

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Light Your Christingle

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

December 2023

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Christmas At Christ Church Ainsworth

Wednesday 6th December 6.30pm - Christingle Service

Sunday 17th December 6pm - Joint Carol Service at
Ainsworth Methodist Church

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December 10.30am - Christmas Carol Requests

Sunday 24th December 2pm - Christmas Eve At The Crib

Sunday 24th December 11.30pm - First Communion of
Christmas

Christmas Day

Sunday 25th December 9.30am BCP Communion

Please join us at any of the above Services





Parish Diary December 2023

Sat 2 nd	7.00pm	Candlelit Christmas Concert (In Church)
Sun 3 rd		THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Weds 6 th	6.30pm	Christingle Service
Thurs 7 th	10.30am	Celtic Advent
Sun 10 th		THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Weds 13 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Thurs 14 th	10.30am	Celtic Advent
Sun 17 th		THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Carol Service - Ainsworth Methodist Church
Weds 20 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Thurs 21 st	10.30am	Celtic Advent
Fri 22 nd	9.30am	School Christmas Service
Sun 24 th		THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Carol Requests with seasonal refreshments
	2.00pm	Around The Crib family Service
	11.30pm	First Communion Of Christmas
Mon 25 th		CHRISTMAS DAY
	9.30am	BCP Communion
Sun 31 st		THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
	10.30am	Holy Communion
JANUARY 2024		
Sun 7 th		EPIPHANY
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer

Interregnum Update

Following a few initial 'teething problems', it's fantastic to be able to report that our new boiler is now fully operational and doing a splendid job. As the temperatures have begun to fall, we are incredibly grateful to genuinely be able to offer 'a very warm welcome to Christ Church Ainsworth'! Many thanks to everyone who has been a part of what our PCC nicknamed 'Boilergate', and also to everyone who continued to worship in Church throughout the long, cold winter months of 2022/23.

As is often the case with older buildings, you finally sort one problem out, then up crops another. The heavy rains we experienced in October and November caused a significant leak in the area above the choir stalls; whilst we were initially hopeful that this was due to leaves and debris blocking the drainage valley on the roof, sadly it isn't that simple – and so the scaffolding has gone up, the experts have been called in ... Watch this space ... But on the plus side, as our boiler is now up and running, we do at least have the means to dry out wet plaster, wet cushions etc – God is good!

It is now ten months since our Parish moved into interregnum, and we have almost got to the point where we have 'done' everything once; Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, Ascension Day, Harvest, Remembrance and soon also Advent and Christmas.

A fellow Churchwarden, whose Church has been in interregnum for almost 18 months, mentioned that they were all very cautious and restrained during the first year of their interregnum, but had begun to feel a bit more adventurous about doing and trying new things 'second time round'.

Looking back over recent months, there seems to have been so many different things to get to grips with, and so many events and activities going on within our Church and our wider community, that I'm rather hoping that 'second time round' will be a quieter and gentler ride!

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our interregnum journey so far, have a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alison Hartley – Churchwarden (on behalf of the PCC)

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the December 2023 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine. It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of another year – but then they do say that time flies when you're having fun!

Well, the Christmas fun has certainly got off to a flying start this year – our Church Christmas Fair was followed by the Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival; next up is our Candlelit Carol Concert, Friends of the Delph Christmas Lights Switch On, 'Bring Your Own Christingle', Joint Christmas Carol Service at Ainsworth Methodist Church, Community Christmas Spirit at Christ Church Ainsworth School ... It's starting to look a lot like Christmas!!

Make sure you keep an eye on the Parish Diary / Pew Sheet to keep up to speed with dates and times for Church Services and other events throughout the festive period.

Enjoy this month's magazine, please do your best to support the many things that are going on within our Church and wider community in the coming month; have a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year - *Alison*

From The Registers

FUNERALS
October 3rd

We commend to God's keeping:
Montgomery Thomas David Allen

Flower Rota

10th Dec Mrs. H. Hartley
24th Dec Ms. J. Hayes

There are currently a few dates available on the church flower rota; if you would like to join the rota to mark a special date or simply to make sure our Church continues to look bright and welcoming, please contact Gwen White on 01204-595378 for further details.

Porch Boxes – Christmas Meal Appeal

Throughout Advent, we'll be running a Porch Boxes 'Christmas Meal Appeal'.

Week 1 - we're asking people to donate tins of soup, or something similar that could be eaten as a 'Starter'.

Week 2 – please bring something to be eaten as a 'Main Course' – tins of stew, meat balls, spaghetti etc.

Week 3 – we'd love it if people could bring "Dessert" items eg. tins of rice pudding or tinned fruit.



Week 4 - we're asking for donations of something that's either 'a little extra' (this could be a treat such as a packet of biscuits, a box of cereal), or 'something useful' such as toothpaste or toiletries. Please give as you are able and help us to support this fantastic local charity.

