

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Confirmation Candidates at Christ Church Ainsworth
(Photo courtesy of Sean Brazendale)

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

August 2023

In This Issue ...

Front cover ...	Front Cover photo courtesy of Sean Brazendale
Page 2	In This Issue
Page 3	Worship With Us; Pearls Of Wisdom
Page 4	Parish Diary August 2023
Page 5	Interregnum Update, Editor's Spot
Page 6	From The Registers, Flower Rota Confirmation 2023
Page 7	Remembering Wyn Steel
Page 9	Valerie Watts – This Is Your Scouting Life!!
Page 11 ...	Ainsworth Village Day; Just A Thought
Page 12 ...	EcoChurch
Page 13 ...	Wild Worship; Summer Of Prayer
Page 15 ...	Online Giving Mission Community Prayer
Page 16 ...	Wild Worship
Page 17 ...	Candlelight Prayer
Page 18 ...	Coffee And Conversation
Page 19 ...	Ainsworth Methodist Church Fun Day
Page 20 ...	Bolton Cancer Voices
Page 21 ...	Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements
Page 22 ...	Around The Organisations – Group Scout Leader Update
Page 23 ...	Beavers, Cubs
Page 24 ...	Scouts
Page 25 ...	Summer Family Fundraising Coach Trip
Page 26 ...	12 th Radcliffe Guides & Brownies, 16 th Radcliffe Brownies
Page 27 ...	Mothers' Union
Page 28 ...	Ainsworth Village History group
Page 29 ...	From The Archives, Be Inspired
Page 30 ...	The Hymn That's In My Head
Page 31 ...	Praying Through The Seasons – Water Of Life Space To Share A Prayer
Page 32 ...	Hatches, Matches & Despatches – August! Strap Lines
Page 33 ...	Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...),
Page 34 ...	Cheat's Kitchen, Time For A Smile
Page 35 ...	The Parish Puzzler
Page 36 ...	Rotas
Page 37 ...	Who's Who
Page 38 ...	Who's Who For Church Organisations
Page 39 - 43 ...	Little Fishes
Page 44 - 48 ...	Advertisements



Sundays

- 8am 2nd & 4th Sundays in church for BCP Communion
- 10.30am in church for Communion / Family Service
- 6.30pm 1st Sundays in church for BCP Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

- 6.30pm in church for Mid-Week Praise

The Prayer Book Society also lists some churches livestreaming BCP services: <https://www.pbs.org.uk/churches-and-services/-1>

Pearls Of Wisdom

A famous philosopher was once approached by one of his students who was keen to pass on some gossip concerning a fellow student.

The master said, "Wait. Before you tell me this, I have 3 questions that I want you to consider:

- 1) Is what you are about to tell me going to help me in any way?
- 2) Is what you are about to tell me going to help your fellow student in any way?
- 3) Are you absolutely sure, beyond all reasonable doubt, that what you are about to tell me is accurate and true?

Unless, or until, you can confidently answer 'yes' to at least 2 of those questions, you should not pass the information on."

A screening process that we could learn much from in this age of instant information sharing!



Parish Diary August 2023



Weds 2 nd	6.30pm	Wild Worship! Outdoor Worship
Sat 5 th	1.15pm	Marriage of Jodie Simone Gillman & Michael Robert Chilton
Sun. 6 th		THE NINTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY
	10:30am	Holy Communion
	11.30am	Interment of Ashes – Geoffrey Duncan Morris & Jean Morris
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Weds 9 th	6.30pm	Wild Worship! Outdoor Worship
Sun 13 th		THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	8:00am	Celtic Morning Prayer
	10:30am	Holy Communion
Weds 16 th	6.30pm	Wild Worship! Outdoor Worship
Sun. 20 th		THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	10:30am	Holy Communion
	1.15pm	Baptism Albie Dover
Weds 23 rd	6.30pm	Wild Worship! Outdoor Worship
Sun. 27 th		THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	8:00am	BCP Communion
	10:30am	Holy Communion
	12.15pm	Baptism
Weds 30 th	6.30pm	Wild Worship! Outdoor Worship
Thurs 31 st	2.30pm	Marriage of Stephanie Bamford & Neil Forster
SEPT Sun. 3 rd		THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	10:30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer

Interregnum Update

From the outside it may seem as if we have settled into a steady 'interregnum routine', but the reality is that much work is going on behind the scenes to make sure that mission and ministry continue within our parish; to make sure that things happen as and when they should, and to make sure that we fulfil our obligations to the Diocese. It's also important that we continue to look outwards; to seek to grow our congregation in faith and numbers; to try new things; and to reach out to the wider community.

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to work so hard to ensure that the day to day running of our Church, and all that that entails, goes according to plan.

Over recent months we have welcomed a number of 'outside' Clergy to our Church; there is a relatively small pool of Clergy that we can call on for support, and we are grateful to all of those who have been able to help out. We've also hosted a number of interesting outside speakers and have more lined up for the coming months.

Alongside all of the day to day organising and admin, the next big job for the PCC will be to put together our 'Parish Profile' in preparation for the vacancy at Ainsworth being advertised. Whilst this is a huge piece of work, it's also an opportunity for us to take a step back from 'doing', and consider just how many great things are already happening within our parish and how much has already been achieved; it's also an opportunity to think about where we are as a Church, and what our hopes and plans for the future might look like ...

Alison Hartley – Churchwarden (on behalf of the PCC)

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the August 2023 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine; despite it being 'holiday season', it's great to see a number of interesting and fun events coming up; please do your best to support the things which are happening in our Parish if you can.

Alongside our regular reports and articles, this month we also have lots of 'people news' - congratulations to our Confirmation candidates; an acknowledgement of a lifetime's service to the Scouting Movement; and a lovely tribute to the late Wyn Steel; many thanks to all who have contributed articles this month.

There are a number of "Save The Dates" listed in this month's magazine, plus a few additions to our usual Services in the coming

month; keep an eye on the Parish Diary / Pew Sheet to keep up to date, and make sure that you don't miss out. For those who are more 'tech-savvy' check out our facebook page or website – both of which are now being regularly updated.

