

# Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Snow Had Fallen, Snow On Snow

(Photo courtesy of Jane Holden)

**Serving the Community**

[www.ainsworthparish.org.uk](http://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk)

February 2024

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## Parish Diary February 2024



### Sun 4<sup>th</sup> **THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

- 10.30am Holy Communion
- 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer

Weds 7<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Funeral of William (Bill) White

6.30pm MidWeek Praise

### Sun 11<sup>th</sup> **THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**

- 8.00am BCP Communion
- 10.30am Parade & Family Service
- 11.45am Interment of Ashes of Cedric Simmons

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Coffee & Conversation (*Ainsworth Church & Community Hall*)

### Weds 14<sup>th</sup> **ASH WEDNESDAY**

- 6.30pm MidWeek Praise
- 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion Service

### Sun 18<sup>th</sup> **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

10.30am Holy Communion

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Lent Reflections

Weds 21<sup>st</sup> 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

### Sun 25<sup>th</sup> **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

- 8.00am BCP Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Lent Reflections

Weds 28<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

### MARCH

### Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

- 10.30am Holy Communion
- 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer

## Interregnum Update

*“To get through the hardest journey, we need to take only one step at a time, but we must keep stepping.” Chinese Proverb.*

This may not be a ‘local’ proverb, but it does seem entirely appropriate as we continue on our interregnum journey at Christ Church Ainsworth; keep going – just keep taking one step at a time ...

In many ways, we have taken some really big steps throughout the course of the past 12 months; as a Church we have become much more self-sufficient – working out what needs to be done, rolling up our sleeves and getting on with it; we’ve pulled together as a team to make sure that things happen as and when they should; we’ve reached out and made new connections with various local projects and initiatives; we’ve tried some new and different things; and we’re continuing to strengthen our links with our wider Mission Community. Fantastic team effort!!

Hopefully these are all things that will stand us in good stead when we once again have an Incumbent in post, all be it a part time Incumbent. As we, and the other Churches in our Mission Community, move towards part time / shared ministry, it will be incredibly important for us to continue to work as a team, and to build upon the many strengths that we’ve discovered in ourselves and in others around us.

We still don’t have a clear idea of when our vacancy will be filled – the post hasn’t even been advertised yet – or even what it will look like; so, for the time being at least, we’ll just carry on doing what we’ve been doing for the past 12 months - putting our ‘best foot forward’ and keep on stepping.

*Alison Hartley – Churchwarden (on behalf of the PCC)*

## Editor’s Spot ...

Welcome to the February 2024 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is a truly bumper edition – it’s just as well that this publication goes out online now, as we wouldn’t be able to afford to have it printed, it’s grown so much!

There is a huge amount of information in this month’s edition – dates and times of various Services and initiatives which will be running throughout Lent, both at Christ Church Ainsworth and across the wider Mission Community; updates on recent activities; a number of acknowledgements and thank yous; plus, all of our regular updates, news and reports.

The various groups and Uniformed Organisations are fully 'back in harness' after the Christmas break, and are already busy planning for the fast approaching lighter nights and better weather – as always I am in awe of the creativity and energy that goes into planning some of these programmes, and greatly appreciate those who take the time and effort to 'report back' via our Parish Magazine on a regular basis.

If your group or organisation has something to report, or maybe you have an idea for an article to include in a future edition of our Magazine, please get in touch at [ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com)

Following the appeal for budding photographers to share their Church / Churchyard photographs, this month's picture of a fabulously snowy churchyard was taken by Jane Holden – maybe if we get enough photographs, we could consider creating a 2025 Christ Church Ainsworth Calendar!

*Alison*

## **From The Registers**

Funerals  
28<sup>th</sup> December

We commend to God's keeping:  
Margaret Barlow

## **Flower Rota**

4<sup>th</sup> Feb      Guide Group  
18<sup>th</sup> Feb     No flowers during Lent

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.

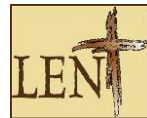
## **Remembering Bill White**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Bill White on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Bill has been a valued member of our Church for many years, and has given faithful service as a Churchwarden, PCC Member, Deanery Synod Representative, Lay Assistant, Lesson Reader and Sidesman. Bill was a kind, thoughtful, knowledgeable, well known and well respected member of our team, and will be very much missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gwen, Stacey, Marc and their families at this time.

