



St. Alban's Earsdon

CHURCH VIEWS

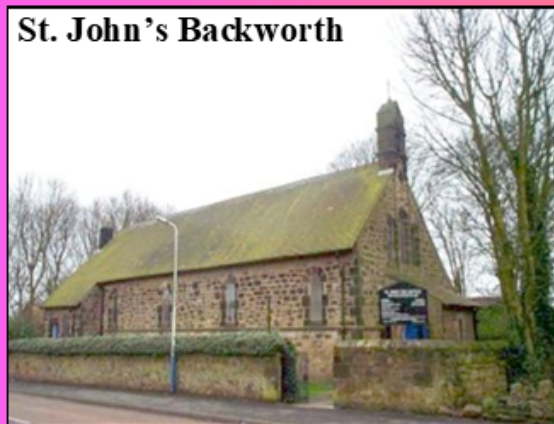
July

2026

£1.00



St. John's Backworth



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



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

JULY 2026

Things ain't what they used to be. There you go - now even the laptop is marking my work in red. Well, at least I can tell the machine what I think about that red line when many years ago I just had to put up with it. And what has that got to do with July? Nothing and everything really.

It has taken me back to those July days when for at least a week before breaking up for the summer hols everybody knew teachers had quit marking and were just filling in time. Ordeal by word-search and death by quiz.

We didn't appreciate that teachers were undergoing their own ordeal by report-writing and death by Parents Night. But I know both sides shared the bliss of that first night of the long holiday, when six blank weeks stretched into infinity. One colleague said she never sat on the sofa that evening in case she dozed off and missed some of that feeling.

July tells you that time is a shape-changer, expanding and contracting, 'doing its thing' as we used to say way back when.

July might not be constant but it is kind. It's kind because it eats all the SUVs on the school run; it steals the 9.30am Metro gold-card clock. It is special because it colours-in all the unspectacular stuff you planted in the March mud. July calls for the sun shade and hides the wind-break. July never demands that all those summer outdoor essentials go into the autumn loft. July never tells you that the loft ladder is up there hiding while it gets steeper and longer than last year. July assures you that evenings remain long and gentle and light, and tells you that the flower festivals and garden shows are still in the distance so you can sit still out there and do nothing.

It didn't used to be that way. July used to be a frenetic time of days away, or holidays in Devon caravans. I wonder if the Exeter by-pass still has an ambition to be the biggest car park in the world? It was a time of beaches, pneumatic boats and life-jackets when you didn't need a pump to inflate them and didn't get dizzy before you finished. It meant paddling along in canoes - or getting just as wet sitting on a Welsh beach.

I can conjure up the spirit of July Past and enjoy the memories like rediscovered photographs in an album I have found again. I'm very happy of course that although all those decades have passed I haven't changed at all.

The other day my energy company called to find out if I wanted to be a Priority Customer in the event of power cuts.

"Is there anyone elderly in the house?"

"Oh no, just my wife and I."

That triggered laughter from a certain interested listener who suggested a revised response.

You know, it's weird when you're the same age as old people.

Gerry Latimer

Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Around our buildings

The grant applications team at **St Alban's** is within touching distance of raising the money needed for the repairs following the latest five-yearly inspection of the building.

The **Eccles Hall** needs a lot of money spent on it. The Hall urgently needs a new wooden floor to be laid. This will cost in the region of £25,000. The committee has now recognised that it would good completely to replace the roof. This project would include the installation of better insulation. We think that a new roof will cost between £80,000 and £110,000. The grant applications team will urgently press on with seeking this funding.

Our insurers have agreed that **St John's** can be repaired following damage caused by Storm Dave.

Sunday, 12th July 2026

Sea Sunday is the day each year when churches worldwide are invited to pray for seafarers, and to support The Mission to Seafarers' frontline ministry to them.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and dangerous conditions. Every day, seafarers transport around 90% of global trade, including the food, fuel and goods that sustain daily life.