Churchyard Team - Christmas Wreaths

The churchyard team are once again going to be doing wreaths for this Christmas.

To order a wreath, please take an envelope from the back of church (or use your own) and place the completed details in the envelope with the money – cash only. Place the completed envelopes in the box at the back of the church. Please state if you want the churchyard team to place the wreath on a grave for you, or if you wish to collect it yourself. If you want the churchyard team to do it, please state where the grave is and the names on the grave so we can find it for you. As in previous years, the cost is £11 per wreath. Orders must be placed on or before **9th December**. Collection date for the wreaths is **Wednesday 13th December between 9.30 and 11.30am**. Wreaths will be placed on graves at this time as well.

Completed envelopes can also be sent by post (with monies included) to: Jan Hayes – 14 Browns Rd, Bradley Fold Bolton BL2 6RQ (or hand delivered to this address). Any enquiries please call 01204 796404.

Christmas Fair

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to organise the Christmas Fair, and to all who came along to help out and support us on the day. The total amount raised for Church funds was a fantastic £2049-65!!



Ainsworth Friends Of The Delph

Christmas lights switch on, Sunday 3rd December 3pm on the Delph.

Private Prayer

Did you know that our Church is 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.

The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto!

The November draw of the Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto took place in Church on Sunday 26th November, with the lucky winner walking away with £20-00!

This fabulous fundraiser will be running each month; tickets cost £1 each and are available at the back of Church; you can enter as many times as you like!

The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto is drawn in Church on the last Sunday of each month, when the winner receives 50% of that month's ticket sales!!

To enter simply fill in a '50/50 Lucky Lotto' ticket, then place it in the box at the back of Church; all proceeds to Church funds.

And Remember ... You have to be in it to win it!!

EcoChurch



Eco Church Top Tip for December:

Recycle right this Christmas (and beyond!) Since more waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year, it's a great time of year to review and improve your own recycling set up at home. Different boroughs offer different recycling provisions, but you can find out exactly what you can recycle at home by entering your postcode here: recyclenow.com/recycling-locato

Bible Reading Fellowship

The Bible Reading Fellowship are offering 10% discount off their Advent and Christmas collection; visit brfonline.org.uk then enter the code XMAS10 when you check out.

You can view the entire Advent and Christmas collection on their website and maybe pick out a book which will sustain and inspire you through this season of waiting and reflection.

Also, don't forget to browse through the Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gifts that BRF offer on their website: brfonline.org.uk.

Make Your own Christingle – A ‘How To’ Guide

If you are planning to come along to the Christingle Service on Wednesday 6th December at 6.30pm and would like to know how to make a Christingle read on!

You Will Need:

- 1 piece of roundish fruit
- Red tape or ribbon
- 1 candle – we'll be giving these out at MidWeek Praise on 29th November.
- Small piece of tin foil or foil milk bottle top
- 4 x cocktail sticks
- Dried fruit eg raisins, or soft sweets eg Haribos

Here's What To Do:

1. Choose your fruit, usually an orange. You might want to cut the bottom off your orange so it doesn't wobble around.
2. Use red tape (electrical tape or coloured sellotape) to stick around the centre of the orange. If you don't have any tape, you can pin a red ribbon around the centre of the orange or colour a strip of paper in red and then sellotape it in place around the middle.
3. Push a pencil into the top of the orange to make a hole for the candle.
4. Use a foil milk bottle top or cut a square of foil approx 4cm in size then make a slit in it so that it fits over the candle. Position at the base of the candle.
5. Place your choice of fruit (grapes, raisins, sultanas, satsuma segments or your own favourite), and sweets (jelly type sweets work best as they need to be pushed onto the sticks) on the table and carefully thread them onto the 4 cocktail sticks.
6. Push the 4 cocktail sticks into the orange above the red tape. Make sure they point upwards at an angle and do not touch the candle (like this \ /).



Your Christingle is now ready to bring along to the Service. Please remember there will be a collection for the Children's Society during the Service, where I will happily exchange your donation envelope for chocolate!

Susan Campbell - Local Secretary for The Children's Society

Raising Awareness – Trinity Food Bank

Trinity Foodbank is a member of the Bury Community Support Network, and is based at Trinity Baptist Church, Westminster Ave, Radcliffe, M26 3WD.

The foodbank is run by Caritas – Diocese of Salford, Corrie Gardeners Community Group and Trinity Baptist Church volunteers. The service accepts self-referrals, or referrals from agencies via phone or email, however there is an acknowledgement that foodbanks should be a short term solution, therefore the team work hard to sign post users to other services; they also offer energy use advice & low level mental health support, plus support with fixtures and furnishings for new tenants where there is an identified need.

The foodbank is entirely dependent on donations, which can be dropped off at the centre, or at various designated collection points throughout the area.