If you have an article that you'd like to be included in the Parish Magazine, or if your group / organisation is holding an event that you'd like us to publicise, please get in touch via

ainsworthparishmagazine@gmail.com

Enjoy this month's magazine and do your best to support the many things that are going on within our Church and wider community this month - *Alison*

From The Registers

FUNERALS

June 12th

June 29th

We commend to God's keeping:

John Barlow

Julie Stokes

Flower Rota

13th Aug Mrs. J. Clifford

27th Aug Mr & Mrs. Maudsley

Confirmation 2023

We offer our congratulations to Amelia Brazendale, Kathryn Clarkson, Scarlet Harrison, Stephanie Harrison, Kelly Heathcote, Harry Howcroft-Swift, Sofia Hunter and Richard Vickers, who were all Confirmed at Christ Church Ainsworth, by The Rt Reverend Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton, on Sunday 23rd July 2023.



Photo courtesy of Sean Brazendale



Winifred (Wyn) Steel

17th September 1928 – 14th July 2023

It was a real privilege for me to preside at Wyn Steel's Funeral and Thanksgiving at the end of July and to share in that with Debra your curate during this Inter-regnum. It is now some years since I retired as Vicar here. For Brenda and me, our time here was so much enjoyed. We were so fortunate - with excellent Church Wardens, a graveyard so well cared for, a first-rate pre-school group ABC, a very

good school, uniformed groups, and organisations which all continue, even though it is difficult to recruit volunteers - very much as your excellent magazine puts it 'A Church Serving the Community'.

Wyn wrote details of the service she wanted 'For the last service I shall attend in my Church'. She then said, 'The years from August 1982 as assistant Verger to my husband Harry then from October 1991 when I became Verger in my own right to my retirement after 27 years, have been some of my happiest.' She was then 83. 'It has been a privilege to have served and been 'Batman' using the army designation, to vicars over the years. I hope I have served them well.' She did - very well!

Wyn made such a difference and was a tremendous help to me. A woman of deep Christian faith, hope, and love expressed in so many ways, she also asked that any donations in her memory should go to this Church.

When Wyn could no longer manage at home in Devon Drive, even with her daughter Janet's help, she went into Abbeydale Carehome in Bury. There she received excellent care until her death on 14th July. Janet and Pauline were beside her as she died. She was a woman with a love of life and conversation who sadly, as she aged, gradually suffered from dementia, but then died quietly and peacefully.

As it says in Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament '*For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die.*'

Wyn met her first husband Harold playing badminton and they were married in 1950 and moved into Ainsworth in 1957, a very different village then. Wyn held a variety of jobs. At Church, she was enrolling Member of the Mother's Union and collected Christian Aid money.

Janet and Pauline were born. They were the loves of her life together with Pauline's children Emma and Rebecca and their children, Oliver,

Ruby, and Harley. Harold died on Good Friday when he was 46, in 1970. She then met her second husband Harry. They enjoyed ballroom dancing. He became Verger here in 1982 with Wyn as his assistant. He died in 1994.

So appreciative that she was made Verger in her own right, Wyn opened the church and welcomed people 3 times on Sunday, not easy in the winter. She enjoyed leading the procession around Ainsworth on walking days. She also checked the heating boiler, met wedding couples, cleaned the church, latterly helped by Janet, and handled funeral arrangements.

Wyn faced great challenges and difficulties during her life but coped largely through her Christian faith which enabled her to live out the gift of love that we heard of in the reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians chapter 13 at her funeral. She was a loving and caring person of great Christian faith for whom Paul's words set some clear values and standards.

For Wyn, Jesus spoke of the audacity of the hope of God's kingdom of faith and love, here on earth and beyond death. The hope and promise of fellowship with almighty God where there is an ending of crying and pain, of tears and grief.

At Radcliffe Crem I read a poem written by David Harkin that Queen Elizabeth II chose for the death of her mother Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Janet and Pauline had also chosen it so appropriately for their Mum.

“You can shed tears that she is gone,
or you can smile because she has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her,
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember her only that she is gone,
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your
back.
Or you can do what she'd want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.”

May Wyn rest in peace through God's love and rise in glory.

David Griffiths



1963-2023; Valerie Watts (AKA Rikki), This Is Your Scouting Life!!



Friday 14th July 2023 marked the end of an era, as Valerie Watts (AKA 'Rikki'), stepped down after over 50 years of service to Scouting in Ainsworth, and almost 40 years as the leader of Ainsworth Beaver Colony.

Valerie was born and brought up in Ainsworth, and at the age of 16 was a member of Ainsworth Guides, when Mr. Bullock, the vicar at that time, mentioned that he would like to try and get a Cub pack up and running in Ainsworth.

Despite not being old enough to take her warrant, Valerie signed up, and along with Gwen and Mrs. Oates, was instrumental in setting up the 14th Group of Cubs and Scouts. Aged 18, Valerie completed her training to become a warranted leader, and continued with the group until her own children came along.

Returning to the Scouting movement after a short break, in 1983 Valerie took on the challenge of setting up one of the first Beaver Colonies in the country, as part of a pilot project to involve children in the Scouting Organisation from a younger age. And the rest, as they say, is history; Ainsworth Beavers went from strength to strength, and almost 40 years later is still a thriving Colony.

Over the years, the leadership team has seen many changes, but Valerie has remained at the helm throughout, even taking on the role of Assistant District Commissioner, Beavers at one point, a role that she held for 11 years.

Throughout her time as Beaver Leader, Valerie has worked tirelessly to ensure that meetings are fun and educational, and that the activities and experiences offered to the Beavers remain current and relevant to the changing times. Craft work and games have always formed a large part of the programme, with the intention of ensuring that learning was made fun.

Back in 1983, the Beaver Colony's very first outing was a trip to Liverpool to visit HMS Beaver; over subsequent years, Valerie and the Beaver Colony have been on countless camps and fun days; taken part in swimming galas, sports days, 5 aside football competitions; visited the theatre, the circus, the Mayor's Parlour, Manchester United Football Ground; travelled on buses, coaches, steam trains, and

minibuses (often driven by Valerie's husband, 'Mr. Rikki'), and collected a whole host of memories along the way.

One of the high points was a visit to Windsor in 2013, where Valerie was presented with her Silver Acorn Award by the then Duchess of Cambridge. Lower points included an impromptu circus stunt which resulted in the Beavers getting a much talked about view of Rikki's underwear(!), and the temporary loss of a Beaver during a visit to Chester Zoo – following a frenzied search of the site by Mr. Rikki and other personnel, the misplaced Beaver was found to have inadvertently tagged on to a different group of Beavers and hopped on to their bus by mistake; all's well that ends well, but a few grey hairs resulted from that experience!