Sea Sunday offers an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the men and women who keep, and have kept, our world moving.

All in the month of JULY

It was:

250 years ago, on 4th July 1776 that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

250 years ago, from 12th July 1776 to 4th October 1780, that the British explorer Captain James Cook made his third and final voyage. He travelled to New Zealand and Hawaii, where he was killed in a violent exchange with the local people.

175 years ago, on 3rd July 1851 that Charles Bannerman, British-born Australian cricketer, was born. He scored the first-ever run in Test cricket, and also scored the first century in Test cricket.

100 years ago, on 15th July 1926 that Leopoldo Galtieri was born. As president/military ruler of Argentina, he ordered Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands.

90 years ago, on 24th July 1936 that the speaking clock telephone service was launched in the UK.

60 years ago, on 30th July 1966 that the 1966 FIFA World Cup final took place. England beat Germany 4 – 2. English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final.

50 years ago, on 20th July 1976 that NASA's Viking 1 lander successfully landed on Mars, and sent back the first photographs from the surface of Mars.

40 years ago, on 28th July 1986 that British estate agent Suzy Lamplugh failed to return from an appointment in London, sparking the biggest missing person investigation since Lord Lucan. She has never been found.

30 years ago, on 1st July 1996 that candidates taking the British driving test also had to pass a written exam for the first time.

15 years ago, on 9th July 2011 that South Sudan gained its independence from Sudan. It is the world's newest country.

Seeds of Life

St Alban's and St John's are currently working to a three-year plan 'Seeds of Life'. A quick progress report, and a quick snapshot of where we're headed...

We hoped to relaunch Sunday children's activities at St Alban's. There wasn't enough energy in the congregation for this at the time. However, we've established a new children's activity area, and hosted a highly successful Good Friday event 'Celebrate Easter!' Meanwhile, two parties of schoolchildren from Backworth Park Primary School have enjoyed tours of St John's.

The Church Council has begun conversations about a Welcome Pack to deliver to new homes in our parish. And, soon, we'll speak to the choir about boosting their number. We're wondering whether anyone might like to join the choir to help in leading Christmas services. Some might be bitten by the bug, and stay long-term.

In the autumn our major focus will be on the environment. We'll be offering the course 'Towards a Better World', in the hopes that it gives us an Environmental Working Group and Environmental Champion. See page 13 for more on this.

Finally, during the autumn, we'll be preparing for a Hartley Pit Memorial Service, to take place on January 16th 2027.



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If our clients or their families are feeling unwell, cannot manage or just have no time, they ring us and we can help. We have popped in to see clients to change light bulbs, take pets to the vets, and pick up shopping. We have accompanied clients to hospital/doctors, walked dogs, called plumbers/electricians, mobile hairdressers and arranged to have bins emptied and rubbish removed. Just to mention a few of the things we have done for our clients. Anything clients need doing (within health & safety guidelines), we will do our best to help. Our services can be increased or decreased according to changes in circumstances.

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St Alban's Ramblers are back again for the summer.

This is a friendly group of people who meet on Tuesday evenings outside the vicarage in Earsdon, at 7.00 pm.

The walks are varied, sometimes along a coastal path, or maybe a beautiful countryside ramble, and often include something of interest along the way. One thing is sure - there is usually a welcome hospitality visit at the end!

Just turn up outside the vicarage if you'd like to join in, you'd be very welcome.



For further information, please speak to Rob on 07841 986 019.



Many thanks, Jill, for sharing these pictures.



(I'm sure the swan won't mind being in our magazine.)

Weather Outlook for the month of July 2026.

General outlook.

The astronomical event known as the summer solstice occurred on the 21st June marking the first day of astronomical summer. The North East of England is experiencing an exceptionally warm & humid late-June, with inland temperatures climbing near 28°C to 29°C. Cooler, fresher conditions will persist along the coast. As the month closes, conditions will shift to a more changeable pattern, with scattered showers, possible thunderstorms. Temperatures returning to normal summer averages although there is a good possibility of hot conditions returning.

