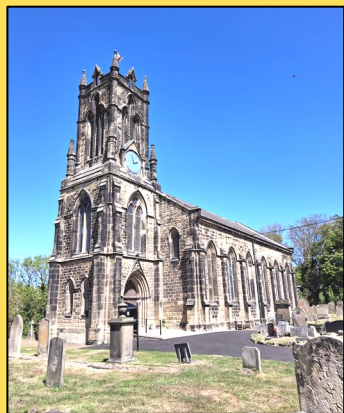




St. Alban's Earsdon

CHURCH VIEWS

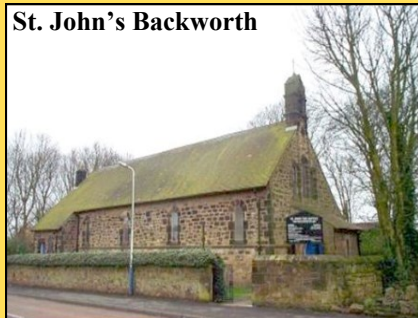
September

2026

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St. John's Backworth



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



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2026

September used to mark the end of my summer student jobs, wherever they could be found, and they were all quite an experience. I worked on Tynemouth long-sands dishing out chairs and tents, and every morning we had to clear the rubbish from the beach including the pop bottles which were our perk – we got to keep the deposits. I carried passenger luggage on and off the *Venus* and the *Leda* on the Bergen Quay and was awed by the bright pine and pastel interiors of the Fred Olsen *Braemar*. I even cleared girders of French chalk dust at the George Angus Oil Seal Division during factory fortnight. The August pay I received for my last ever student job turned out to be double what I earned in the first week of September as a new teacher, which should have taught me something. My wife, always more enterprising, drove an ice cream van and was a hospital Casualty Department assistant.

But all of us stand in that same beautiful gateway every year, September. Always the gateway month, and like all gateways, an entrance or an exit, depending on where you're standing.

September still opens doors for so many - starting school, changing schools, starting college or University. All those young adventures! And all those young entrances open doors for grown-ups too; for a parent to return to a career after a gap; for some to welcome cheaper holiday bargains at the end of the long school holiday; a time to enjoy child-free holiday hotels; even a time some choose to begin retirement.

But equally there are the seasonal exits as the days cool; the trees give up their fruit and their leaves turn yellow, allotments give up the bounty of the many hours invested in them, harvests have been gathered and the long summer days shorten. I nearly added that the shorts go back in the drawer, but now they seem to be still present even in snow, peeping shyly from under close-hugged sheepskin jackets.

So September is never a 'still' month.

But perhaps we should step back and make it one; step back and take the time to just 'stand and stare', to thank God for the beautiful variety of our seasons and the beautiful world we have been given but value so little. The heat of this summer may have gone but the days are still warm; our gardens may have lost their brilliance but they still have colour; most of the apples are still on the trees.

Let's at least appreciate this month as the welcome calm before the Hallowe'en deluge begins, followed by the Christmas onslaught. I have already received my first Christmas letter threatening that failing to book early will cast me into a starving darkness, unlit by even a single twinkling tree.

As 2026 progresses I'll still recall this month as something special.....

Deep in December, it's nice to remember
Although you know the snow will follow
Deep in December, it's nice to remember
The fire of September that made us mellow.

Gerry Latimer
Our Lady, Star of the Sea

Around our buildings

The Grant Applications Team for St Alban’s and St John’s churches, and the Edwards Eccles Hall met on Monday August 17th...

The insurers have paid up for the Storm Dave damage to St John’s. Repair work will be carried out on October 2nd.

We are very close to our target for the repairs to St Alban’s. Please pray for the last grant funding we need to get us over the line.

A structural engineer visited the Eccles Hall to assess the wooden floor. He reckoned it was good for another six months to a year. We think we have the money to lay a new floor – it all depends on the state of the joists. We’re going to lift sections of the floor and have a look.

Seeds of Life

Autumn 2026 is the fourth term of St Alban’s and St John’s three-year plan ‘Seeds of Life’. These are our major aims for this term...

- ◆ Deliver a course in climate change: ‘Towards a Better World’
- ◆ Draw together an Environmental Working Group
- ◆ Appoint an Environmental Champion
- ◆ Be preparing a Hartley Pit Memorial Service, well before Christmas. The first annual Hartley Pit Memorial Service will be on January 16th 2027.

