what he says and put it into practice, we're like wise people building on a strong rock foundation. If we listen to Jesus but ignore his teaching, that's like trying to build a house on sand.

...and guess what we sang? That's right – 'The Wise Man built his house upon the rock... and the house on the rock STOOD FIRM!'

Tim Mayfield.





# BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

1900 years ago, from 13<sup>th</sup> September 122 to 128 that Hadrian's Wall was built in northern England. It ran for 80 miles from coast to coast and marked the northern limit of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, wanted to separate the Romans from 'the barbarians.'

80 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1942 that the British Royal Air Force launched a massive air raid over Dusseldorf Germany.

70 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1952 that the Farnborough Air Show crash took place in Hampshire. A de Havilland fighter jet broke apart and fell into the crowd, killing 31 people. Stringent safety measures were introduced to ensure it could never happen again.

40 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1982 that Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly the American film and TV actress Grace Kelly, died in a car crash, aged 52.

30 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1992 that the radio station Classic FM began broadcasting in the UK.

Also 30 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1992 that the Black Wednesday sterling crisis took place. The UK crashed out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), raised interest rates from 10% to 15% and spent billions of pounds buying up sterling that was being frantically disposed of on international markets.

25 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1997 that Mother Teresa, Macedonian-born/Albanian India nun and

humanitarian died. She founded the Missionaries of Charity and was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was beatified in October 2003.

Also 25 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1997 that Sinn Fein formally renounced violence and committed itself to resolving the troubles of Northern Ireland through peaceful means. This eventually led to the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998.

Also 25 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1997 that the people of Scotland voted in a referendum to establish their own parliament. (Opened 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999.)

Also 25 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1997 that British scientists announced that they had established a link between BSE (mad cow disease) and the human brain disease CJD.

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## St Alban's Volunteers



Some “hard grafters” weeding at St Alban’s ... definitely great team work and better than a “gym work out”. Ha ha hee hee !!! Dianne Morgan.





and here is the “clerk of the works” - Barney!



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

## Church in Bloom



The grounds of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church have been a joy this year, particularly in the recent hot summer days. As you see, the roses put on a brilliant display for everyone, and the blue skies played their part too.

September ushers in Keats' 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness...' well our apple trees can vouch for the fruitfulness. No mists on this beautiful day, but welcome to a very rural West Monkseaton.



The Garden of Remembrance offers a place for quiet, whether it's to sit for meditation or just to sit and enjoy its roses – 'Peace' and 'Anniversary'.

Thanks to our flower arrangers, the beauty and peace is not only to be found outside God's house.



## Walking Group

The next walks will be on Tuesdays, September 6th and 20th. The first will be from Wylam to Prudhoe Castle, returning along the banks of the Tyne via Hagg Bank. Disused Hagg Bank railway bridge, a mini Tyne Bridge, requires a permit for abseiling – we haven't applied.



## Examinations Success



St Thomas More Academy enjoyed even greater A Levels success across all subjects this year. Almost half its grades were A\* or A, and 90% were A\*-C, with 31 students – nearly a quarter – gaining three or more A/A\* Grades. Students will now move on to employment, high level apprenticeships and their chosen Universities, including Oxford, Cambridge and those of the Russell Group. This is terrific when you consider that these public exams were the first this year-group has taken because of the pandemic. Their first exam hall, the first awful silence, the agonising wait for the paper to be distributed, then that frantic search for the best questions – remember all those?

## Memory Lane

I must admit to a soft spot for St Thomas More Academy. My first teaching post was at St Anselm's Secondary Modern, its long-gone predecessor. On my first day I was presented with an Acme Thunderer whistle on a blue PE band, and a Record Book.

Forty four years later, on my last day as a tutor with Sunderland University School of Education I had to visit one of my students in his final teaching practice at St Thomas More. My first and last teaching days in the same place; the wheel had come full circle.

Lord knows where the Record Book went - I've still got the whistle!

*Gerry Latimer*

Many thanks, Ella Heaney, for sending in this article from the Newcastle Journal (13th July 2022).  
Reproduced here with the kind permission of Newcastle Journal.