The first half of July.

For first two-weeks of July the forecast predicts high pressure sitting close to the UK, which typically brings mainly dry, settled weather. While temperatures could become high again with some occasional thunderstorms, the high pressure may shift north, leading to an increasing chance of more unsettled conditions as we move further into the month.

The second half of July.

From mid to late July the long-range forecast indicates a higher likelihood of high pressure dominance over low pressure, leading to generally settled and drier-than-average conditions.

While occasional unsettled periods with heavy, thundery showers are still possible, temperatures are expected to be above normal, with a greater-than-normal chance of hot conditions developing at times.

We are currently experiencing above average air temperatures with long periods of sunshine resulting in an amber weather warning being in force. Please be mindful of the damaging effects of prolonged exposure to UV radiation especially during the hours either side of mid-day and try not to spend long periods in the sun. Seek shade whenever possible. It is essential that you protect yourself by wearing suitable clothing and applying high factor sunscreen also consider wearing good quality (UVA filter) sunglasses in accordance with your Optometrist recommendations. Most weather apps have a daily UV level prediction for your area. Please remember to maintain a good level of hydration by drinking plenty of fluids (water).

*David Gibson.
24th June 2026*

You know you are living in 2026 when....

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of five.
4. You e-mail the person who is sitting next to you.
5. You e-mail your children upstairs to tell them dinner is ready.
6. You arrive home and use your mobile to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the shopping.
7. Leaving the house without your mobile, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for total panic.

Towards a Better World

Our world is changing quickly. I'm writing this on Wednesday June 24th 2026. Large parts of the country are under a rare Red Heat Alert. About a thousand schools have closed, and rail passengers are being asked to travel only if absolutely necessary. What's going on?

From Wednesday September 9th, at 7.30pm in St Alban's, we'll host a new four-part course **Towards a Better World**. We'll ask why our climate is changing, and what is causing this. We'll think about the ways in which our planet is changing, and grieve over the rate at which we're losing animal species. We'll ask the question 'what future do we want?', and think about ways in which governments, local communities, and we as individuals can play our part. We'll share stories of hope, and try our hand at simple practical things like cooking a vegetarian meal. Look out for sign-up lists at St John's and at St Alban's.

Vicar Tim.

CHURCH VIEWS FOR JULY 2026 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

Spruced up for Summer



With its restored gold gleaming in the recent sun, the refurbished doors of Immaculate Heart of Mary church have opened with a welcome as warm as the weather. We now only hope that the summer continues to be as warm as the welcome.

Sea Sunday 12 July

The annual appeal by Stella Maris will be made at all Masses, and no doubt will be met with the usual generosity. Steve Willows is the Tyne and Northumberland Chaplain covering all ports between Newcastle and Berwick. Port chaplains assist crews of large ships but also work with the fishing community, still the most dangerous employment in the UK. Provision for crew welfare varies hugely among owners; some are excellent, many are not. Wi-Fi is vital for crews to stay in touch with their families across the world and Stella Maris provides as many SIM cards as it can. In cases of extended stays in our ports it has arranged for the donation of food and clothing, and ensured access to medical care. As Steve has said of his role as chaplain, "You never know what situation you are going to meet at the top of a gangway."



Diocesan Centenary Lourdes Pilgrimage, 1926 – 2026

In 1926 Bishop Joseph Thorman led a small group of pilgrims from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle to Lourdes. They journeyed the Central Station, by Channel ferry and then French railways to Lourdes. At that time not a journey to be undertaken lightly by healthy pilgrims, but truly arduous for the disabled, some even travelling on stretchers. We cannot appreciate what a different world it must have been, only eight years after the end of the Great War and France often seen as the archetypal 'foreign country'.