All in the month of September

250 years ago, on 9th September that the Second Continental Congress adopted the name United States, which replaced United Colonies.

200 years ago, on 5th September 1826 that John Wisden, British cricketer was born. Founder of *Wisden's Cricketers' Almanac*. Launched with 112 pages in 1864, it now runs to 1500 pages and is the bible of cricket.

125 years ago, on 29th September 1901 that Enrico Fermi, Italian-born American physicist was born. Creator of the first nuclear reactor, he became known as the 'architect of the nuclear bomb.'

90 years ago, on 7th September 1936 that Buddy Holly, the American rock and roll singer was born. Killed in a plane crash in 1959.

Also 90 years ago, on 21st September 1936 that Frank Hornby, British inventor, died. Remembered for Meccano, Hornby Model Railways and Dinky Toys.

80 years ago, on 5th September 1946 that Freddie Mercury, Zanzibar-born British rock singer and songwriter was born. Lead singer of Queen, he sold more than Died of bronchial pneumonia

resulting from AIDS in 1991.

65 years ago, on 11th September 1961, that the World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded in Switzerland. Nowadays it is the world's largest conservation organisation, operating in nearly 100 countries with over 35 million supporters.

50 years ago, on 5th September 1976 that the first episode of the Muppet Show was broadcast on ITV in the UK. It attracted 15 million viewers and ran for five series until March 1981.

40 years ago, on 7th September 1986 that Desmond Tutu became the first black Archbishop of Cape Town. Retired in 1996.

25 years ago, on 11th September 2001 that the terrorist attacks on America took place. Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes and crashed them into the World Trade Centre's Twin Towers in New York, into the Pentagon, and into a field in Pennsylvania (following a passenger revolt – the intended target was Washington DC). 2,973 people were killed.

20 years ago, on 3rd September 2006 that Andre Agassi announced his retirement due to back problems. He was 36, a former world number one in tennis, and the 1996 Olympic champion.



National Heritage Open Day

The National Heritage Open Days run from 11th-20th September 2026 and it is an opportunity for the public to visit buildings and try out experiences free of charge.

St Alban's Church is normally locked except for services but on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September, we are opening our doors for people to discover this gem of a Church. Stewards will be on hand to talk about the church to interested visitors.

The opening times are 10.00-4.00 on both days but of course, our church service will take place on Sunday morning at 10.30 am.

As the village of Earsdon is celebrating the **Scarecrow Festival** on that weekend too, our service will have a scarecrow theme and will be guaranteed to be fun.

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Harvest Festival

Earsdon and Backworth Harvest Festival falls on Sunday September 27th. We'll celebrate the harvest at St John's (9am) and St Alban's (10.30am). The children's Harvest is at St John's at 4pm.

Harvest is a time for gratitude. Our generous God gives us so much, and this is an opportunity for a heartfelt 'thank you'. Look out nearer the time for a list of items for our harvest parcels for 'The People's Kitchen'.

Meanwhile, our Harvest thank-offerings of money are for Conservation Agriculture in Tanzania. Pictured are Agnes and Veronica, Conservation Agriculture Animators in our link village of Majeleko. A reminder from last month that we've heard good news about the harvest in Tanzania



this year.

Lister Nyanganyi, who leads the work of Conservation Agriculture, wrote 'As of now (July 17th), farmers are harvesting and storing grain. Crops in this cropping season did very well and therefore there will be a good harvest.'

It's good to know that our gifts of money in the past have contributed to that good outcome. Our gifts this year can help take that support further.

Towards a Better World

From Wednesday September 9th, at 7.30pm in St Alban's, we'll host a new four-part course **Towards a Better World**.

On 9th September, in St Alban's, we're going to screen the powerful film 'The People's Emergency Briefing'.

Then on the next three Wednesdays, we'll follow that up with the 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.



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Weather Outlook for the month of September 2026.

General overview.

The first of September is the beginning of meteorological autumn and coinciding with a distinct change in our weather.

A period of unsettled weather for the first half of the month in the way of showers & perhaps longer spells of rain accompanied by strong gusty winds at times, more frequent in most northern and western areas.

A continuation of the unsettled conditions will prevail during the second half of the month. Forecasting confidence is very low for this period; however extended dry and brief warm spells cannot be ruled out. Temperatures are likely to be near average throughout September.

The first half of September.

The month begins rather unsettled with short periods of strong south to south-westerly winds backing further to the northwest for a time, this is a product of Atlantic low-pressure systems producing transient frontal troughs resulting in showers or longer spells of rain in many places.

