



**St. Alban's Earsdon**

# **CHURCH VIEWS**

## **September 2024**



**£1.00**



**St. John's Backworth**



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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## September 2024

Education Sunday takes place on 8<sup>th</sup> September, as our children return to school after the summer break. It's good opportunity to ask what God thinks of children and how we can reflect this in our schools, churches and families.

*Children are valuable to God:*

*'Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'* (Matthew 19:13-14).

Jesus' action shows the importance of children to God. In many cultures around the world, children are often abused, exploited or disregarded. God is committed to caring and protecting them and calls us to do the same.

*Children need nurture and guidance:*

*'Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.'* (Proverbs 22:6 ESV). Gardeners will often attach plants to a pole or trellis to guide their growth. Children also need solid structure to keep their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual growth on track. We can support them in their growth and development, and be a godly example to them.

*Children need discipline:*

*'Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.'* (Proverbs 29:17). This is not easy and requires the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Discipline is a sign of love, reflecting how God deals with us (Hebrews 12:7). In this way, they'll become adults who fulfil all that the Creator wants them to become.

As Jesus said, *'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me'* (Mark 9:37).

*Canon Paul Hardingham*



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

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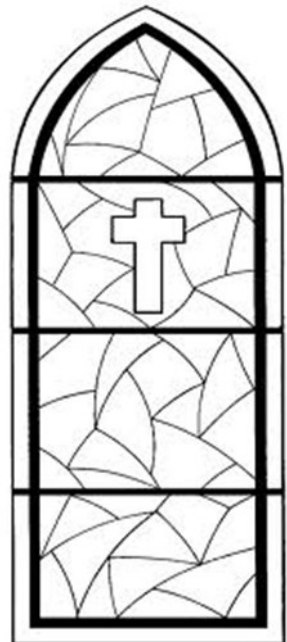
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Another lovely event at Havelock Place at Backworth, which cares for older people who have dementia. Our local Anna Chaplains - Ali Griffiths, Liz York and Janet Sigley have been busy with their Praise, Painting and Prayer session. This was attended by nine ladies, and judging by their smiles it was very much enjoyed.





## **Synod backs increase in statutory minimum rest time for clergy**

The General Synod has backed moves to introduce a statutory entitlement to 36 hours rest a week for clergy office holders, in an effort to encourage Church of England priests to take sufficient time off work.

Members of the Synod meeting in York voted in favour of plans to amend church regulations to introduce a statutory right to a minimum of 36 hours rest - a day and a half a week – for clergy office holders, covering most clergy.

The new right would include an uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours.

The Synod heard that as office holders, rather than employees, clergy already have the right to arrange their work to take time off to rest without seeking permission. In addition, the current regulations for most clergy specify a minimum of 24 hours uninterrupted rest a week.

But in practice they are not taking enough rest, Canon Alison Coulter, from the Diocese of Winchester, told the Synod. She called clergy “a precious resource” who “have given up much to serve us, so our priority needs to be to care for you.”

Under the plans backed by the Synod, draft regulations to enact the changes will be brought before the General Synod for approval at a later date.

*Editor: I am certainly guilty of contacting Rev Tim Mayfield on his day off. My humble apologies, Tim.*

*My Roman Catholic contact has been explaining (see page 17. Parish Changes) how other hardworking priests are having to take on another parish when its current priest moves on.*

**St Alban's church Tuesday ramblers venturing round Seaton Sluice.**



## Make your mind up, Monty

After years of insisting that garden lawns should be left unkempt and blended with wild flowers, Monty Don the TV gardener has made a U-turn with his lawnmower.

In a recent article in *BBC Gardeners' World* magazine, he admits: “This spring and summer I have made a tightly mowed and evenly green lawn. This is slightly surprising....”

But his turn-around will be welcomed by all those who love a neat-looking lawn to show off their flower beds, and to give their children somewhere to play outside.

Monty Don stresses that gardening is, above all, about getting “the space right.” Otherwise, “it will not look or feel good regardless of what plants you use, be they ever so rare or fascinating.”