Valerie says of her time in the Scouting movement, that she has loved watching the children grow and develop in confidence throughout their time in the Colony. At one time, teenagers and young men would come up to Valerie in the street and say that they remembered her from Beavers; now some of these former Beavers are parents themselves and their own children have begun their Scouting journey under Valerie's watchful eye.

Ainsworth Scout Group marked Valerie's incredible contribution to Scouting in Ainsworth with a presentation attended by Beavers past and present; alongside the numerous Scouting awards that Valerie has accrued over the years, there now stands a lovely vase, engraved with the Scout logo, a reminder of a lifetime of Scouting in Ainsworth, and a token of appreciation for Valerie's dedication and commitment to the Scouting movement throughout this time.



Ainsworth Village Day

Despite a poor weather forecast, Saturday the 8th of July dawned bright and sunny, as a steady stream of stall holders arrived on Ainsworth Recreation Ground. Gazebos, tents and awnings of all shapes and sizes quickly sprang up, the bunting fluttered, and the obligatory smell of hot dogs and donuts filled the air.

Sadly, shortly before Revd. Debra was due to “Declare this Village Day open!”, the rain began to fall. The folk who were manning our stall sprang into action, retreating to the safety of their tent and doing a roaring trade in spite of the weather.

Meanwhile, a steady flow of visitors made their way up to Church for tea, coffee, cake and a moment of tranquillity; it was great to be able to welcome friends old and new, and lovely to see so many members of our wider community calling in for a brew, a chat, and a look round our lovely building,

Many thanks to everyone who supported us in any way on the day - the total amount raised for Church funds was £218-96 – a fantastic team effort!



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Just A Thought

Life may not always be the party that you were hoping for, but while you're here, you might as well learn to dance.

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EcoChurch



Only a few months have passed since our Church signed up to the EcoChurch scheme, but already we've made some great progress towards achieving the EcoChurch 'Bronze Award'.

Whilst many of the topical issues, things like solar panels and heat pumps, are beyond our scope (and means!!), at Church, just as in our own homes, there are lots of small changes we can all make, which can make a big difference to our 'Eco Status' and ultimately help the environment.

- Using low energy or LED light bulbs where possible.
- Using recycled materials eg. recycled loo roll, tissues, paper-based products.
- Using environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- Cutting down on single use plastic products.
- Buying 'Fairtrade' or responsibly sourced products when available.
- Recycling plastic, glass, paper, cardboard.
- Composting food and garden waste.
- Considering our transport options; could those who are able walk, cycle, car share rather than make a single occupant car journey?

The list is endless.

Over the coming months we'll be looking to implement / consider even more Ecofriendly initiatives within our Church; maybe there are easy things that you could consider changing in your own home? If each person within our community committed to making and sustaining 1 small Ecofriendly change each month – what a huge difference that could make!

Eco Church Top Tip for August:

Help birds in hot weather. Keeping your bird bath topped up with fresh water in warmer weather can be a life saver for our feathered friends. Get your garden birds through a heatwave when natural supplies, like worms, become scarce, by putting out supplementary food - black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mealworms, waxworms and good seed mixture.

Wild Worship!

This fab new venture started on Wednesday 26th July. Sadly, despite having been warm and sunny up to about 4pm, by 6.30 the rain was heavy and persistent. Undaunted, those who came along, headed out into the Churchyard to collect sticks to make the crosses needed to mark out our worship space.

The theme for our outdoor worship is 'The Creation Story', so to begin at the beginning, we spent our first session thinking about light; why we need it and how it might feel without it. Church was eerily quiet as everyone concentrated on making 'stained glass windows' (some very creative ideas!), then noise levels resumed as we moved onto making (and eating) rainbow kebabs and 'praying a rainbow'.



Over the coming weeks we'll be thinking about the sky, water, the sun, moon and stars etc. and including lots of different craft ideas and fun ways of praying; no need to book – just turn up!

Summer Of Prayer

Prayer is the way in which we communicate with God, both talking to and listening to God, and being open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Throughout the coming months our Church, our Mission Community and our Diocese will be encouraging people to get involved with a variety of different prayer initiatives:

Christ Church Ainsworth Praying Together

Whether or not you are able to come to Church regularly, each and every one of us can play our part in the life of our Church and community by praying. Each week we'll be putting together a list of 'prayer pointers' to guide our prayers for the coming week, we'll be emailing it out, uploading it to our website and also leaving some copies in church. Please join us as we pray together. To receive a copy of the prayer sheet, please send an email to

ainsworthnewsletter2023@gmail.com

Prayer Tree

Don't forget that anyone can place a prayer on the prayer tree in Church; simply write your prayer on one of the labels provided and hang it onto the tree; prayers are generally removed after 2 months, so please write a date on your label.

Private Prayer

Our Church is now open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons between 2.30 and 4pm. Please feel free to call in for a few moments of calm and tranquillity.

Many thanks to our volunteer 'Church Sitters', who have made it possible for us to offer this opportunity once more.

Candlelight Prayer

This is an oasis of calm to help you to round off a busy week. Why not join us for 10 minutes of quiet prayer and reflection each Friday at 8pm on Zoom. Simply click the link below to join in, or for more info contact Alison on 07952-709041

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFOz09>

Manchester Diocese Transforming Prayer Community

This diocesan initiative seeks to connect and reconnect us with a simple vocation to pray. All you are asked to do is make a daily commitment to say The Lord's Prayer, The Diocesan Prayer of Thanksgiving and Hope, and a prayer for your local area. To join in simply [sign up online](#).

Circle Of Prayer

There are many different ways of praying; next time you visit our Church, why not write a short prayer on 1 of the stones that you'll find at the back of Church, then add it to the line of 'Prayer Rocks' which are already snaking their way around the inside of the Church.

You are welcome to add as many prayer rocks as you want to (grown-ups as well as children!); help us to create a 'circle of prayer' that reaches all the way round our Church.

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Martin Luther

Online Giving

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, we are now able to accept online donations to support the work of our church.

Online giving is done via a website called 'Give A Little'; you can access our page by clicking on the following link:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/4e852de9-3667-426f-ae72-1747784eda0c>

Or by scanning the following QR code with your mobile phone:



Once you've done that, choose the amount you wish to donate – the suggested options are £5, £10, £20 or £50, but there is also an option to click and choose your own amount. Next, simply follow the on screen instructions - fill in your personal details, (if you are a tax payer you can choose to add Gift Aid to increase your donation), then enter your card

details. When you're finished, you'll get a 'Thank You' message on screen and you can request a receipt via email for your own records – simple!