For more info or to make a donation, visit info@trinityfoodbank.co.uk

Manchester Baroque At Manchester Cathedral

One of the highlights of the festive season for many people is going to a performance of Handel's Messiah. It is the story of the life of Christ told through a series of wonderful songs and choral pieces culminating in the magnificent Hallelujah Chorus. Manchester-based Charity, Manchester Baroque and their professional orchestra will be performing it with the Manchester Cathedral Choir at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday December 9th at 7pm

On the evening of Good Friday, March 29th at 4.30pm Manchester Baroque will be playing again at Manchester Cathedral to perform Bach's St. Matthew Passion with Manchester Cathedral Choir, one of the most moving pieces of music ever written, performed for the occasion in the Church calendar for which it was originally written. Tickets start at £10 plus booking fees. See <https://rb.gy/b9dlte> for details.

The orchestra have performances year-round at venues in Manchester. For more details and tickets see <https://rb.gy/b9dlte> email hello@manchesterbaroque.co.uk or contact 07919-381009.

To see Manchester Baroque in action, take a look at this clip from their performance of Handel's Messiah last December in the same venue <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFsnqjf9niM>.

Easyfundraising



For anyone who shops online, this is a really simple way of raising much needed funds for our Church. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. Almost 6,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping, book holidays, book trains tickets, book flights, purchase car or home insurance, plus many other online transactions - at no extra cost to you! These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1

Mission Community News – Exploring Prayer

"Exploring Prayer" is an exciting new initiative which will be running in our Mission Community over the course of the coming months. The next session will be held on Wednesday 29th November from 2 - 3pm at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, with the same session repeated on Monday 4th December from 7.30 - 8.30pm at St. Andrew's, Hillock.



Whether you are 'new' to praying or an experienced 'prayer warrior', these sessions are for you! Why not join us as we journey together through the 'whys' and 'hows' of prayer, experience different types of prayer / ways of praying, and find the styles that work best for you and your lifestyle.

These sessions are provided free of charge; no need to book – just turn up! For more info contact Alison on 07952-709041 or email ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

Advent Zoom Prayers

The churches of our Mission Community will be coming together once more, for 'Advent Zoom Prayers'.

As previously, the prayer sessions will be held each evening at 6pm on Zoom, for approximately 10 minutes, with each of the churches within our Mission Community contributing. The sessions are

generally led by a different person each evening, which ensures a wide variety of prayer themes and approaches to prayer are included.

The Zoom prayer sessions are not only a powerful way of easily praying together but are also a great way to begin to get to know people from other churches; if you haven't already joined in, why not give it a go.

Advent Zoom Prayers begin on Monday 4th December and will be held at 6pm each weeknight throughout Advent. Simply click the link below to take part:

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

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;

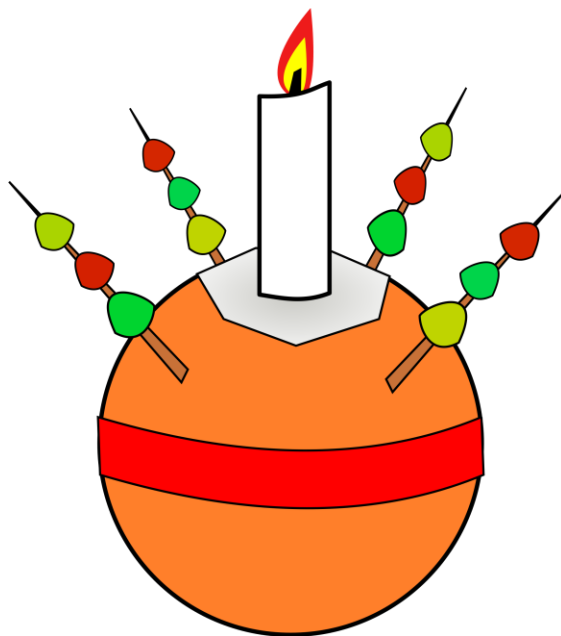
Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen

*Please pray for all of the Churches within our Mission Community –
Christ Church Walshaw, Christ Church Ainsworth, St. Andrew's,
Radcliffe, St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, St. Mary, Radcliffe, All
Saints Stand, St. Andrew's, Hillock and St. George's, Unsworth.*

Just A Thought ...

“Love is the greatest risk of all; but without it, life is meaningless.”

Christ Church Ainsworth
"Bring Your Own"
Christingle Service



Wednesday 6th December 6.30pm
A family friendly Service suitable
for all ages - everyone welcome!



Introducing the...

CHRIST CHURCH AINSWORTH 50/50 LUCKY LOTTO!!