Most of the 2026 pilgrims will fly to Lourdes, travelling hours not days and most having previously travelled infinitely further than Europe; even many of the teenage assistants from Diocesan schools are already experienced travellers. Times and experiences may be different, but the motivation to make a pilgrimage is the same. As Pilgrimage Director Fr Shaun Purdy says:

"As a Diocese, we gather in worship, witness and service: we worship the Lord; we give witness to our faith; and we serve one another as fellow pilgrims, especially those who join us as assisted pilgrims."



The 2025 Pilgrims make a very different picture from their 1926 predecessors.

Gerry Latimer, Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

Parish Mass Times

St Edward's: Sunday 9.30am, Tuesday & Friday 10.00am.

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm, Wednesday Mass at 10.00am.

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



St Alban's Open Gardens continues throughout the summer weeks.

Cathryn was first to open hers, entitled "Margery's Memorial Garden". Cathryn said she was very lucky with the weather. It rained until she opened up at 10.30am, until closing time at 12.30pm when it poured down again!

Season tickets are £5.00 and give the details of all the gardens opened up by St Alban's & St John's church parishioners, including locations and dates.

This is a lovely summer event, especially good when the weather is nice!

Come along and enjoy each garden with a chat and a cuppa. Tickets are available at St Alban's church, or contact Joan on 0191 2529239.

Everyone in these pictures has given their consent to appearing here.



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St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for July 2026

Thursday	2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	5th		<u>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	12th		<u>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	16th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	19th		<u>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	26th		<u>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	2nd August		<u>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	6th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (August 2026) will need to be in before Tuesday 21st July. Thank you, *Jean*.

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for July 2026 :

5th	12th	19th
Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23	Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43	Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52
26th	2nd August	
Matthew 14.13-21	Matthew 14.22-33	

Sneak Previews...

The next **Children's Church** is at St John's at 4pm on Sunday July 5th. We'll be looking for the Lost Sheep.

Revd Emma Duff will be leading worship at St John's and St Alban's on both August 23rd and August 30th while Tim is on holiday.

Sunday September 6th sees both St John's and St Alban's mark the **Feast of God the Creator**. This is a brand new festival in the church's calendar aiming to inspire people to play their part in caring for creation.

Earsdon's ever-popular **Scarecrow Festival** is on Saturday September 12th. As in previous years, this will coincide with opening the doors of St Alban's as part of the national **Heritage Open Days**.

Our **Harvest Festival** is on Sunday September 27th.

Our next **Quiet Day** is on Saturday October 10th. Venue and theme are yet to be decided



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It's that Wimbledon time of the year

The 'pop' of a ball on a racket
The voice of the Umpire so clear
here is nothing in quite the same bracket
As that Wimbledon time of the year!

'Fault!' cries the line judge, eyes beady,
The ball boys and girls on their toes;
For more of these matches we're greedy:
The bug for this game grows and grows!

The weather may shine, or be raining
The temperature warm, mild or chill;
Our appetites won't be restraining
For strawberries on Henman Hill.

The queues may be long, but endure them
You'll get to the court – have no fear
Just settle and watch, and be sure then –
It's that Wimbledon time of the year!

By Nigel Beeton



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.

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

 * If you have any suggestions, comments or requests
 * regarding the magazine, or for anyone thinking of
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 * or call **Jean** on **0191 2377273**.
 *

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Wordsearch for July 2026

It was 250 years ago, on 4th July 1776, that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress. The original signed parchment still exists, behind bullet-proof glass at the National Archives in Washington.

An original draft of the Declaration was made by Thomas Jefferson, and was amended by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. It runs for only 1,320 words. The Declaration included the phrase: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

July
Fourth
Declaration
Independence
Second
Continental
Congress
Washington
Draft
Thomas
Jefferson
Benjamin
Franklin
John
Adams
Truths
Created
Equal
Creator
Inalienable
Rights
Life
Liberty
Pursuit
Happiness

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