*Christ Church Ainsworth PCC*

## Lent Reflections

Lent is traditionally a time of reflection, repentance, and prayer; a time to re-evaluate and re-focus. Why not join us for a short, reflective time of prayer, each Monday throughout Lent at 7pm in Church – everyone welcome.



## The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto!

The first draw of 2024 took place in Church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January, with the lucky winner walking away with £18-00!

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.

We're aware that not everyone carries cash with them, so to make it even easier, you can now enter the Lucky Lotto via direct payment, either monthly or annually. For more details, please email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)

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

## Grand Raffle

Thanks to some very generous donations, we have a number of fantastic prizes just waiting to be won; a luxury hamper, various types of gin, wine, chocolates and biscuits, to name but a few. Tickets are available in Church, from members of the Church Hall Committee or from Christ Church Ainsworth School Office; £1 / strip – all proceeds to Church funds.



The draw will take place in Church after the morning Service on Sunday 25th February.

## In Memory of Wyn Steel, Verger 1991-2009

When I took the first Sunday service at the start of the New Year, it was a privilege to be asked to bless a new altar cloth in memory of Wyn Steel's ministry as verger at Ainsworth. I was last at Ainsworth for the burial of her ashes in August following her funeral at the end of July.

Wyn Steel was a significant part of Christ Church when I was vicar here until 2009. In planning her funeral, she 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, were some of my happiest.' She was then 83. She said '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 indeed! Wyn made such a difference and was a tremendous help to me during my time at Ainsworth. She was a woman of deep Christian faith, hope, and love expressed in many, many ways. Wyn asked that any donations in her memory should go to this Church. Janet and Pauline, her daughters, asked that some of the money raised in her memory be used to buy a new altar cloth which your wardens Alison and Chris asked me to bless.

"Lord, we ask you to bless this altar cloth in memory of Wyn Steel, a woman of faith, hope, and love, who served as an example to all as Verger here for 27 years in the name of the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

It was then used for the first service of 2024.

David Griffiths



## Acknowledgement

The family of Wyn Steel would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to making it possible to have a new Alter Cloth, in her memory.

Special thanks to Reverend David Griffiths for the Blessing and also the PPC for their hard work in sourcing the Altar Cloth. Of course, none of this would have been possible without kind donations from people who knew her.

Thanks to everyone - Janet and Pauline



## Christingle Service 2023

Thank you to all those members of the community who came to Church on Wednesday 6th December at the 6.30pm Midweek Praise service, for our annual Christingle Service.

It was lovely to welcome everyone to the Service held to raise funds for The Children's Society and their vital work to help children and young people in desperate need.

A couple of weeks before the Service, 'Smartie' tubes had been distributed to all the children, and they were asked to enjoy the Smarties but put coins into the empty tube and return it to the Service. This they did, and in return they were given a candle for the centre of their home made Christingle. A huge thank you to all the children, as the money raised from the Smartie tubes totalled £105.39. Fantastic!

At the Christingle service, the Midweek Praise Choir sang their song "Just One Candle," whilst holding their glowing Christingles as the main lights for the Church were turned out and the whole congregation joined in the singing. It was magical. It really was a wonderful atmospheric Service that warmed the hearts of everyone present. Thank you all for remembering vulnerable young people and being so generous with your efforts and donations.

Prior to the Christingle Service, I distributed Christingle Challenge sheets to members of the uniformed organisations, asking them to count how many windows they had at home. This was to reflect the light and hope that the work of The Children's Society project workers brings into the lives of children they help. Thank you to everyone who



took part. A total of £64.95 was raised and special thanks must go to the 16th Brownies who donated £33.30. Well done for all your efforts.

This means that the grand total raised for The Children's Society Christingle appeal 2023 is **£386.76!**

On behalf of The Children's Society, thank you so much to everyone who took part in the Christingle challenge, made a Christingle and joined us at the Christingle Service, sang in the Midweek Choir, donated money at the Service or in one of the envelopes, or helped in any way with the success of this year's event. Every pound really helps to provide practical support to children in vulnerable situations.

Susan Campbell - Local secretary for The Children's Society

## **Acknowledgement – Christ Church Ainsworth School**

A huge thank you to members of the School Council, who ran a snowball game at their Christmas Fayre; the total amount raised for church funds was an incredible **£45!**

## **Church Electoral Roll Review 2024**

In accordance with Church of England regulations, the Church Electoral Roll must be reviewed prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

ALL members of the Parochial Church Council, Sidesmen, and anyone wishing to speak at the APCM or hold any office in Church, must be on the Church Electoral Roll.