- Only £1/ticket
- To enter simply fill in your '50/50 Lucky Lotto' ticket, then place it in the box at the back of Church.
- Lucky Lotto will be drawn in Church on the last Sunday of each month; the winner will receive 50% of that month's ticket sales!!
- Tickets available at the back of Church or by contacting Alison on 07952-709041

The next Lucky Lotto draw will take place on Sunday 31st December, all proceeds to Church funds

***And Remember ...
You have to be in it to win it!!***



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 12th December

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





Mission Community Zoom Prayers Are Back!

An easy and powerful way of praying together, plus a great opportunity to get to know people from other churches within our Mission Community.

Starts on Monday 4th December, then each weekday evening throughout Advent @ 6pm on Zoom; simply click on the link below to take part:

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

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)



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."*



Christmas tree light switch on Sunday 3rd December 2023

3.00 – 4.30pm

**To be held on the Delph, Church Street,
Ainsworth**



**Brass Band, Food, Drink, Christmas Crafts and
Baking Stalls.**

**Supporting Trinity Food Bank – Please bring along a
non-perishable item if you are able.**

**Children are welcome to bring a bauble to decorate
the tree, or use an existing one.**

Mayor of Bury to turn lights on at 4.00pm.

**Come along, have fun and support
Ainsworth Friends of the Delph to maintain
your community space.**

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 12th December

10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome

Friends Of The Delph Christmas Lights Switch On

Sunday 3rd December

3 – 4.30pm, The Delph

Brass Band, refreshments, Christmas Craft Stalls. Lights switch on by the Mayor of Bury at 4pm – everyone welcome.

Mission Community Advent Zoom Prayers

Each week day @ 6pm on Zoom

An easy and powerful way of praying together, plus a great opportunity to get to know people from other churches within our Mission Community. Starts on Monday 4th December, then each weekday evening throughout Advent @ 6pm on Zoom; simply click on the link below to take part:

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

Mission Community - Exploring Prayer

Monday 4th December, 7.30 – 8.30pm, St. Andrew's, Hillock

Experience different types of prayer / ways of praying; find out what works best for you & your lifestyle. For more info visit

ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

Community Christmas Spirit

Thursday 21st December, 1.30 – 3pm

Christ Church Ainsworth School

After a long absence, the local community & grandparents of school attenders, will once more be invited into school to celebrate Christmas. Mulled wine, mince pies, raffle, Christmas songs ... For more info or to book your place, contact Gwen White on 01204-595378

Celtic Advent

Thursday 7th, 14th & 21st December, 10.30am

Christ Church Ainsworth

A short, reflective Celtic Morning Prayer Service, to guide & inspire us through this season of preparation & waiting – everyone welcome.

Around The Organisations ...

Cubs

It doesn't seem very long since we were discussing returning from the summer break, and already we are talking about Christmas.

Cubs have all been successful in gaining the Artist Badge and are working on their Stage 1 community challenge.

The theme for our entry in the Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival was "These Boots are made for walking"; this display has been part of the Artist badge and has also provided work towards the Community Impact by completing tasks to extend awareness of our links with other places of worship in our community. If you are visiting the Christmas Tree Festival, look out for our tree.

Friday 1st December is the Chocolate Bingo to raise funds for next year's trip and Friday 8th December is the Cub Christmas Party. We then finish until Friday 12 January 2024.

Please note there are no Church Parades in December or January.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everybody!!

Gwen White

Baloo

12th Radcliffe Guides & Brownies

We enrolled Amelia, Lily May and Scarlett and, as part of this, the girls looked in detail at what the Guide Law requires of them.



In other meetings, the Guides have used different techniques and materials to create their own artwork based on famous paintings; and they have helped each other to make sand bracelets – one for themselves (and another for their friend if they wanted) and were challenged to work in a team to produce the fastest teddy zip wire –

and some were so fast that we were glad it was a teddy and not a person on it!

At the October Church Parade, Grace, Lilly and Harriet carried the flags and, at the Remembrance Church Parade, Grace M, Poppy L and Lucy carried the flags and Grace S, Poppy Ly, Hannah, Izzy and Harriet escorted. Amelia laid the wreath on behalf of all in Girlguiding.

12th Radcliffe Guiding Leaders

Transformation - Now!



At our mid October meeting the Committee shared with a large percentage of members, the management of our branch and some plans for our future. Everyone had the opportunity to join in discussion and it's good to know that we were all 'singing from the same hymn sheet'. We plan to hold these 'All Members Meetings' twice a year in the future.

Thank you, once again to Andrew for leading our Fifth Tuesday Worship in the Church Hall. As always, it was a refreshing time of mutual fellowship.

We all enjoyed Barbara Taylor's presentation about the Royal Maundy Money and her experience as a recipient in York Minster last April. Thank you, Barbara, for giving up your free time to share the occasion with us.

I'm sorry that I was unable to secure a speaker from the local police to talk to us at our mid November meeting. Hopefully someone will be able to come in the springtime of 2024. I'm hoping that the replacement 'get together' will have proved to be an acceptable alternative.