## **The North East medieval village full of historic treasures and landmarks**

EARSDON is one of the oldest villages in North Tyneside, sitting on the boundary with the county of Northumberland which it is part of, historically. The slight hill upon which it stands is a sandstone outcrop that rises above the surrounding boulder clay formation laid during the Ice Age and there is evidence of human occupation back to this early period. The first references to Earsdon can be found in a 12th-century document listing the village as being part of the possessions of Tynemouth Priory. The oldest part of Earsdon lies to the west of the Red Lion Inn where traces of the earlier medieval village stood. A collection of stone walls and buildings is evident, one of which forms the remains of an old small Pele tower dating from the early

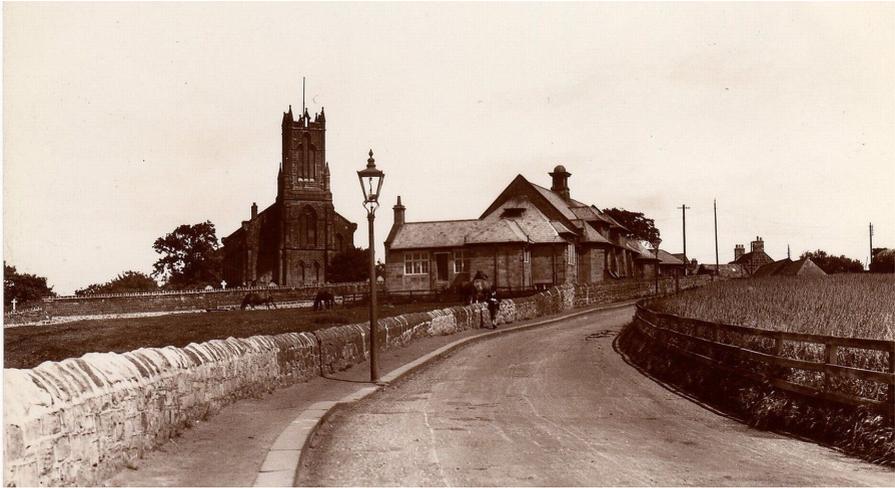


16th century. The medieval village is likely to have included the area around the Cannon Inn, St Alban's Church, and the area forming Church Way which was once the edge of the old village green. Development during the 17th and 19th centuries changed the village's medieval pattern to become the village it is today with many of the more prominent buildings such as Bleakhope House, The Garth, and Manor House dating from this time.

The most prominent landmark in the village is St Alban's Church, a Grade II listed building, built in 1837 with long grassy meadow areas within the churchyard.

To the rear of the church, a monument stands to the memory of 204 men and boys who perished in the Hartley pit disaster of 1862.

Standing close to the present Red Lion Pub, the village has its own war memorial which depicts a granite sailor standing on guard facing the Manor House to honour those servicemen lost during the First and Second World Wars. The core of the village is quite informal, but the nearby



Edwardian-built terraces of John Street, Church View, and Garden Terrace, along with the more recent development of Woodland Close, have more conventional layouts. Other significant buildings include the nearby Edward Eccles Community Hall, and the former 1860s primary school which is now a community centre. From the late 1800s, the village even had its own police station, adjacent to the Cannon Inn. It has since been converted to a house.

Many people also have fond memories of the village grocery store, and the Phoenix Inn, both of which stood on Front Street. The store has long since closed, and the Phoenix Inn ceased trading in December 1971. Although the buildings still remain, they have since been altered to accommodate residential properties. Earsdon Village is now a conservation area which benefits from its close proximity to the larger town of Whitley Bay.

Charlie Steel.

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# Earsdon Methodist Church

I remember my Grandfather who was deafened by exploding shrapnel in World War 1, forever after had a hearing aid, the receiver of which hung round his neck as big as a box of Smarties and was connected to an ear-piece almost as big as a 3 amp electric plug. Consequently, he only wore it for weddings and funerals and depended upon lip reading, hand signals and the occasional loud voice in his ‘good ear’.

Therefore when my hearing deteriorated slightly I was reluctant to be examined for hearing aids, like a number of people who shudder at the thought and do not acknowledge that their hearing is impaired. It was just that TV programmes were not as loud as they used to be and my daughter did not speak as clearly as she used to.

Just as in the story, told of a man who went to his doctor and complained that his wife was deaf and didn’t know it. He said that she was too proud and stubborn to acknowledge it and asked if there was anything that he could do to help.

The doctor advised him to give her the 20; 10; 5 test. This meant that he should get behind her, stand 20 feet away and speak. If she did not hear, then he was to go 10 feet away and speak; if this did not work, to move to 5 feet. This would prove her disability once and for all, and he could then confront her with the evidence.

So he returned home and when he was behind his wife and 20 feet away, he asked “What’s for dinner darling?” Nothing.

So he moved 10 feet away and asked again, “What’s for dinner, darling?” Nothing.

So he moved to just 5 feet away and asked again, “What’s for dinner, Darling?”

To which his wife replied, “For the third time, chicken!”

Sadly, that was just like me, so now I have these dinky aids that give me a little tune every time I put them on – just to prove that they are working. The penny eventually dropped, and I had to acknowledge that it was me who was wrong and not everyone else.