Mission Community Prayer

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church
In the burning fire of your love,

We lift before you the churches of our mission community and the
communities where we live and serve you.

Grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of your gospel,
Bearing with one another in love as You build us together into one
community.

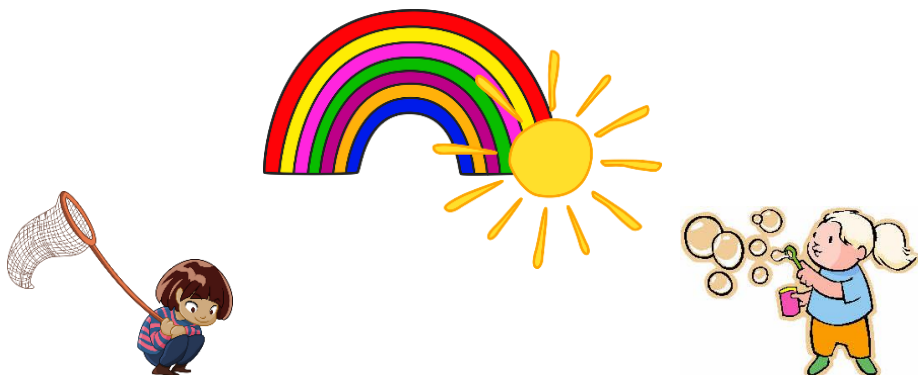
Always abiding in You, may we be found steadfast in faith and active
in service.

Open our eyes to see the opportunities you have prepared for us to
work together in mission in new ways;
Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen

!! WILD WORSHIP !!

Why not join us for ...
Family friendly outdoor
worship
in our lovely churchyard this
summer

Wednesdays @ 6.30pm
Starts Weds 26th July
Come along & join the fun!!





Candlelight Prayer



*An oasis of calm at the end of a busy week;
why not join us for 10 minutes of quiet prayer and
reflection, each Friday at 8pm on Zoom.*

Simply click the following link to join in:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFoZz09>

Or for more info contact Alison on 07952-709041

*"As the shadows begin to lengthen, be guided by the
light that shines within you."*





Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 8th August

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

*"A cup of coffee shared with others
is happiness shared and time well spent."*





Saturday 12th August

10:00am-2:00pm

AT: Ainsworth Methodist Church

Bury Old Road, BL2 5 SD

Please bring your own picnic





DO YOU LOVE TO SING?

HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED A CANCER DIAGNOSIS?

Founded in June 2012 **Bolton Cancer Voices** is an inspirational, welcoming Choir open to anyone who has received a cancer diagnosis of any type at any time.

Membership is FREE: there is no requirement to read music and no auditions to worry about.

We have no geographical restrictions, as long as you can travel to Bolton for rehearsals.

Through cancer brings the Choir together enabling people to meet others in a similar situation, the focus is on sharing our love of singing, having fun experiences, rising to new challenges and the anticipation of forthcoming appearances. We have lots of laughs; plenty of things to look forward to and never let cancer stand in our way or stifle our dreams and aspirations.

Whether you're new to singing and keen to give it a try or a seasoned performer, we'd love to hear from you.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of something very special.

**Rehearsals take place on Mondays 7.30pm - 9.00pm
at The Friends Meeting House, Silverwell Street, Bolton BL1 1PP**

Enquiries to Karen Elliott - Chair
01204 595562 / 07773 164235
www.boltoncancervoices.org.uk
E-mail: boltoncancervoices@yahoo.com

 @BoltonCancervoices  @VoicesBolton

 We are waiting to hear from YOU! 

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 8th August

10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

‘A cup of coffee shared with others is happiness tasted & time well spent’

Everyone welcome

Ainsworth Village History Group – History Walk

Tuesday 8th August

Meet outside the White Horse Pub @ 7pm; everyone welcome.

Save The Date!!

Saturday 7th October

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Harvest Thanksgiving – an evening of food, fun and friendship!

Everyone welcome - more details coming soon!

!!Wild Worship!!

Wednesday Evenings 6.30pm, Christ Church Ainsworth

Throughout the school holidays we'll be holding outdoor worship in our churchyard each Wednesday evening; why not join us for family friendly worship and outdoor fun. Please dress appropriately for the weather!!

Ainsworth Fun Day

Saturday 12th August

10 – 2pm; Ainsworth Methodist Church

Please join us for a great day of family fun and games. Drinks provided, but feel free to bring your own picnic (no bananas please, due to extreme allergic reaction of 1 of our organisers), no need to book – just turn up!

Summer Family Fundraising Coach Trip To Llandudno

Now rescheduled for Saturday 16th September

For more info or to book tickets click the link below:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AinsworthScoutGroup1/FundraisingFamilyCoachTripLlandudnoSaturday16thSeptember2023>

Ainsworth Mothers' Union

1st & 3rd Tuesday Of The Month

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

We have a busy & varied programme of activities and Speakers throughout the year. Want to know more? Why not come along to 1 of our meetings.

Around The Organisations ...

Group Scout Leader's Update

From our return in September meeting times for all sections have been changed slightly. **All sections meet on a Friday in Ainsworth Church & Community Hall:**

Beavers 6:30 – 7:45 in Top room; Contact Bill White 01204 595378

Cubs 6:30 – 8pm in New room; Contact Gwen White 01204 595378

Scouts 7:45 – 9:30 in Top room; Contact Stacey White 07742 610281

Explorers Fortnightly in New room; Contact John Turner 01204 381590

These times are definite until the end of 2023. If there are any further changes towards the end of the year, notification will be given in good time.

We are looking for new leaders in both the Beaver and Cub Sections, hence the merging of times as shown above, so if you know of anyone willing to take on any posts, please contact GSL Bill White 01204 595378

Scouting - Valerie Watts:

Valerie was instrumental in the setting up of the Cub pack with Gwen and Mrs. Oates in 1963, when Rev KP Bullock set up the 14th Group of Cubs and Scouts. She continued in the role of Rikki until she left the group to look after her young family.

She returned to the group to form the first Beaver Colony in GM North scout county. Helping many others to set up this section she was appointed ADC Beavers for Radcliffe – a role she held for many years.

Ainsworth Scout Group owe a deep gratitude to Valerie, along with hundreds of boys, and recently girls, for all her hard work and dedication.

We are sorry to see Valerie retire but wish her all the best in the future.