Our Christmas lunch will take place on **MONDAY**, 4th December at the Rose and Crown; 1.15pm for 1.30pm. Please remember to bring a gift for your Prayer Partner. Any problems, just contact Andrew or me.

There won't be a meeting on 5th December or the 19th December and 2nd January. Our first meeting in 2024 will be on Tuesday 16th January at **1.00pm** when we will have a Faith Lunch.

Finally, our branch members join with me in wishing our clergy, all members of the congregation and readers of this magazine, a very Joyful and Peaceful Christmas.

Jennifer White

From the Archives – December 1998

A lovely nativity scene sketch took up the inside cover of the December 1998 Parish Magazine, and as expected, a number of Christmas related notices and announcements followed.

The Parish Diary provided details of a 'Parish Christmas Lunch' to be held at Whalley Abbey Conference Centre, the Christingle Service, and no less than 3 separate Carol Services – the Parish Carol Service, a joint Service for Mothers' Union and Church Women's Fellowship, and a School Carol Service – busy times!

'News From The Parish', brought a number of acknowledgements and thankyou's – for good wishes during a hospital stay, for support following the loss of a loved one, and for cards and gifts to mark a 'significant' wedding anniversary.

Elsewhere, the Christmas theme continued - it seems that the Church Christmas Fair had been a successful event, with a number of the groups and organisations mentioning it within their reports; Church Women's Fellowship members were looking forward to a Christmas meal at The Victoria Hotel, Walshaw, and also planning a trip to the Octagon Theatre to see The Wizard of Oz; Mothers' Union members were looking forward to their Christmas meal at Bury Catering College; Young Families, Beavers, Cubs and Rainbows were all planning Christmas parties, and the day school were counting down to their Christmas Disco.

A note of thanks was included to everyone who helped out in any way with the organising and running of 'The Old Folks Party'; this was followed by a short note of thanks from one of those who had attended and had a 'splendid afternoon'.

In December 1998, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Wesley Daniel Hood, 'one of the most active younger members of the Church'. In December 1998 there were no Weddings, but no Funerals recorded from the previous month, but 3 Baptisms. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 484, with the Collections listed as £2236.

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 Watch The Sunrise (John Glynn 1948 -)

I watch the sunrise,
Lighting the sky,
Casting its shadows near;
And on this morning,
Bright though it be,
I feel those shadows near me.

But you are always close to me,
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunlight,
Shine through the clouds,
Warming the earth below;
And at the mid-day,
Life seems to say,
I feel your brightness near me.

For you are always close to me,
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunset fading away,
Lighting the clouds with sleep;
And as the evening
Closes its eyes,
I feel your brightness near me.

For you are always close to me,
Following all my ways.

May I be always close to you,
Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the moonlight,
Guarding the night,
Waiting 'til morning comes;
The air is silent,
Earth is at rest,
Only your peace is near me.

Yes, you are always close to me,
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
Following all your ways, Lord.

The words of this wonderful folk-style hymn were written by English poet, hymn-writer and at-the-time Roman Catholic Priest, John Glynn (b 1948) in 1970; first being published in 1975 under the original title "Close to You".

The poignant words remind us of God's presence throughout life's seasons, the haunting melody setting the scene perfectly for contemplation and reflection.

Although often considered to be a hymn that is sung at funerals; it may come as a surprise to learn that it is equally popular as a choice for Weddings, and has also been used at various memorial ceremonies, including for the Hillsborough disaster and the Manchester bombing.

Having sung, and heard this beautiful piece sung, a number of times during the Season of Remembrance, it is well and truly 'in my head'!

Praying Through The Seasons ... Advent

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him."



Psalms 37; v 7

Advent is a time of waiting and of preparation; it is a season of anticipation.

Life is full of waiting; we find ourselves waiting on a daily basis. Waiting in queues, waiting at traffic lights, waiting for the internet to connect, waiting for the kettle to boil ... In our non-stop, drive through society we often find waiting difficult; we long for activity, to get onto the next thing.

In our spiritual lives we can also experience seasons of waiting. We may feel that our prayers are going unheard. Maybe we have a decision to make but do not know which direction to take. Waiting can be unsettling and confusing, but waiting on God, is not simply an excuse for doing nothing and hoping for the best; it is not an excuse for inactivity or laziness; it is not a screen for apathy.

Waiting on God, means that we put our trust in Him and have faith in His timing, and in the belief that God knows the plans that He has for us, and that through the Holy Spirit, He will tell us when and how to act. Waiting on God, means claiming His promises by faith and trusting in what God is doing in our lives so that we can faithfully follow His principles and keep His values and priorities.