The last date for accepting names will be 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024. After this date, no names can be entered or removed from the Roll until after the APCM on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

If you are currently on the Roll, you DO NOT need to complete a form. The name of anyone on the Roll but no longer attending church will be removed.

### **Electoral Roll**

The criteria for admission to the Electoral Roll is:

1. Individuals have been baptised.
2. Individuals are a member of the Church of England or of any church in Communion with the Church of England.
3. Individuals are age sixteen or over.

4. Individuals are resident in the parish, or not being in the parish, have attended public worship in the parish during the last six months before the date of application for enrolment, and
5. Have signed a form of application for enrolment.

Forms are available in church and should be returned by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## **Bury Homeless Project – Winter Clothing Appeal**



Bury Homeless Project is a not-for-profit, local community project assisting vulnerable people in our local area. They are currently appealing for winter clothing for adults and children – coats, jumpers, hats, scarves and gloves. We'll be supporting this appeal until the end of February, so if you have any unwanted winter clothing, please place it in the box at the back of Church - garments should be clean and serviceable.

A huge thankyou to everyone who has already supported this initiative - we have already collected and dropped off 20 bin bags full of warm clothing!

## **EcoChurch – Green Lent**



As Christians, we all have a responsibility to take caring for God's world seriously. The EcoChurch pathway isn't just about how we can improve the 'green credentials' of our Church, it's also about encouraging people to consider their own impact on the earth. Throughout the 6 weeks of Lent, we'll be suggesting one small thing each week for you to try doing (or not doing) in a bid to improve your 'green credentials'.

### **Week 1; 19-25<sup>th</sup> February – Be Water Wise**



Water is the most precious of our natural resources and it is essential to our daily lives.

**Did you know** that the average person in the UK uses 145 litres of water per day, this figure has increased by over 70% since 1984.

The way we use water has changed due to an increase in ownership of water using appliances, social norms around health and hygiene, increased greenhouse agriculture requiring all-year watering, industrial production and increased car ownership.

**Did you know** that flushing the loo and personal washing account for over 60% of water usage in the home? **Green Tip** - Upgrading to a dual-flush toilet could save 12,500 litres per person, per year, equivalent to 150 average-sized baths, as dual flush toilets typically use 4-6 litres of water, as opposed to the old-style flush systems which use a massive 13 litres per flush!

A running tap wastes approximately 6 litres of water a minute; **Green Tip** - turning the tap off when brushing your teeth and when washing your hands makes a massive difference.

**Did you know** that 12% of a typical gas-heated household's energy bill is generated by heating water for showers, baths, and general washing? This means that by using less hot water you can save money on your energy bill too. **Green Tip** - Getting out of the shower a minute earlier can save 2,500 litres of water per year and up to £128.

**Green Lent Challenge** – choose 1 way in which you could use less water – maybe taking a shorter shower, only using the dishwasher / washing machine when it's full; try to keep this up for a whole week.

## **Week 2; 26<sup>th</sup> February- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – these three 'R' words are an important part of sustainable living, as they help to cut down on the amount of waste we have to throw away, and also help to minimise the amount of space needed for landfill sites, where waste materials are disposed of.

**Reduce** - this 'R' is all about creating less waste.

**Green Tip** - Only buy what you need

Choose products with less packaging

Buy in bulk

Look for items that you can re-use

**Reuse** - This 'R' is about how you can use certain items again (ideally multiple times) before replacing them.

**Green Tip** - Refill a water bottle with water from home instead of buying a new bottle of water each time.

Update your computer rather than throwing it out and getting a replacement.

Ditch plastic bags and choose reusable, environmentally friendly bags instead.

Reusing doesn't just help the environment; it can also save you money!

**Recycle** – This 'R' is about making sure that you separate waste, to ensure things that can be recycled can be used for another purpose. Everyday items that can be recycled include glass, paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminium cans, food and garden waste; but there are lots of other things that could be partially or fully recycled.

**Green Tip** – Batteries can be recycled – most supermarkets have a bin for these; printer cartridges can also be recycled. Small electrical items can often be broken down and the components recycled. A number of charities will accept old tools, these will be cleaned, safety checked and then distributed to communities in deprived countries – your unwanted spanner set may provide someone somewhere with a means to support themselves and their family.