In front of the colony, parents and leaders Valerie was presented with an engraved vase, flowers, and cash (for her to decide what to buy for herself) to purchase something she can keep as a memento of her time as a Leader.

Thanks Valerie

Ruth Merritt

Ruth has also decided it is time to leave the group as she has been appointed to a new post in education.

Ruth joined us as an Explorer scout over 10 years ago, being a young leader with the colony, and at 18 was appointed assistant Beaver Leader. Ruth was given engraved wine glasses, flowers and an amount of money to treat herself.

We wish her every success in her future career.

Bill White – Group Scout Leader.

Beavers

Over the past weeks the Beavers have made balancing Parrots, by sticking a penny on the tail for it to balance on their finger, this is one thing towards their Experiment badge. They have also coloured in the dancing clowns.

On the last Beaver night, we walked part of the Outwood Trail and back to McDonalds for their Happy Meals. The Beavers were all well behaved for us.

On behalf of myself and Ruth I would like to say thank you to everyone for their lovely presents and wishes to us both. We have both enjoyed taking the Beavers over the years. I would also like to say thank you to all the leaders past and present who have helped me at Beavers over the many years.

I will certainly miss my little Beavers, but I am sure they will still have lots of fun in the future.

Rikki

Cubs

All who attended the District Camp had a great time and the weather was very kind to us – not sure all the leaders were happy with the Cubs running across the field at 4:30am – they thought it was morning as it was daylight – perhaps camping in December might be an idea! Lewis Jones was invested at the end of the camp in front of over 100 people – a daunting task for an 8-year-old. A wide range of activities done at camp has given the Cubs more sections of various badges to achieve.

As we come to the end of the summer section before the break until September, several of the Cubs have gained their Naturalist badge.

There will also be the presentation of Silver Awards at the church parade in September.

You will see from the notice from the GSL that our meeting times are changing – at least until Christmas, if not longer, this is due to a shortage of leaders.

Enjoy the break.

Gwen White - Baloo

Scouts

We haven't written in here for a long time, but that's because we have been busy with lots of activities with the Scouts.

We have visited Burrs Country Park and done some orienteering; we have collectively completed hundreds of badges; we have done a trading post, which is definitely one of the Scouts favourites where they can earn Scout Dollars by doing a variety of tasks, some Scouting related, some not, but always something for everyone.

In early June we had our first District Camp for quite a while. Both Cubs and Scouts came along and took part in activities such as Shooting, Archery, Tree Climbing, Backwoods activities, cooking popcorn over open fires, various crafts etc. On the Sunday morning we had a visit by Bolton Mountain Rescue who had the young people of the District partaking in lots of activities such as carrying stretchers and helping those in need. We also played some daft games like Welly Wanging, Tug of War and Giant Sack races, where there were 4 young people in the bags you get your gravel in with the handles on the corners. It was a fantastic weekend. My thanks have to go to Darran and Rob, two of our parents, who went through the DBS process to allow us to take all the young people on their camp. (Note to self, do a camp in tents in winter so it stays dark in a morning and the young people don't want to get up at 4.30am because it's bright sunshine!! ha ha ha).

From the fundraising grants I applied for in early 2022, we have now purchased our own Archery kit and myself and Aled are fully qualified to take the young people to take part. We will be doing this at least once a term from now on; who knows - we may see one of the them on the Olympics!

It is now the time of year where we are closed for the Summer, and all take a break (well apart from planning the programme from September onwards).

Due to changes in leaders in various sections we are changing our times from September, and Scouts will meet from 7.45 to 9.30 instead of the current times. This is to allow us to ensure we have enough coverage for the required ratios in all sections throughout the evening.

As a group we are always looking for new helpers / leaders – please remember it is flexible volunteering. You don't have to come every week, but could you be our Group Secretary perhaps? Attending meetings once a quarter and helping to ensure that the group meets the requirements of the Charities Commission? Do you have a skill? Perhaps you are a mechanic, an electrician, or a DIY expert and could run some sessions for Scouts for us, this would be great. Do you have a job that the young people would find interesting? Again, could you give them a talk? If this is something you think you could do, drop me an email on scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk We always appreciate any help we can get, and we do make a good brew!!

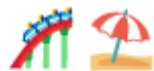
We look forward to getting together again in September and will keep you updated on what we are doing.

Stacey, on behalf of all Leaders

Summer Family Fundraising Coach Trip



Re-Arranged to Saturday 16th September 2023



Due to the fact we had to cancel the planned trip in July we have now rearranged the trip to Llandudno for Saturday 16th September. We have checked every calendar we can find to make sure it doesn't clash with anything!

Please try and sell seats on the coach for us, this is always a great fundraiser and day out, with lots of laughs and memories to be made.

Ticket prices are:-

Adult (Aged 14 and over) £27

Child (Aged 13 and under) £17

Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £70

To book your places on this fab day out please follow the below link:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AinsworthScoutGroup1/FundraisingFamilyCoachTripLlandudnoSaturday16thSeptember2023>

or email me on scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk

Stacey

12th Radcliffe Guides And Brownies

It has been a busy end to the term. We did keyrings for Father's Day (which seems a long time ago now), thought about the environment by looking at what we should and shouldn't flush down the toilet; and how we could boost people's moods by positive statements.

Towards the end of the term, each patrol made a variety of mocktails and, once they decided which one was best, designed a menu for it and then made and shared it for our end-of-term mocktail party. We look forward to an enjoyable summer break and to return refreshed in September.



12th Radcliffe Guiding Leaders

16th Radcliffe Brownies

This term we have been completing the Explorer Badge - this has included a game where the Brownies had to pack cases for their holidays with no hands, along with learning what we can and cannot take onto a plane; visiting The Delph for a treasure hunt (thankfully it didn't rain on us for once!); and making a picnic out of clay.

The Explorer Badge also included cleaning a pair of shoes or trainers but, perhaps luckily for the Brownies, we had a party instead for Barn Owl as she celebrated 20 years in Girlguiding. Unbeknownst to Barn Owl, we had invited her husband, children, and Rainbow leaders she has previously worked with and had a surprise party, which involved games of pass the parcel, a quiz and, of course, plenty of cake.

(Don't worry, the Brownies instead cleaned shoes for homework, much to the pleasure of some mums and dads who had their shoes cleaned instead!)

We ended the term creating postcards for where the Brownies were either holidaying this summer of where they would like to visit, and as an extra special treat, we made our own candy floss.

We had a lot of fun this term and we look forward to what the next brings after the summer holidays!