Loving God, we thank you that you are with us at all times, and in all places and in all situations. Help us to trust you and to seek your guidance; help us not to become disheartened or impatient when we experience difficulties or delays. Help us to remember that there is a time and a place for each and every thing, according to Thy will - Amen

You Might Like To Read ...

"Sharing The Christmas Story", written by Sally Welch, published by BRF.

In this BRF Advent book, Sally Welch explores two questions: What is the Christmas story really about, and how do we share it?

Through each week of Advent, a different aspect of the Christmas story is examined: light, promise, mystery, love, peace and hope. Within each week, the days are focused on the ways in which the Christmas story is shared: prophecies, journeys, new life, signs, poems, stories and conversations. Each day offers a Bible passage, followed by a reflection and prayer activity. Suggestions for group study and group study questions are also included.

"Sally has woven together a beautiful golden cord, binding together scriptural truth and wisdom, profound contemporary relevance, and insightful personal experience. Written with warmth, love and understanding, this is a genuine treasure."

Top 10 Christmas Carols – 2022

CLASSIC *fm*

During December each year, Classic FM ask their listeners to vote for their favourite Christmas Carols; the top 30 of 'The Nation's Favourite Carols' are then counted down live on air, on Christmas Day.

Here's how the top 10 looked on Christmas Day 2022.

- 10 – Away In A Manger
- 9 – Once In Royal David's City
- 8 – O Little Town Of Bethlehem
- 7 - Carol Of The Bells
- 6 – O Come, All Ye Faithful
- 5 – In The Bleak Midwinter (Harold Darke Version)
- 4 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- 3 - In The Bleak Midwinter (Gustav Holste Version)
- 2 – Silent Night
- 1 – O Holy Night

Space To Share A Prayer – Advent Prayer

Loving God, Speak into our Advent waiting with words of inspiration and courage,

That we may find in you, a great light in our darkness,

A voice in our wilderness,

A highway in our desert,

A new bloom in our dry land.

We wait for you, we look to you, desire of all nations, and hope of the world. Amen

Hatches, Matches & Despatches - December!

Born in December ...

1761 – Madame Tussaud, founder of Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in Strasbourg.

1815 – Ada Lovelace, English Mathematician.

1830 – Emily Dickinson, American Poet.

1832 – Gustave Eiffel, Engineer and Architect who designed and built the Eiffel Tower.

1852 – Henri Becquerel, French Physicist who discovered radioactivity.

1935 – Woody Allen, American Actor and Film Director.

Married in December ...

1983 – Roald Dahl, British Author, to Liddy Crosland.

1984 – Olivia Newton-John, Singer and Actress, to Matt Latanzi.

1985 – Sylvester Stallone, Actor, to Brigitte Nielson.

1989 – George Clooney, Actor, to Talia Balsam.

1990 – Rod Stewart, Singer, to Rachel Hunter.

1997 – Helen Mirren, British Actress, to Taylor Hackford.

Died in December ...

1068 – King Henry I of England, aged 66.

1707 – Jeremiah Clark, English Baroque Composer, age 33.

1896 – Alfred Nobel, Swedish Chemist (Nobel Prize), age 63.

1948 – Malcolm Cambell, British world land and water speed record holder, age 63.

2020 – Dame Barbara Windsor, English Actress, age 83.

2022 – Pope Benedict XVI, age 95.

Cheat's Kitchen

Seriously simple Stuffed Butternut Squash



You Will Need:

- 1 ripe butternut squash
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Garlic granules
- 1 packet of Microwavable Mexican Style Rice
- 2 tablespoons boiling water
- Grated cheese

Here's What To Do:

1 – Cut the butternut squash in half length ways, scoop out the seeds and any fibrous pith and discard.

2 – Cover a baking sheet with tin foil, then place the 2 halves of the butternut squash flesh side up on the tray. Pour 1 tablespoon of oil

over each half, trying to cover all of the flesh and pooling any excess into the seed cavity.

3 – Sprinkle with garlic granules, then cook at 180c for approx 25 mins, or until the butternut squash flesh is soft and just starting to colour.

4 – Meanwhile open the packet of rice and add the boiling water; stir the rice whilst still in the packet and then add the grated cheese and stir again.

5 – Remove the cooked squash halves from the oven, then divide the rice / cheese mixture equally between the 2 halves.

6 – Return to the oven for a further 10 minutes.

7 – Enjoy!



Time For A Christmas Smile

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
Frostbite!

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? Stick with me and we'll go places!

Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay? Because they were two deer!

Why don't you ever see Santa in hospital? Because he has private elf care!

How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born?
They had a weigh in a manger!

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars? Their days are numbered!

How did Scrooge win the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed!

What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas? Cross-mouse cards!

Why was the snowman rummaging through the carrots? He was picking his nose!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

What Does Christmas Mean?