**Green Lent Challenge** - Before you throw something away, ask yourself – can any part of this be recycled? At the end of the week, see how many items there are that you would usually have simply discarded.

Watch this space for more Green Lent ideas coming soon.

## **Raising Awareness – The Bury Project**

We're making a difference!



The Bury Project began in February 2019. Churches Together in Bury wanted to do something to make a difference in our Borough. They became aware that debt was growing fast and making life for many unbearable. Like most things in life, the causes of debt are complex – divorce, unemployment and illness are big factors. Sometimes children just don't get the help from parents to know how to budget and as they grow up, they make a string of bad choices. Debt starts to spiral, and people give up.

The Project appointed Gordon Clark to be our debt counsellor. We pay him to work three days a week, and he sees about 25 clients a year, some 100 all together in the last four years. About 25 have become debt-free, another 25 are on the way, and about 50% have drawn back from engagement. It's just too tough.

Here are two quotes from clients, one at the end of the process, the other at the beginning:

'I would like to say a massive thank you to all at CAP (Christians Against Poverty – the Bury Project is a local branch of it) for all the support and help given to me over the last 12 months. I became debt-free on 4th January 2022 and feel a huge weight off my shoulders. I would like to say a special thank you to Gordon Clark who has been absolutely amazing and an absolute credit to your team...nothing was ever too much trouble - he was always there. Thank you. I feel like I can start to live again.'

'Hi Gordon, it was a pleasure to finally meet up with you. When I got home, I started to do some housework and for the first time I felt less anxious. I feel, although this is just the start, I can finally see light at the end of the tunnel.' November 2023

The service is free, and available to anyone in debt.

## **We're Recruiting!**

The trustees of the Bury Project are looking to recruit an assistant for Gordon Clark. He has some really great skills and qualities as our debt counsellor, and we want to find someone who can work with him, learn from him and gradually take over from him so that we can take on more clients. At the moment there is a waiting list, and we're having to turn folk away. An assistant would help avoid such a situation in future. It also means that we have a trained assistant who will be able to take over from him when he begins to prepare for retirement.

We are envisaging an assistant working a two day week, paid according to the Government's Living Wage. Someone may well be looking for a part-time post. No previous experience is required, but below are the key qualities we are looking for.

- A strong Christian faith, expressing itself in integrity, trustworthiness and kindness.
- Excellent communication, both verbal and written.
- Able to quickly analyse complex situations to find the best solution.
- Confident computer user, able to quickly gather and accurately record information.
- A confident, quick learner with a capacity for large workloads.
- High emotional resilience. Able to maintain well-being whilst dealing with sensitive and highly emotive client circumstances.
- Strong numerical skills.

That might sound a bit daunting, but we are looking for potential, and some of these skills can be learned or honed.

Finding the right person for this work would be a tremendous step forward for the Bury Project and lay the foundations for the long term future of this service to our community.

If you or someone that you know might be interested in receiving more info about this post, please speak to Churchwardens Alison Hartley / Chris Haworth, who will be able to give you contact details.

## Bible Reading Fellowship

Lent is an important season in the life of the Church, and a n opportunity for us to slow down and consider where God is at work in our lives. The Bible Reading Fellowship offers a wide variety of books and resources to enrich your spiritual journey and accompany you through the 40 days of Lent.

‘Loving My Neighbour’, ‘Holding Onto Hope’, ‘Images of Grace’ and ‘Sharing the Easter Story’, are just a few of the many titles available. For more information visit [brfonline.org.uk](http://brfonline.org.uk)

## Easyfundraising



If you're thinking of booking a holiday this year, please consider doing so through the Easyfundraising portal; using this site allows you to raise a donation for our Church each time you shop online, at no extra cost to you.

There are great donations available when you book hotels, flights, accommodation, even on some cruises!

We currently only have 24 people who have registered to support our cause through Easyfundraising – but anyone who shops online can support us in this way; it's 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! These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started! Simply click and go ...

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-rbd21-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1)

## **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.

## **Mission Community News – Exploring Prayer**

The next "Exploring Prayer" sessions will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 2 - 3pm at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, with the same session repeated on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30 - 8.30pm at St. Andrew's, Hillock.



The sessions we've had so far have been really interesting and helpful; 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.