Apparently, penny dropping moments are good for the soul – as well as for deafness.

*Wes Blakey.*

# Earsdon Methodist Church

## *Preachers for September 2022*

Sunday	4th	Mr. John Bedigan
Sunday	11th	Rev'd. Wes Blakey - Holy Communion.
Sunday	18th	Mr. Dave Sedgwick.
Sunday	25th	Mr. John Bedigan.

For a change we can bring a little bit of happy news. On the 10th of September Mrs. Joyce Milne will be celebrating her one hundredth birthday. Although Joyce is now in Harwood Court in Cramlington, we are still in touch with her. So, on Saturday 10th, as she celebrates her centenary with family and friends we wish her a very happy birthday.

*Norman Bloomfield.*

For this month's amusing story from Rev Wes Blakey, please see previous page.

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

# Earsdon Methodist Church

LILLIAN BELL

We are sad to report that after a long illness, Lillian died peacefully at home on 10<sup>th</sup> August and her funeral service was held in our Methodist Church on August 24<sup>th</sup>, attended by a large congregation of family, friends and former colleagues.

Lillian's early years were spent in Forest Hall where she went to school and had many friends. Her parents were very proud when she gained a place at Gosforth Grammar School from where she went on to Newcastle Teachers Training College.

As a Primary School teacher Lillian was greatly valued and even after she retired she was recalled to be a Supply Teacher.

Lillian and Stan were married on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1961 and through their 61 years they have been a devoted and happy couple. They enjoyed ballroom dancing – which is how they met - at the Empress Ballroom, Whitley Bay – and most Saturdays they would attend a dinner dance somewhere. They also enjoyed the cinema and holidays in many different places at home and abroad. Most of all Lillian was proud of her family and her children Christine and David and then her grandchildren who all benefitted from the warm and welcoming home, her generous cooking and baking and her encouragement to sharpen their education by using her teaching skills and her love of music and singing.

Lillian was involved in many activities outside her home too A valued member of our Methodist society, being our Pastoral Secretary for longer than anyone can remember. She was a member of the local Ecumenical Social Committee, a W.I member; raised funds for ARC; went to Keep Fit and loved swimming. She met regularly with long standing friends and former colleagues, and in all these things she gave her all.

Over past months she has not been well, but has had exceptional care from Stan, the family and the Carers who attended her.

We thank God for Lillian and her inspirational life and assure Stan and his family of our continuing prayers.

*Wes Blakey*

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



## Diary Page for September 2022

Thursday	1st	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	4th		<b><u>Twelfth after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednes	7th		Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	11th		<b><u>Thirteenth after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	15th		Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	18th		<b>Scarecrow Festival</b> <b><u>Fourteenth after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednes	21st		Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	25th		<b><u>Fifteenth after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	29th		Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	2nd		<b><u>Sixteenth after Trinity</u></b>	
Oct		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

Here is the hyperlink to the newspaper THE LINK , which is the same as last month's because August and September are covered in the one newspaper.

[link-augsep-2022-final.pdf \(d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/link-augsep-2022-final.pdf)

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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for September 2022 :

4th	11th	18th
Luke 14.25-33	15. 1-10	To be announced

25th  
Luke 16. 19-end

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (October 2022) will need to be in before Wednesday 21st September 2022.

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## Marti's Musings 102

It's my 11th birthday! That means I'm now the same age as grandma! Mum has bought me a hydrotherapy session for my birthday as she says it's meant to help my arthritis. I'm not entirely sure I'm going to like it as I'm not a fan of water and I would definitely prefer a big pile of chicken, but I will give it a try and let you know next month how it went.

We have just been away for a few days in Easingwold. I'm not sure how big the hotel thought I was as they provided a bed and bowls which were huge! I was hoping for double portions of food to go with them but mum said no. I did get a nice biscuit which was the size of my leg so the nice lady at the hotel bit the end off for me; maybe she liked the taste of them too.

I'm still really enjoying the open gardens, mum's was really good and she wants me to thank everyone for coming and being so generous. We raised £122 for the Netty fund which was amazing! There are still a few left to go so I'll be there inspecting the plants!

I look forward to seeing everyone at harvest and hope you all have your acts ready.

Lots of gardening

Marti xxx



# WORDSEARCH

## The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Kingdom  
Heaven  
Good  
Seed  
Field  
Sleeping  
Grain  
Weeds  
Enemy  
Servants  
Master  
Sow  
Gather  
Reap  
Root  
Let  
Grow  
Together  
Harvest  
Bundles  
Barn  
Burned



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Tel : 0191 3665269 .

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

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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*

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

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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.