An unmown lawn, he now argues, makes your space look smaller, not bigger. “Long grass fills a space to quite a surprising extent, whereas mown grass takes the same area and expands it. Gardens need room for the eye and mind to drift and breathe. Too many plants and it becomes suffocating.”

*Editor: Personally I like a mown lawn, but I also enjoy seeing the wild flowers amongst tall, uncut grass along the sides of our roads.*

*(I also like Monty Don! 😊)*



## **Weather for the month of September.**

### **Direct from the Captain's Charts.**

#### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

High pressure is most likely to be located either over or close to the UK through much of this period. This will lead to more widely settled periods of weather for most, with some cool nights, but near or slightly above average temperatures by day.

Weak frontal systems could still provide some cloud with patchy outbreaks of rain in northeastern areas at times. There will be a chance of some heavy thundery showers and more humid conditions in the south for those of you who may be thinking of an Autumn break and travelling south. The above conditions may occur later in the period when the high-pressure system begins to drift slowly to the west.

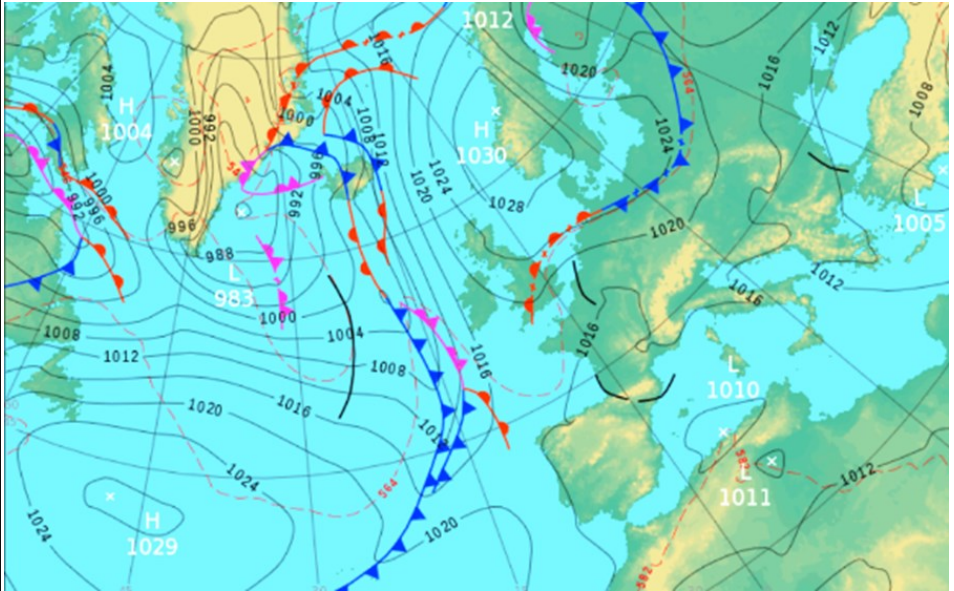
However, many areas are more likely to be drier than normal with predominately settled weather and light winds.

#### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

Through and beyond mid-September, confidence for the continuation of settled weather falls very low giving rise to inaccurate weather predictions.

It is likely that there will be a return to a mixture of weather types, with prolonged spells of wet weather interspersed with drier periods. During this period, it is expected temperatures will have returned to near average at times or perhaps slightly cooler than average in the northeast and northwest.

## North Atlantic Surface Pressure Chart Prediction for 00:00 hrs (UTC) on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.



Please bear in mind, although we have entered into Autumn, medium to high UV levels still prevail throughout the day even on cloudy and overcast days.

Always wear high factor sun screen and be aware that normal clothing does not protect you from the effects of UV skin damage, unless it has been designed to do so.

Avoiding exposure to the sun during late morning to early-afternoon is advisable.

Please consider when walking dogs, they can also be affected by the effects of UV radiation in the same way.

*David Gibson*

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# CHURCH VIEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

September has arrived.....Let's enjoy it



What a bumper apple crop this year on the fruit trees on the front lawn of Immaculate Heart of Mary. I know it's not news, but it is joyous, so let's embrace the glory of God's beautiful Autumn.