16th Radcliffe Brownie Leaders

Transformation - Now!



Have you noticed that news programmes and newspaper articles are often filled with bad or depressing topics, and happy stories have a lesser profile? So, let's have a 'Happy Hour' at our meeting on the 1st of August at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Let's share a smile or a laugh, whether personal or public. Maybe we have a happy story that's changed our life for the good. Maybe we've had an experience that still makes us giggle. It's healthy to laugh. A happy face uses more muscles (and calories) than a miserable one!

The Bolton Archdeaconry Festival is, as usual on Wednesday, 9th August at 7pm at All Saints Church, Whitefield. It would be nice if our branch could be represented.

Do you remember that several years ago, a group of members zipwired across the Manchester Ship Canal? On the 14th of August, Cath Hilton, our Zonal Trustee and former Manchester President, is going one step further by 'flying' the mile long, 100mph Velocity 2 over Penrhyn Quarry lake. She is raising money by sponsorship for the MU Summer of Hope appeal. We have already started to give money for that appeal which is ongoing until the end of August, if anyone else wishes to add anything in sponsorship. Fresh from this adventure, Cath will be coming to talk to the branch on 15th August at 2.30pm;

everyone is welcome. Cath tells me that she has lots to tell us, and also wants to hear our news.

The 29th August, being the 5th Tuesday, Andrew will again lead us in a Mothers' Union act of worship at 2.30pm in the Church Hall.

Jennifer White

Ainsworth Village History Group

The Ainsworth Village History Group held their July meeting in the churchyard of Christ Church, in the village. It gave the 30+ attendees the chance to learn about some of the 'residents' in the churchyard. It also gave some the opportunity to speak about ancestors or friends that rest there. Perhaps the most poignant story was told by Bill, about his sister and her best friend, who tragically lost their lives in the Barcelona air crash of 1970. The weather was kind to us, but, just in case, the church was open, and we learnt some more fascinating stories from the history of the church.

Weather permitting, the next 2 meetings will be held outdoors. These will involve a walk and talk around the village. We try to make the walk as accessible as possible.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and are advertised on our Facebook page, Ainsworth Village History Group. For those who don't use Facebook, other options are available. Please contact me on gnewman500@gmail.com if you want information and cannot access Facebook.



From the Archives – August 1998

In August 1998, Father Alan wrote of the peace and beauty of the small village in the Lake District where he and Venitia had spent a recent holiday; reminding readers of how important it is to take some time away from the regular bustle of life and allow nature to revive us.

‘News From The Parish’, began with some people news – 60th Wedding Anniversary celebrations, and a note of thanks for cards and visits during a recent hospital stay. A report from the PCC followed, with discussion around ‘giving’ featuring at length; the plan was to have a ‘Gift Tree’ at Harvest, people were invited to place their donation in an envelope and hang it on the tree – harvest donations were to be split equally between Bolton Salvation Army, Bolton Young People’s Housing Society, Bolton Hospice, Bury Hospice and Bolton Hearing Dogs For The Deaf. A similar scheme was planned for the Christmas period, with donations going to USPG.

In other news, the Social Committee were combining forces with Scouts, to host an ‘American Brunch’; members of the Church Women’s Fellowship reported a successful trip to the chocolate factory, followed by a visit to Blackburn Cathedral to take part in their Service of Evensong; members had also enjoyed an informative talk about Bolton Hearing Dogs For The Deaf.

School reported on the Family Fun Day which was held to mark the official opening of their new playground by the Mayor of Bury; the PTA thanked everyone who had supported the fundraising campaign and gave advanced notice of the craft fair they were planning for the Autumn term.

In August 1998, the ‘Face To Face’ interview was with Mr. Mike Watson, “One of our devoted band of sidesmen, but more importantly a great supporter of the Church and it’s many activities.”

In August 1998 there were 5 Baptisms, 2 Weddings and 2 Funerals recorded from the previous month. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 352, with the Collections listed as £1795.

Be Inspired

“The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.”

Psalm 27:v23-24

The Hymn That's In My Head



Hymns and music play a large part in Christian worship; you can't beat listening to (or singing along with) a joyful, rousing hymn - whether it's in church, on the radio or listening to a CD. There are literally hundreds of fabulous hymns and worship songs out there.

I Will Be With You – Gerard Markland (1953 -)

I will be with you wherever you go,
Go now throughout the world!
I will be with you in all that you say,
Go now and spread My word!

Come, walk with me on stormy waters.
Why fear? Reach out, and I'll be there.
I will be with you wherever you go ...

And you, My friend, will you now leave Me,
Or do you know Me as your Lord?
I will be with you wherever you go ...

Your life will be transformed with power
By living truly in My name.
I will be with you wherever you go ...

And if you say: 'Yes, Lord, I love You.'
Then feed My lambs and feed My sheep,
I will be with you wherever you go ...

These wonderful words were written by Gerard Markland, an English teacher at a Catholic Secondary School, and were first published in 1978. Sung to an incredibly addictive, and yet unnamed tune, this hymn is described as a 'commissioning hymn', and when you read the words properly it's easy to see why.

The entire composition is 'spoken' by God; telling us that he is with us and will walk alongside us always; inviting us to walk with Him, to trust Him and rely on Him, and in so doing to feel the sense of power that a life with and for God offers us.

This hymn regularly forms a part of the end of year school service at Christ Church Ainsworth, but was also sung at our recent Confirmation Service – sung twice in a week, and now playing on a continuous loop in my head!

Praying Through The Seasons ... Water Of Life

“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.”



Isaiah 44:3-4

Whilst the weather that we have experienced recently may leave us feeling frustrated – it is July after all! – it’s important to remember that the rain that frustrates us, is in fact the thing that makes our land green and pleasant and sustains life.

But rain can also be symbolic in our spiritual lives; without rain, garden plants droop, their growth is stunted, and no fruit comes forth. In the same way, when we walk our own path or find ourselves in desert seasons, we can become dry and fruitless.

God’s promise in Isaiah was for us too; He wants to rain down his blessings on us; He wants us to be refreshed and fruitful. Just as rain allows plants and vegetation to grow and thrive, so too God’s blessings give us what we need to thrive.