Carols and songs that the school children sing,
Holly that hangs on your door in a ring,
Ribbons that wrap up the gifts that we make,
Icing that covers the whole Christmas cake,
Snow that might fall and lie deep on the ground,
Trees that we dress up and all gather round,
Mary and Joseph, the school Christmas play,
Antlers on reindeer that pull Santa's sleigh,
Stockings and presents we share Christmas Day.

It's easy to think of the things we enjoy,
Sometimes we forget that a small baby boy,

Lay wrapped in a manger a long way away,
Only animals watched as He slept in the hay,
Very soon shepherds came from the hills all around,
Each one leaving their sheep they knelt down on the ground,

Angels sang in the sky; by the light of a star,
Next day three Wise Men came from countries afar,
Dismounting, they took off their cloaks lined with fur,

Placing gifts before Jesus, gold, incense and myrrh,
Endless Angel song rang from the heavens above,
Announcing the story of God's wondrous love.
Christmas cards, Christmas presents, the school Christmas play,
Each year we remember that first Christmas Day.

Strap Lines

Silence is the absence of noise, but peace is the presence of God.

There are times when 'nothing' is a good thing to do, and a clever thing to say.

Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

The best time to make friends is before you need them.

The Parish Puzzler

Christmas Carol Quiz – Last liners ...

Here's the last line from a number of popular Christmas Carols, but do you know how they begin?

- 1.... And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.
- 2.... Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 3.... Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men, begin and never
cease.
- 4.... O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
- 5.... On Christmas Day in the morning.
- 6.... Sweet singing in the choir.
- 7.... Hosannah in excelsis!
- 8.... O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.
- 9.... Give Him my heart.
10. ... Worship Christ, the newborn King.
11. ... Born is the King of Israel!
12. ... Oh tidings of comfort and joy.
13. ... And the whole world send back the song which now the
angels sing.
14. ... Glory to the newborn King.
15. ... Guide us to Thy perfect light.

(Answers on page 33)

Church Trivia

Last month's question:

Q. Who was the Incumbent at Ainsworth throughout the whole of World War II?

A. Wilfred Metcalfe

This month's question:

Q. Who was the Incumbent at Ainsworth when we celebrated the Millenium?

Answer in next month's magazine.

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
3 rd December Advent Sunday	Mags Gillman Dennis Gillman	Beryl Sixsmith	Jenny Johnson
10 th December 2 nd Sun in Advent	Barbara Clarkson	Jan Burrow	Clergy
17 th December 3 rd Sun in Advent	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	David Holden	David Holden
24 th December 4 th Sun in Advent	**	N/A	Andrew Lowe
24 th December 1 st Communion of Christmas	Alison Hartley Lillian Haworth	Chris Haworth	Alison Hartley
25 th December Christmas Day	**	**	Clergy
31 st December 1 st Sun Christmas	**	**	Jenny Johnson

** At services where Sidesmen or Lay Assistants are not listed could any attending, please carryout the duties – Thank you.

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
3 rd December 1 st Sun of Advent	Beryl Sixsmith	Isaiah 64.1-9 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37
10 th December 2 nd Sun of Advent	Peter Holden	Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8
17 th December 3 rd Sun of Advent	Clergy	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28
24 th December 4 th Sun of Advent	Enid Horrocks	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38
24 th December 11.30pm	Alison Hartley	To Be Confirmed
25 th December Christmas Day	Clergy	Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12] John 1.1-14
31 st December 1 st Sun of Christmas	Jenny Johnson	Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21

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

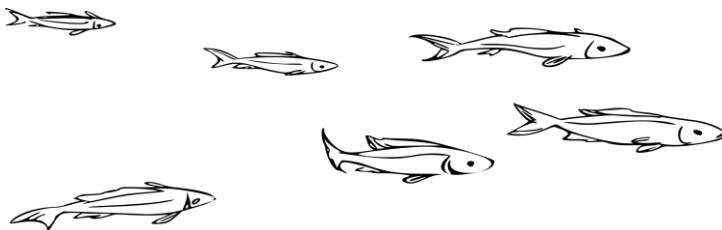
Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty.

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

Answers to Christmas Carol Last Liners Quiz: 1) Away In A Manger, 2) Silent Night, 3) While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night, 4) O Come, All Ye Faithful, 5) I Saw Three Ships, 6) The Holly & The Ivy, 7) Ding Dong, Merrily On High, 8) O Little Town Of Bethlehem, 9) In The Bleak Midwinter, 10) Angels From The Realms Of Glory, 11) The First Nowell, 12) God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, 13) It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, 14) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, 15) We Three Kings Of Orient Are.