## Luncheon Club.....now this is news, and good news at that

The parish Luncheon Club organisers were delighted when the latest inspection by North Tyneside gave them the highest possible rating for Food Hygiene. The inspection applies the same standards here as it



does to hotels and restaurants. It covers not only the kitchens, but food service, tableware, toilets, ventilation, and close inspection of fridges and freezers. This is the third time they have achieved the top rating. The agency doesn't issue a taste rating, but that is top too.

## St Thomas More Academy

Congratulations on another successful year of A Levels for this outstanding school. Over a quarter of the grades were A\* or A, and half were A\*-B. Most students who had applied to University gained their first choice, including Oxford and Cambridge, while others are looking forward to employment.

The Academy is part of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust. When Our Lady and St Edmund's in Backworth closed, you may remember the picture we showed of Bishop Bewick opening the 'iron church' there in 1884.



## Fr Joseph O'Brien



Fr Joseph will return to the Venerable English College in Rome this month to continue post-graduate level ecclesiastical academic studies before returning permanently to our Hexham and Newcastle Diocese. After his first Mass in Our Lady Star of the Sea, he thanked his family for their support - and they certainly showed it that day.

### **Parish Changes**

Canon Martin Stempczyk, parish priest of St Mary's, Cullercoats and Our Lady and St Oswin's, Tynemouth, is to be parish priest of St Patrick's, Felling, and St Alban's, Pelaw.

Mgr Faley will ensure the continuation of Masses and services at St Mary's while Our Lady and St Oswin's will be cared for by Fr Chris Hughes, in addition to his North Shields churches of St Joseph's and St Cuthbert's.

To accommodate these changes, Mass times will change from Monday 9 September 2024, as you see below.

Canon Stempczyk will be greatly missed after eleven years at the coast, and we wish him every success and a happy continued ministry in his new location.

Mgr Andrew writes: 'We pray that walking together with the Lord, listening to each other with patience and kindness we will accept any necessary adjustments in this new arrangement to make sure our parishes continue to grow, flourish in Christ and work well together.'

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

### **Mass Times from 9 September**

St Edward's: Sunday 9.30am, Tuesday & Friday 9.30am

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm, Wednesday 9.30am

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

***Volunteers are still required, please, to host the Heritage weekend shown below. Please contact Joan A***

## **Heritage Open Weekend Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September 2024**

St Alban's church will be open from 10.00 - 5.00 on Saturday 7th September and from 11.30 - 5.00 on Sunday 8th September. Stewards will be available to talk about the history of our church if you would like to know about it or you can come along and just soak in the atmosphere and feel the prayers of those who worshipped here over the last 186 years.

In 2023, over 1,000 people visited the church on Heritage Open Weekend. Many were strangers visiting the village for the Scarecrow Festival and the church for the first time, while others were regular visitors who just 'popped in'. How many will cross our doors this year?

*Joan Armstrong.*

**Also on Saturday 7th September 2024.** From 14:00 - 17:00, at the Eccles Hall, Earsdon. Come along and see if you can find all the Scarecrows. Enjoy the afternoon, there will be lots more going on, see next page!





## **Inside the Eccles Hall today, you will find:**

Cakes and home-made produce

Cupcake and biscuit decorating

Candyfloss and pick 'n' mix

Raffle

Tombola

Earsdon Trail and Quiz

Children's sweet game

Children's Crafts

Jackie's Crafts

Bric-a-Brac

David handmade children's jewellery and pocket money toys

Name the Scarecrows

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## Smile Lines

A bishop visited a primary school in his full episcopal attire – with his mitre, robes and bishop’s crook or crozier. A little lad’s mother asked him later what he had thought of the bishop’s visit to his school. The little boy replied: “It was great – now I know what a *real* crook looks like!”

\*\*\*\*\*

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers’ Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

\*\*\*\*\*

A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the vicar’s speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

\*\*\*\*\*

Don’t miss the Young Wives’ Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

\*\*\*\*\*

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. “Sorry, mum,” he confessed. “I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks. When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man’s job, his wife replied simply: “2 Kings 21:13”, and handed him a tea towel. Later he looked it up: ‘And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.’