No need to book – just turn up! For more info contact Alison on 07952-709041 or email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)

## **Mission Community Lent**

During Lent, each Church within our Mission Community will be hosting a short Lenten Prayer Service, to which members of every Church in our Mission Community are invited. The Services will be held at various different times, to accommodate those who are working and also those who prefer not to drive at night, they will be in a style relevant to the individual Churches, and will be followed by light refreshments.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to visit other local Churches, share in Lent prayers with others, and get to know some of the people that we are working alongside.

A full list of Services will be emailed out as soon as all dates are confirmed; please do your best to attend at least some of the Services – it's really interesting to see what other Churches are doing and maybe try a slightly different approach to worship, plus a great opportunity to meet new people and enjoy some delicious home baking!

## 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.*

## Manchester Diocese Vocations Day

**Saturday 03 February, 09.30am-2.00pm @ St Brides, Old Trafford**

Every Christian has a vocation. No matter who you are, no matter where you are coming from, each one of us is made in the image of God. Made on purpose and for a purpose. All are called!

Join us for a chance to meet Lay and Ordained Ministers from around the Diocese, to have conversations about vocation and calling. Guests will include speakers from some of the following areas:

- Diocesan Vocations Team
- Authorised Lay Ministry
- Chaplaincy
- Church Army
- Churchwarden
- Children and Youth Ministry
- Focal Leadership
- Licensed Lay Reader
- Ordained Ministry/Curates / Ministers in Training

Drinks and light refreshments will be provided during the day but please bring your own packed lunch.

For more details contact [jamiemackenzie@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:jamiemackenzie@manchester.anglican.org)



# Christ Church Ainsworth Grand Raffle



Tickets available in Church or from the  
School Office.

£1 / per strip of 5 tickets, many prizes  
to be won - small selection shown in  
photo!

All proceeds to Church funds.

Draw to take place in Church after the  
10.30 Service on  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February.



# **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 25<sup>th</sup> February, all proceeds to Church funds

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



## *Coffee and Conversation*

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

**10.30 – 12 noon**

**Ainsworth Church and Community Hall**

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



# Quiz Night

***Everyone's welcome, so come join the fun – No brainiacs needed!***

**SATURDAY 20TH APRIL**



**Quiz starts 7pm**

Doors open 6:30pm



**Ainsworth Church  
& Community Hall**

**£7** per person with **hot pot supper** included!

Come along and join a team of up to 6 people!

Please bring your own drinks and snacks

To book please text or phone Jan - 07950960468



## *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."*



## **Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements**

### **Coffee & Conversation**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

**10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

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

Everyone welcome

### **Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**Ainsworth Methodist Hall**

An up-to-date panto by Mark Daniel Productions. For tickets / more info

visit: [www.magicmarkdaniel.co.uk](http://www.magicmarkdaniel.co.uk)

### **Save the Date – Quiz Night!**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**7.00pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

£7 per person; teams of up to 6 people, includes hot pot supper.

For tickets / more info contact Jan on 07950-960468.

### **Save The Date – Spring Fair!**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

More details soon – watch this space!

### **Candlelight Prayer**

**Each Friday @ 8pm on Zoom**

An oasis of calm at the end of a busy week. Why not join us for 10 minutes of prayer and quiet reflection each Friday evening. Simply click on the link below to take part:

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

### **Mission Community - Exploring Prayer**

**Weds 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2 – 3pm, St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, same session**

**repeated on Weds 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 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 email

[ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)

### **Winter Clothing Appeal**

Bury Homeless Project are currently appealing for donations of warm clothing, sleeping bags and blankets which can be distributed to those in our local area who are in the greatest need. Please place any suitable items in the box at the back of Church; all items should be clean and serviceable.

## **Around The Organisations ...**

### **Cubs**

Back after the Christmas break with new cubs – some from Beavers, some as transfers from other packs, and some from our waiting list. This brings us up to a full pack, so if your child wants to join us and is not in the Beaver colony, or currently on our list, please ensure you pass on their information to be added to the waiting list, which is also quite extensive.

We have said goodbye to Scarlett and Jacob who, having gained their Silver awards, which are to be presented at the February church parade service, have now moved on to Scouts – both have been great Cubs and will be missed.

The pack is busy working on several badges – Road Safety and Personal Challenge on pack nights and other badges to work on at home. At the moment, Suzanne is running the pack, along with the other Cub Scout leaders, she is a Wood badge holder in the Scout section, as well as having run Rainbows and Brownies for a number of years.