Rain is expected to be most frequent across northern and western areas, while the south and east are more likely to see longer drier spells. There is also the potential for some strong and gusty winds, particularly in the northwest. Temperatures are likely to be near average, although brief warm or very warm spells are possible, especially in the south.

The second half of September.

Confidence is very low from mid-September onwards. Initially, a continuation of a changeable weather pattern is very likely, with the wettest conditions in the northwest and longer drier interludes in the southeast. The northeast will likely see a mixture of both as we head further into September, the distribution of rainfall becomes increasingly uncertain at this stage. Settled or dry spells are very likely between weather systems. Temperatures are expected to be average overall, although some warmer spells are possible.

.....

A natural meteorological strong event called the 'El Nino' is developing in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean regions. This phenomenon commenced in August and is likely to extend well into 2027. It has been categorised as super-sized.

It is a natural climate pattern that warms up the sea surface in the Pacific regions, causing the warm surface water to build up towards the eastern Pacific and the Americas as opposed to being centralised near Asia thus resulting in these ocean areas releasing vast amounts of heat into the atmosphere and temporarily raising global temperatures & also effecting the circulation of the upper atmosphere Jet Stream.

The trade winds that normally blow from east to west across the Pacific Ocean are also affected. They may weaken or reverse direction causing additional weather anomalies.

The consequences are global and will have a profound effect on all weather systems throughout, our weather will see an increased chance of wetter, windier & stormier conditions during Autumn and early winter, late winter is likely to be calmer and colder.

David Gibson.

2nd September 2026

The following excerpts are answers by 10 & 11 year-old children to history tests and Sunday school quizzes . They were collected over a period of time by two teachers.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handle was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.

Bethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf that he wrote loud music and became the father of rock and roll. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Bethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

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

In the end it was a piece of cake.....



Fr Andrew celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving on 20th August, the Feast of St Bernard of Clairvaux, in a packed St Edward's because it is our biggest church - and even that was barely big enough. It was streamed too for those who could not get there. His co-celebrants were Canon Jackson and Fr Colahan, both retired but frequent visitors, and Fr O'Brien who grew up in the parish and celebrated his first parish Mass with us in 2024.

In a moving farewell Fr Andrew outlined his thirteen years at the coast, the formation of Our Lady, Star of the Sea parish from three separate parishes, and how it had developed since 2015. He thanked everyone for the warm appreciation he had received and paid special thanks to those devoted people who, week after week, in many different roles, ensured that all our churches are welcoming safe places for us and for our visitors.



Appointment

Bishop Stephen has appointed Fr Binoy Mandapathil CSsR to succeed Fr Andrew in our parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Mary's. He is a Redemptorist, a member of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Congregatio Sanctissimi Redemptoris, hence CSsR) founded by St Alphonsus Liguori in 1732 after he had been horrified by the privations of the poor people in Naples. It is a missionary order and as early as 1832 it opened a mission to the United States. It now serves in at least 82 countries throughout the world.

The Redemptorists came to England in the 19th Century and in 1889 they set up their first community in our Diocese at St Benet's Church in Monkwearmouth, Sunderland, continuing there until 2011.

Bishop Stephen met our overseas priests in Jarrow recently saying, *"I am most grateful for the ongoing ministry of our overseas priests, the pastoral role they provide in the communities they serve and the impact they have across our entire Diocese."*



Walking Group

Autumn walks are on Fridays 4 and 18 September. The first near Chester-le-Street following the Cong Burn to the River Wear returning through Picktree. New walkers are always welcome and you only have to turn up without notification or preamble. Shared cars leave IHM at 9.30am.

Luncheon Club

The next Lunch will take place on Thursday 27 September and booking is essential.

Gerry Latimer

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.

Holding the autumn term before God

(St Alban's and St John's)

As is now our pattern, we'll be meeting online on the morning of Saturday September 5th. Together, we'll pray our way through the autumn term.

Our prayers fall into various sections. As a flavour, here's the section called 'Worship and Festivals'...

For the open air Season of Creation service at Holywell on September 5th

For the new 'Feast of God the Creator' on September 6th

For the Scarecrow Festival on September 12th

For the Heritage Open Days, on the 12th and 13th of September

For our Harvest Festival on September 27th

- ◆ Harvest Festival services at St John's and St Alban's
- ◆ Children's Church Harvest at 4pm
- ◆ The People's Kitchen
- ◆ Conservation Agriculture in Tanzania, especially for diocesan co-ordinators Lister and Michael, and for animators Agnes and Veronica at Majeleko

For the Quiet Day on October 10th

For Remembrance Sunday (November 8th)

For worship on Advent Sunday (November 29th)

Continued...