\*\*\*\*\*

Extract from an official letter notifying residents of a new boundary road: “It is hoped to take the new by-pass through the old cemetery, provided we can get permission from the various bodies concerned.”



# Earsdon

plants centre



It's time to plant!

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## St Alban's Book Cub.

### Summer reads ...

Paper Cup by Karen Campbell.

We almost abandoned reading this one, despite the author receiving literary awards !! Set in Glasgow and Dumfries and Galloway it basically tells us about street life, the vulnerable side of living on the streets, we all know are out there ... and the background of the main character Kelly and her struggles. An engagement ring she finds in a skip .... her journey to re locate the ring with its owner and how this journey affects Kelly s life. If you speak / understand the dialect you'll be ok with this one .

Sadly a 3/10 from us. However I liked this quote from the book...

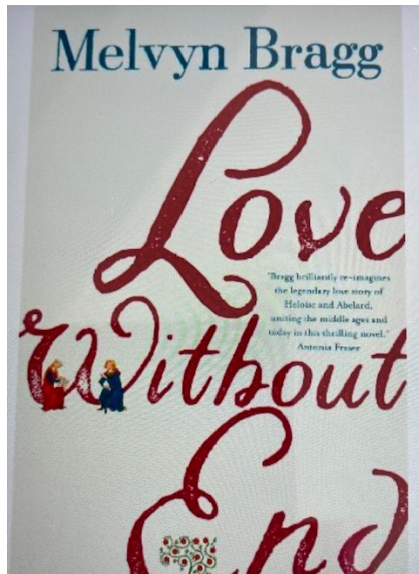
“ If we all put something in the kindness bank, it's an investment, isn't it?”

We certainly do have a “Kindness Bank “ at St Alban's & St John's.





We were looking forward to reading a Melvyn Bragg novel .. how disappointed we were !



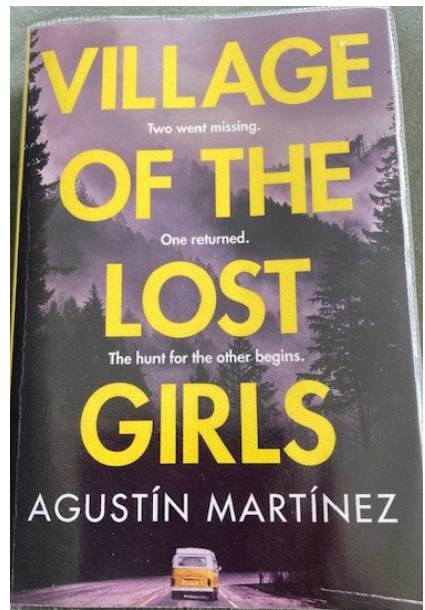
“ Love Without End” divided us in appreciation...but we all finished it and it certainly provoked discussion .

Set in medieval France with all the religious intrigue, scandal, passion ,... yep it's all there ! A very strong heroine Heloise, leads us through this story with the radical philosopher Peter Abelard, in Paris 1117.....which incurs terrible retribution. It then jumps to 20th century Paris, Arthur is in Paris exploring the lives of Heloise and Abelard in his own novel... as ever Bragg makes us concentrate and think carefully about the story line . . . and all these relationships. A 5 from us ! Sorry Melvyn .

Our current book is “ Village of Lost Girls” by Augustin Martinez. A murder mystery set in the Pyrenees ...it sadly has a ring of life today as two young girls go missing.... one to re appear years later, alive after being in a car crash. But where is the other girl ? Sounds like a case from TV program “ New Tricks” and the UCOS team..... ha ha !

Hope you enjoyed your summer reads..... regards to ALL from St Alban's Book Club .