On a personal note, can I please say thank you for all the messages of condolence and the wonderful words about Bill following his death in January. It is a great comfort to know how highly thought of he was across the church and Scouting fraternity.

Thanks to you all,

Gwen White – Baloo

### **Scouts**

The last few months have seen us having a lot of fun and doing some great activities. The Scouts have worked towards a variety of badges.

January saw us coming back a bit later than normal due to other sections camping and requiring the use of all the leaders.



This is something we are still looking for. We desperately need leaders for the Cub Section, so if anyone is interested, please contact me and we can have a chat about what is required.

February sees the Cubs, Scouts and Explorers having our Christmas camp up at Bibby's Farm. We are having Secret Santa, Christmas Dinner and playing daft games. We will be doing Christmas Archery and other craft type activities too. I'm sure it will be a great weekend.

Badge work planned for the next few months includes Craft, Creative Challenge, Cyclist, Expedition to name but a few. We are also planning on taking part in the 'Jambowleree' which is a worldwide 10 pin bowling competition for Scouts.

We will keep you up to date with our exploits.

Thanks - Stacey

## **16<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Brownies**

The Brownies have just returned after the Christmas holidays and we are thrilled to welcome three new members - Laila, Phoebe, and Liv.

Guiding these new Brownies will be our newly appointed Sixers - Phoebe, Gracie, Isla, and Lily, along with new Second, Maddy.

As we embark on this half term, we are diving headfirst into earning our space badge. Our agenda includes identifying constellations (fingers crossed for a cloud-free night!), making a sunspot viewer, engaging in a space obstacle course, and exploring the fascinating world of astronaut cuisine.

This past Thursday, the Brownies unleashed their creativity by fashioning space suits out of everyday materials, ranging from tin foil to plastic cups. Their imaginative designs featured jet packs, space drinks, and even a communication device and helmet.



We're sure you'll agree that our Brownies did an outstanding job, and we can't help but think astronauts would envy their fashion-forward suits!

16th Radcliffe Brownie Leaders



# Transformation - Now!

We will hold our **AGM on Tuesday, February 6th at 2.30pm in the Church Hall**. This is the meeting when we pay our subs and elect our officers for the next 12 months. We have 4 members on the committee and would welcome any new members and also a Treasurer. If you feel that you could serve the Mothers' Union in this way, please let Andrew, Jean or I know. Also, friends and/or potential new members are welcome at this and any other meeting.

On Ash Wednesday, February 14th, we enter the period of Lent so will not be meeting formally. We will get together at the Rose and Crown on February 20th at 10.30am for coffee, toast and whatever else takes your fancy!

## **Thursday Prayers has changed - but only in name!**

'A Moment with God' is the new name for our familiar monthly time of worship. This reflects that members no longer meet "in person at midday on the second Thursday" but instead will use it whenever they can come together or when and where is convenient to join in.

Watch here <https://youtu.be/J1apmQcqf0c> from noon on Thursday 8th. The words are attached or can be downloaded from our website at [Home-Mothers' Union-Manchester mothersunionmanchester.org](https://home-mothersunionmanchester.org)

There are also posts including the link on our social media platforms and this is a simple way to share with groups to which you belong. Apart from the inclusion of one of our prayers there is nothing specifically 'MU' about these acts of worship so they could be (and already are) used by many "non-members".

If anyone would like to be added to the distribution list for the future, please let us know by contacting [mothersunionmanchester@outlook.com](mailto:mothersunionmanchester@outlook.com) which is also the address for any feedback you may be willing to give us.

## **Daily Midday Prayers from Mary Sumner House (MSH).**

Stopping for a moment to reflect and pray daily has always been a part of a Mothers' Union member's 'Walk with God'. However, it was only 4 years ago that staff at MSH started broadcasting on the MU Facebook site, Monday to Friday at 12 midday.

I quote from their latest email to all members:

*This initiative began during the pandemic, when staff and others using MSH were unable to gather each midday in the chapel for the daily*

*prayers. Now it reaches people all around the world, and can be joined later if that suits you better. Just 5-10 minutes to pause and join in worship with our worldwide family of Mothers' Union.*

It seems that people have expressed a wish for something on Sunday too, so from January, a new resource has been produced for us. Manchester had once again 'taken the lead' and put the first reflection together. It focused on our concerns about the Climate – the 5th mark of mission. It was just 5 minutes long and was posted at 6pm on Sunday 7th. It was repeated each Sunday in January, and a new reflection will be prepared for each month.