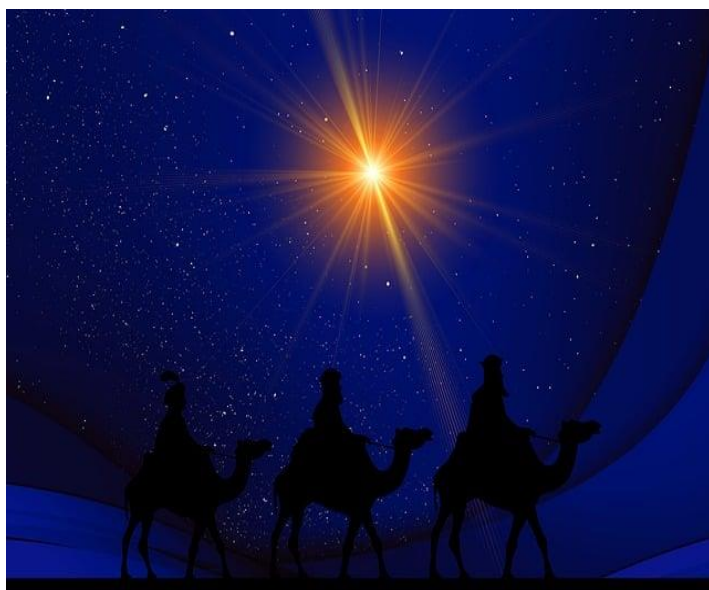
Who's Who For Church Organisations

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	Friday 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

We Followed The Star





We Followed The Star



We saw the star rise and shine bright in the sky,
We looked, and we watched, and we all wondered why
The star had appeared? What news did it bring?
Was this the bright star that proclaimed a new King?

The star shone out brightly, its strength seemed to grow,
It spread its bright light on the world down below.
We looked, and we watched, and we asked ourselves why
Had this wonderful star now appeared in the sky?

The star seemed to glisten and gleam, night and day,
It seemed that it called us - but what did it say?
It shone and it shone, upon lands near and far;
And so, we decided to follow that star.

We put on warm robes and our cloaks, lined with fur,
We each chose a gift - gold, and incense, and myrrh;
We saddled our camels, each travelling light,
And as the sun set, we rode off through the night.



We rode through the darkness - the star showed the way;
We travelled by night, and we rested by day,
And when we'd all slept, and the camels were fed,
The star would be shining once more up ahead.

We followed that star, where so ever it went,
We were certain by now that the star had been sent,
To lead us and guide us and show us the way,
As we journeyed by night, and we rested by day.





Through deserts, and valleys, and rivers we'd go,
As we followed the star, wond'ring what it would show.
Past villages, cottages, palaces too,
And the people who saw us, would all wonder who

Were the strangers that rode in their cloaks, lined with fur,
Bearing gifts in their packs, of gold, incense, and myrrh?
Riding through a vast desert of gleaming white sand,
We arrived at the border of King Herod's land,

So, we called at the palace - it seemed only right -
If a King had been born, then perhaps Herod might
Just be able to tell us which way we should go;
If anyone knew - surely Herod would know.

Bur Herod was puzzled, and then he was cross,
"There's no new King here", he said, "I am the boss!"
Then he gave a small smile, as we packed up to go,
And said, "If you do find him, please let me know -

Then I too could visit him, pay my respects,
Perhaps take a present - it's what one expects ..."
So, we packed up our gifts, gold, and incense, and myrrh,
And we wrapped up once more in our cloaks lined with fur,

Then we climbed on our camels, and looked to the sky,
And saw the bright star was still gleaming on high.
Over hills, and through forests, and valleys below,
For miles and miles, we followed its glow,





'Til at last, in the distance, the star seemed to stop,
We climbed up a sand dune and gazed from the top;
Just a short way ahead was a village, or town,
And the star stayed above it, its light beaming down!

We were eager to get to the town before day,
So, we climbed on our camels, and went on our way.
We arrived at a town full of noise, full of din,
We asked at each Guest House, we asked at each Inn,

But no one we spoke to could tell us a thing
About where we should look for the new baby King.
Once more, as the sun set, we looked to the sky -
The star was still shining and gleaming on high;

It seemed that it shone on a small wooden shed,
On the edge of the town, but directly ahead.
A stable it seemed, near an Inn Keeper's yard -
The thought of a King living there was quite hard ...

We almost turned back, but the star gleamed on high;
It seemed that it sparkled and lit up the sky.
It lit up the yard, and the shed's wooden door,
So, we followed it's light, and just guess what we saw!!

A cow and a donkey, a manger of hay ...
And there, in the lamp light, a new baby lay!
The baby slept on, never making a sound,
As the cows and the sheep and the donkey stood round.



We knelt and we took off our cloaks, lined with fur,
And we offered our gifts of gold, incense and myrrh,
And then, as we worshipped the new baby King,
The bells of the Churches all started to ring;

The star gleamed and glistened way up in the sky,
And the Angels sang out from the heavens on high,
They sang of the good news this baby would bring,
As we all knelt and worshipped the new baby King.

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