For our Christmas worship
Wellfield Middle School Carol Services
Children’s Church Christmas on December 14th
Carols by Candlelight at 6pm on December 20th
Christingle Services at 4pm and 6pm on Christmas Eve
For Midnight Mass
For our Christmas Day worship
For all our Christmas guests

For those who preach, lead intercessions, and offer the chalice
For Preaching Team Jo, Sarah and Tim.
For Tim, on retreat in November

For Nick and the choir

God of the journey,
we thank you for the unfolding story of the church’s year.
We thank you for all that lies ahead this term.
We thank you for the Scarecrow Festival,
and we pray for Harvest.
We pray for Remembrance Sunday, and for Advent.
We pray for everyone we will welcome through our doors at Christmas.
We ask for the breath of your Spirit’s life
through everything we are and do.
We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

* 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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St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for September 2026

Thursday	3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	6th		<u>The 14th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	13th		<u>The 15th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	17th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	20th		<u>The 16th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	27th		<u>The 17th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
			Harvest Festival	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	1st Oct	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	4th Oct		<u>The 18th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (October 2026) will need to be in before Tuesday 29th September. Thank you, *Jean*.

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for September 2026 :

6th

John 1.1-14

13th

Matthew 20.1-16

20th

Matthew 21.33-end

27th

Harvest Festival

Extracts from the
story of Joseph

4th October

Matthew 22.1-14

Sneak Previews...

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



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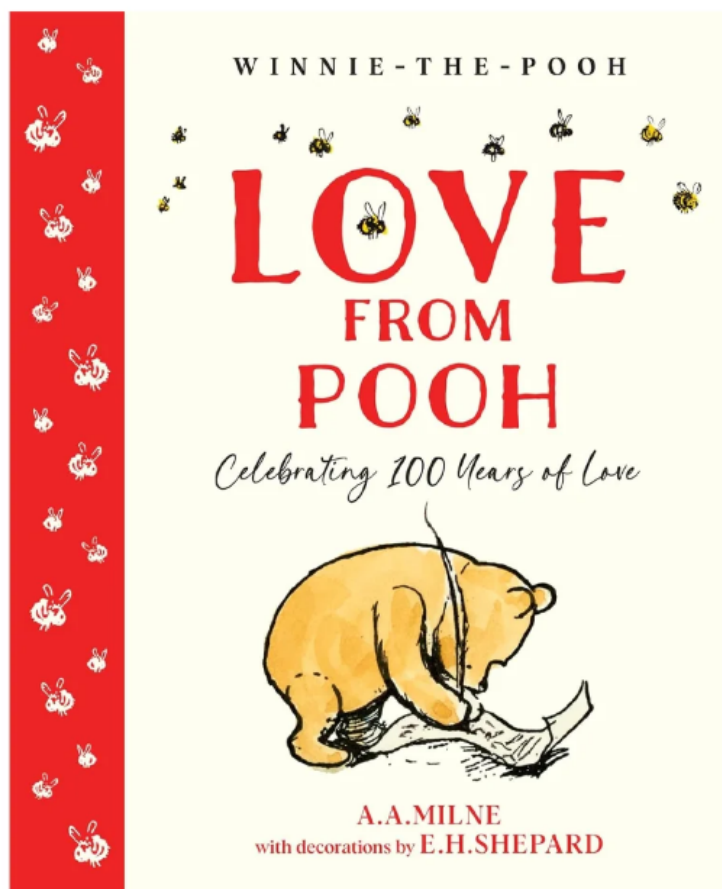
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St Alban's Tuesday Ramblers.

A shot from Jill's video of the final walk for this summer. Around North Shields fish quay and Tynemouth.

The 100th anniversary of Winnie-the-Pooh is on
Wednesday, October 14, 2026.



To celebrate this occasion, St Alban's Church is holding an
afternoon tea on Sunday 18th October, straight after the service.

SUDOKU

Complete the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 blocks contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

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



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Wordsearch for September 2026

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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Church warden

Craig Thornton

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PCC Secretary

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NE25 0SR

Tel: 07841 986 019

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Tel 252 3919

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Tracey Gray. Tel: 07767 382 744

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Priest in Charge

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