For anyone who uses Facebook it is a simple matter to share these posts to other pages and groups. In addition to sharing a few moments of prayer and reflection, by doing this we are sharing a taste of our mission and concern for our world, our sisters and brothers, and our commitment to our heavenly Father, whilst demonstrating how Mothers' Union and its mission is always underpinned by prayer. In other words, a really straightforward way to reach out to others!

*We are fully aware that not everyone has access to the internet so we will try to include some parts of both these prayer sessions in our opening devotions, or our 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Worship.*

Jennifer White

## **From the Archives – February 1999**

The Parish Diary for February 1999 included a number of seasonal additions to the regular Services; Ash Wednesday Communion and Lent Devotionals, plus a Songs of Praise Service to be shared with friends from the Methodist Church. There was also a note advising of a Deanery Confirmation Service to be held at St. Mary's, Radcliffe – no evening Service at Ainsworth on that date.

'News From The Parish', contained a number of thank yous and acknowledgements – for good wishes during illness, support following bereavement; and also Golden Wedding Congratulations!

The various groups and organisations were back up and running after the Christmas break; Guides were about to start a First Aid Course; Brownies were planning their next Pack Holiday; Cubs were busy with badge work, and Scouts were organising a night hike. A note from the Group Scout Leader advised that the Scout Unit was in desperate need of leaders, due to 2 existing leaders stepping down.

The day school reported that a number of members of staff and parents were taking part in a sponsored slim to raise funds for school; also that their Christmas activities had raised £560, which was to be used to purchase PE equipment.

In February 1999, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Geoff Hampson, who has 'a long connection with our Church through Sunday School, but also as a Sidesman and Lay Assistant'. In February 1999 there were no Weddings recorded from the previous month, but 1 Baptism and 1 Funeral. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 385, with 121 of these being on Christmas Day!! Collections were listed as £1867.



## Praying Through The Seasons – Spring ...

*"See the winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the sound of doves cooing is heard in our land." Song of songs 2 11-12*

In the Celtic Year, Spring begins at the start of February, when the first buds of new flowers begin to emerge from the cold, dark earth. Spring is the season of new life; a time of warming weather and nature coming back to life. As flowers bloom and animals are born, we are reminded of the innocence and beauty that exists in this world and that there is new life all around us. As Christians, we are given new life and new hope every morning. Spring provides a wonderful reminder to us that we should be living a full life and leaving the old dead parts of life behind. There is always hope during the coldest, darkest winters of life. Spring will come and new life will come forth!

*Heavenly Father, forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us  
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature,  
of life and death and rebirth.  
Forgive us for taking without giving,  
reaping without sowing.  
Open our eyes to see,  
our lips to praise,  
our hands to share,  
and may our feet tread lightly  
on the road that, together, we travel - Amen*

## **You Might Like To Read ...**

*"Celtic Lent – 40 days of devotions to Easter"', written by David Cole, published by BRF.*

This wonderful and inspiring book is a must for everyone. It takes the reader through the forty days of Lent, to the celebration of Easter, through the eyes and beliefs of Celtic Christianity.

Drawing on primary sources of pastoral letters, monastic rules and the theological teaching of the Celtic Church, the author presents a different perspective of the cross of Christ and encourages us to see our own life journeys with a new and transforming vision.

*"David shares his deep knowledge of the Celtic tradition, and opens up history and practise in an accessible and illuminating way."*

## **Space To Share A Prayer – Candlemas**

O God, who in the work of creation commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of Christ may shine into the hearts of all your people, dispelling the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, and revealing to them the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen

## **Top 10 Films From 2023**

Have you seen all (or any) of the films that were voted 'top' in 2023?

- 10) The Boy And The Heron
- 9) May December
- 8) Past Lives
- 7) Anatomy Of A Fall
- 6) Return To Seoul
- 5) Killers Of The Flower Moon
- 4) EO
- 3) Oppenheimer
- 2) Spiderman – Across The Spider-verse
- 1) Tar

## **Just A Thought ...**

"In the balance sheet of our lives, our greatest assets are loving, caring, and supporting people."

## **For All The Saints – February; St. Brigid**

Name: Brigid of Kildare

Feast Day: 1<sup>st</sup> February

Born: Faughart, 451

Died: 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 525, at Kildare

Place of burial: Down Cathedral, Down Patrick

Patron Saint Of: Poets.