*Thanks again to Dianne Morgan for sending these.*



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

## Diary Page for September 2024

Sunday	1st		<b><u>14th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Community	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Community	St Alban's
Wednesday	4th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Saturday & Sunday 7th & 8th Heritage Open Weekend and Earsdon Scarecrow Festival				
Sunday	8th		<b><u>15th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
			Special service for Earsdon Scarecrow Festival	
		9.00am	Holy Community	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Community	St Alban's
Thursday	12th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	15th		<b><u>16th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Community	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Community	St Alban's
Wednesday	18th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	22nd		<b><u>17th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Community	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Community	St Alban's
Thursday	26th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	29th		<b><u>18th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Community	St John's
		10.30am	<i>Harvest Festival</i>	St Alban's



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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for September 2024

1st

8th

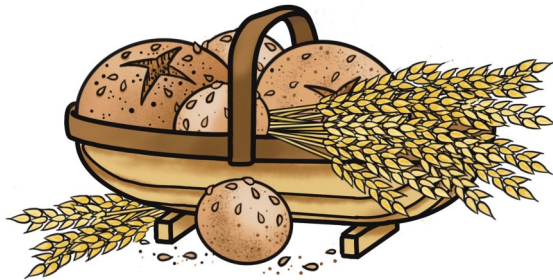
15th

Unavailable at time of printing.

22nd

29th

Unavailable at time of printing.



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* 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](mailto:magazine@StAlbansEarsdon.org.uk) \*  
\* or call **Jean** on **0191 2377273**. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



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Another well-attended Children's Church at St John's in Backworth. The theme this time was "The Beautiful Pearl." Don't those biscuits look delicious? Baked by a very talented Barbara Golightly.

I confess I don't know what Revd Tim is up to running about, but he has everyone's attention.



While here, the children are clearly engrossed in Jo's story telling.

# SUDOKU

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.

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

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

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## All in the Month of September

It was:

400 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 1624 that Thomas Sydenham, English physician, was born. He became known as the ‘father of English medicine’. His textbook on medicine became the standard medical textbook in England for the next 200 years.

250 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1774 that British explorer Captain James Cook became the first European to discover New Caledonia in the south-west Pacific, during his second voyage.

150 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 1874 that Gustav Holst, was born. This British composer, arranger and educator is best known for *The Planets*.

80 years ago, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 1944 that Operation Market Garden took place. The Allies attempted a massive airborne invasion of German-occupied Netherlands, but they were forced to withdraw. The story was told in the film *A Bridge Too Far*. The operation included the Battle of Arnhem – German victory.

75 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1949 that the Christmas song *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was released. It was sung by the American

movie-star and singer, Gene Autry, nicknamed the ‘Singing Cowboy’.

40 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 1984 that British geneticist Alec Jeffreys discovered genetic fingerprinting, also known as DNA profiling. It allowed criminals to be identified from hair, blood, or sweat left at crime scenes. It also allowed families to trace their lineages or determine the paternity of children.

20 years ago, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2004 that the Beslan school hostage crisis took place in Russia. Armed terrorists took over 1,100 children and adults as hostages. Russian security forces ended the crisis on the third day, entering the school with tanks and heavy weapons. More than 300 hostages were killed, including 186 children. Hundreds more were injured.

10 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014 that the Scottish independence referendum was held. The citizens of Scotland voted to remain in the UK rather than becoming an independent country. (Independence: 44.7%; Remain in the UK: 55.3%)

# WORDSEARCH

September 2024

## Michael and All Angels

The Church remembers angels this month, with the feast day of Michael and All Angels on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The Bible is full of angels, where they often had a key role in crucial events. It seems that Michael is their leader, an 'archangel'. In stained glass he's often seen with a sword, because in the Book of Revelation he leads the angelic host who fight and defeat Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, angels make numerous appearances. Just two examples: Gabriel was sent to Mary to announce the coming of her baby, Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God.

Another angel was sent to sit in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5)!

Michael  
All  
Angels  
Key  
Crucial  
Leader  
Stained  
Glass  
Sword  
Angelic  
Host  
Defeat  
Satan  
Appearances  
Gabriel  
Mary  
Baby  
Jesus  
waiting  
Angel



## Church Contacts

### St. Alban's Earsdon:

#### *Vicar*

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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.  
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  
Tel: 07414 601 351

#### *Church warden*

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

#### *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

Church of St Edward, Coquet Avenue, Whitley Bay, NE26 1EE. Tel: 252 8021

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