Creator God, we thank you for the blessing of rain; the rain that revives and restores our green and pleasant land; the water of life. We thank you also for the blessings of Your love and guidance, which help us to grow and thrive. Amen

Space To Share A Prayer

A Celtic Prayer

You are the peace of all things calm,
You are the place to hide from harm,
You are the light that shines in dark,
You are the heart's eternal spark,
You are the door that's open wide,
You are the guest who waits inside,
You are the stranger at the door,
You are the calling of the poor,
You are my Lord and with me still,
You are my love, keep me from ill,
You are the light, the truth, the way,
You are my Saviour this very day. Amen

Hatches, Matches & Despatches - August!

Born in August ...

1467 – Mary of York, English Princess.

1877 - Charlotte Hughes, British supercentenarian (lived under the rule of 6 British Monarchs and 24 British Prime Ministers).

1897 – Enid Blyton, popular children's writer.

1912 – Margaret Scriven, English tennis player.

1918 – Guy Gibson, British Aviator who led the Dam Busters raid.

1936 - Yves Saint Laurent, French fashion designer

Married in August ...

1806 – Davy Crockett, Frontiersman, to Polly Finley.

1940 – Laurence Olivier, Actor, to Vivienne Leigh, Actress.

1986 – John McEnroe, Tennis Ace, to Tatum O'Neal.

1995 – Michael Schumacher, F1 Driver, to Corrina Betsch.

2000 – Gordon Brown, British PM, to Sarah Jane Macauley.

2005 – Natasha Kaplinsky, TV Hostess, to Justin Bower.

Died in August ...

1688 – John Bunyan, English Minister and Author, aged 59.

1879 – Rowland Hill, British Inventor, aged 84.

1903 – Calamity Jane, Frontierswoman, aged 51.

1997 – Diana, Princess of Wales, aged 36.

2013 – David Frost, British Broadcaster, aged 74.

2014 – Richard Attenborough, English Actor, aged 90.

Straplines

Friendship happens when people know a lot about you, but like you anyway.

The optimist proclaims we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist fears this is true.

The only certain thing about the future is that it always arrives one day at a time.

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

An English Summer's Day

Tonight, I find myself alone
Beneath a foreign sky,
Adrift from all I know and love,
Alone, bereft I lie.
Through darkest night,
Oppressive with the sultry heat of day,
My heart and soul seek comfort
In an English Summer's Day.

Senses searching for a mem'ry,
Fingers reaching through the dark,
Touch the sweet, ecstatic music
Of an unseen, soaring Lark,
The scent of English roses,
Petals drenched with morning dew,
Soft clouds that drift across a sky
That's, oh so English blue.

The wildflow'rs in the hedgerows,
The sea of golden corn,
The way the night sky blushes
When it's kissed by English dawn,
The smell of rich, dark earth,
The sound of softly falling rain –
Oh English Summer's Day!
Help ease this lonely traveller's pain.

AL Hartley

Cheat's Kitchen



Easy Macaroons

You Will Need:

- 1 pack of ready rolled shortcrust pastry
- 50g Caster Sugar, plus a little extra for sprinkling
- 50g Ground almonds
- 1 egg beaten
- Raspberry jam

Here's What To Do:

- 1 – Using a large round pastry cutter, cut out 12 circles and use them to line the sections of a 'jam tart tin'.
- 2 – Place a little jam in each pastry case.
- 3 – Mix together the almonds, sugar and egg, then top each case with a small spoonful of the mixture.
- 4 – Sprinkle each macaroon with a little caster sugar
- 5 – Bake at 200C for approx 15 minutes, or until golden. Enjoy!

Time For A Smile

A group of bishops were out at lunch when they discovered that the salt shaker contained pepper, and the pepper shaker was full of salt. They debated how could they swap the contents of the two bottles without spilling any, and using only the implements at hand? They came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw, and an empty saucer. They called the waitress over, ready to dazzle her with their solution, but before they could start, the waitress apologised, leaned over, unscrewed the caps of both bottles and swapped them.

Forty robbers arrived at the famous Pearly Gates and were met by St Peter. After a brief exchange, St Peter went into the gatehouse and contacted God. He said, "I've got 40 robbers here; can I let them all in?" God answered: "I'm afraid we're over the quota on robbers, so tell them to choose between them which are the 12 most worthy, and I will let just those in." Two minutes later St Peter spoke to God again and said, "They've gone," God said, "What? All 40 of them?" St Peter replied, "No, the gates!"

The Parish Puzzler

Holiday Anagrams

Can you unscramble the following letters to identify the holiday destinations?

1. P I N S A
2. L I Y T A
3. T P U L O R A G
4. M D N K R A E
5. R E F N A C
6. G Y N M A E R
7. E E E R C G
8. F E E E N I R T
9. T M L A A
10. A A A M I J C
11. D M E A A R I
12. T C S A O L D E O S L
13. T U A A I R S
14. A I A I W H
15. R I A C M E A

(Answers on page 37)

Church Trivia

Last month's question:

Q. How many incumbents were there between 1800 & 1900?

A. 6

This month's question:

Q. Who was the incumbent at Ainsworth Parish Church in the year that Queen Victoria died?

Answer in next month's magazine.

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
6 th August 9 th Sunday after Trinity	Mags Gillman Dennis Gillman	Jan Burrow	Andrew Lowe
13 th August 10 th Sunday after Trinity	Barbara Clarkson Jan Burrow	Carole Butler	Jenny Johnson
20 th August 11 th Sunday after Trinity	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Lorraine Holden	David Holden
27 th August 12 th Sunday after Trinity	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	Beryl Sixsmith	Clergy

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
6 th August 9 th Sunday after Trinity	Enid Horrocks	Genesis 32.22-31 Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21
13 th August 10 th Sunday after Trinity	Jenny Johnson	Genesis 37.1-4,12-28 Romans 10.5-15 Matthew 14.22-33
20 th August 11 th Sunday after Trinity	David Holden	Genesis 45.1-15 Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15. 21-28
27 th August 12 th Sunday after Trinity	Beryl Sixsmith	Exodus 1.8 - 2.10 Romans 12.1-8 Matthew 16.13-20

Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley Chris Haworth	07952 709041 07855 638450
Church Treasurer	David Holden	davelholden@aol.co.uk
Secretary of the PCC	Vacancy	
Organist	Jenny Johnson	07734976978
Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary	Carole Butler	07379 196608
Safeguarding Officer	Peter Holden	01204 596938
Church Hall Booking		bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com
Magazine Secretary		
Magazine Adverts		
Primary School Head	D Gerrard BA(Hons)PGCE	01204 527484

Services

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) 2 nd & 4 th Sunday
	10.30am	Family Service, 2 nd Sunday Family & Parade Service
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP) 1 st Sunday
Weds	6.15pm	Mid-Week Praise

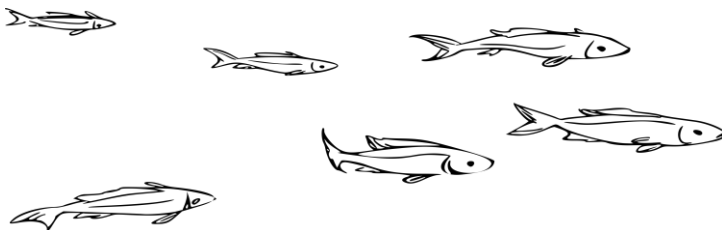
Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty.

Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage, and Funerals
Contact 01204-398567.

Answers to Holiday Quiz: 1) Spain, 2) Italy, 3) Portugal, 4) Denmark, 5) France, 6) Germany, 7) Greece, 8) Tenerife, 9) Malta, 10) Jamaica, 11) Madeira, 12) Costa Del Sol, 13) Austria, 14) Hawaii, 15) America.

Who's Who For Church Organisations

Mothers Union	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Altar Flowers	Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
ABC First Steps Toddler Group	Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Jennifer White	07964 587694
Group Leader	Bill White group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall Leader	
Cub Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Scouts' 14 th Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Monday 7.30 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader John Turner	01204 381590
Brownies 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045



Little Fishes

King Saul



People In The Bible

The Bible is a collection of stories that help us to learn about God and God's dealings with people, right from the beginning of the world. The different parts of the Bible are called 'Books'; each Book was written for a special purpose - some books tell us the story of God's chosen people, the children of Israel, some books are filled with wisdom and advice, some books tell us about things which may be in the future; many of the Books of the Bible include stories about ordinary people who played an extraordinary part in history.

The End Of The judges

For many years the people of Israel had been led by Judges - these were people who were chosen by God to be leaders; some of them had been good leaders and others not quite so good.

Samuel was one of the Judges, and he was also a priest. Samuel was a good Judge, he loved God and always tried to do what was right. Samuel had 2 sons, and he hoped that they would become Judges when he became too old to be a Judge anymore; he tried to teach his sons to be Judges but they didn't obey God, in fact, they tried to cheat the people of Israel instead of helping them!



Some of the people noticed that Samuel was getting old, and they were worried that when he died his sons would become the leaders in his place. They started wondering what it would be like to have a king.

Samuel knew that it wouldn't all be plain sailing with a King in charge; the people would have to pay taxes, there would be new rules and laws made by the King - he tried to tell the people this, but they wouldn't listen.



And so, Samuel prayed to God. He told God about his worries; he told God that the people of Israel wouldn't listen to him. God told Samuel to let the people have their own way and explained that He

would help Samuel to find the person who would become the first King of Israel.

King Saul

In a nearby town, a young man named Saul, was supposed to be watching his father's donkeys as they grazed the land, but somehow, the donkeys had managed to wander off. Saul and his father's servant had searched far and wide, but they couldn't find those pesky donkeys!



Saul was ready for turning back towards home, but the servant said, "I heard that Samuel, the man of God, is in the next town. God gives prophets special powers; maybe he could pray to God and ask Him where the donkeys are."

So, Saul and the servant went to the next town to try to find Samuel.

When they arrived, Saul saw an old man walking along the road, he asked him if he knew where they could find Samuel the prophet. The man replied, "Hello Saul, I am Samuel. Don't worry about the donkeys - they have been found and are safe. Instead, come with me to my house and share my meal, and I will tell you many things."



Saul was amazed that the man already knew his name and knew about the lost donkeys; he realised that Samuel must really be a man sent by God, and so he went with Samuel and ate a meal with him.

Samuel told Saul, "Saul, the Lord has chosen you to be the king over all of Israel."

Then Samuel did a special thing to show that Saul had been chosen by God; he poured oil on Saul's head. Pouring oil on a person's head to show a special purpose is called anointing. Samuel wanted Saul to understand that God was choosing him to do something very special.



Samuel needed Saul to absolutely believe in God's power, and so Samuel told Saul exactly what would happen and what he must do for the rest of the day.

Samuel told Saul, "When you leave this house, you will see two men by a famous tomb called "Rachel's Tomb". The men will tell you that the donkeys have been found and that they are back at your father's house."

Samuel told Saul, "When you come to a tree called "The Great Tree of Tabor" you will see 3 more men. These men will give you food."



Samuel told Saul, "When you come to a town in Gibeah, you will meet a group of prophets who will be playing musical instruments and prophesying about God."

Samuel told Saul, "When you have seen all of these things, I want you to go to Gilgal and wait for me."

Saul listened to Samuel, and he knew everything he had said was true. Saul's heart became strong; he knew that God had a special purpose for him.

Saul left Samuel and began to walk along the road. Everything happened just as Samuel had said it would. He met the two men who told him about the donkeys; he met the three men by the tree, and they gave him food; he met the prophets who were playing musical instruments.

And so, Saul believed in God's power, and went to Gilgal to wait for Samuel.

When Samuel arrived at Gilgal, all the people had gathered there, waiting for Samuel to tell them who the new king would be.



Samuel told the people that God had chosen Saul to be the first King of Israel; Saul was tall and handsome and strong - the people of Israel agreed that God had chosen them a fine King; "Long live the King!" they shouted.

The people were happy, but Samuel was worried because the people of Israel were thinking more about pleasing themselves

than about pleasing God Samuel knew that this could only lead to trouble.

So, What Can We Learn From Saul's Story?

The people of Israel asked God to give them a King; they wanted a powerful King, who would lead their army to great victories. God wasn't happy about this, He knew it was likely to lead to a bad end, but God listened to the people and gave them the kind of King that they wanted. Saul had all the qualities that they wanted for their king.

God didn't force the people of Israel to behave in a certain way, He allowed them to make their own decisions.

God does exactly the same with all of us - He doesn't force us to do anything, but He always encourages us to do the things that please him, things that are right, and when we do that, the result is always good.

Prayer Time ...

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for listening to me and for giving me choices,
Please help me to make choices that will please You;
Help me to be kind to others, honest and helpful,
And help me always to love You - Amen.

Here's Something Fun To Do ...

Write down the opposites to these words, to find out what sort of a King the people of Israel wanted:

Small

Weak

Ugly

Frightened

Mean

Find out next month whether Saul turned out to be the kind of king they wanted.

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