According to legend, Brigid's mother was given to a Druid when she became pregnant, thus Brigid was born into slavery and spent her early years working on the land. The Druid realised from an early age that Brigid was special, he was concerned for her spiritual welfare in her enslaved situation, and eventually granted both Brigid and her mother their freedom.

Brigid was known for her desire to help those who were in dire need; often giving away the possessions of others to help those in need. As she grew older, she is said to have worked a number of miracles, including giving away the entire household's store of butter; the supply subsequently being replenished in answer to Brigid's prayers.

Brigid was later 'veiled' or became a 'consecrated virgin' and received the powers of an abbess. Around 480, Brigid founded a monastery at Kildare, on the site of a pagan shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid. The site was under an ancient oak tree and was served by a small group of women who tended an eternal flame. Brigid, along with this group of women, is credited with organising communal consecrated religious life for women in Ireland; for centuries, Kildare was ruled by a double line of abbot-bishops and abbesses, the Abbess of Kildare being regarded as superior general of the monasteries in Ireland. Her successors have always been accorded episcopal honour. Brigid's oratory at Kildare became a centre of religion and learning and ultimately developed into a cathedral city.

Tradition says that Brigid died at Kildare on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 525.

### **Strap Lines**

If you can't say something kind, at least be vague.

Confession may be good for the soul, but isn't always good for your career prospects.

Don't judge yourself by your past; you don't live there any more.

## Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

### Hope

Hope shines forever pure and bright,  
It never fades away;  
It is a ray of heavenly light  
Unyielding to decay.

'T is hope that bears our spirits up  
When falling in despair;  
Nor sinks the heart, with this its prop,  
Though hard may be our fare.

It rears our castles to the skies,  
With faith increases grace,  
And with it we may some day rise  
To find in heaven our place.

*Prudence E. R. Curtis*

### Time For A Smile

The curate appointed to a new church had a rather inflated view of himself. A few minutes after he had moved into his new office, he saw there was someone in the corridor waiting to see him. Thinking he would create a good impression, he picked up the telephone and, speaking in a voice which would be heard outside, he said, "Hello, yes I'm the new curate and I already have a string of people who have said they want to see me, so I am going to be very busy. Would you mind ringing later in the week." Putting the phone down, he asked the person in the corridor if he could help him. "Yes," was the reply, "I have been sent to connect your new office telephone."

George had been a fit and God-fearing man all his life. At 87 he decided to see his doctor for a medical examination. A few days later, the doctor met George walking down the street with an attractive young lady on his arm and he told him he looked great. "Doing just as you said doctor" said George, "Get a hot mamma and be cheerful." The doctor replied, "George, I said you'd got a heart murmur and be careful."

## The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

C A N D L E M A S

### Can... Quiz

The answers to the following questions all begin with the word 'can'.

1. A heavy material used for camping equipment.
2. A hard, sweet substance, maybe formed into a cane.
3. Awning or shelter.
4. A horse's gait.
5. Small, yellow songbird.
6. To change your mind or delete.
7. A chasm or gorge – this could be grand.
8. Another name for a barge or houseboat.
9. Holds a number of candles.
10. The official group name for dogs.

(Answers on page 34)

### One Liners

Q. What's the best way to study the Bible?

A. You Luke into it!

Q. When is medicine first mentioned in the Bible?

A. When God gave Moses two tablets!

Q. Did Eve have a date with Adam?

A. No, just an apple!

Q. What did Adam say to Eve when handing her something to wear?

A. Take it or leaf it!

Q. Who was the fastest runner in the?

A. Adam - he was first in the human race!

Q. What's a miracle that can be done by a complainer?

A. Turning anything into whine!

## Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Lay Assistant</b>	<b>Prayers</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun before Lent	Mags Gillman Dennis Gillman	Peter Holden	Jenny Johnson
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb Sun next before Lent	Barbara Clarkson Guides	Church Parade	Guides
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb Ash Wednesday 7.30	Alison Hartley	Alison Hartley	Alison Hartley
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of Lent	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Jan Burrow	Andrew Lowe
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Lent	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	David Holden	David Holden

## Reader's Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Readings</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun before Lent	Peter Holden	Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb Sun next before Lent	Guides	Guides
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of Lent	Enid Horrocks	Genesis 9.8-17 1 Peter 3.18-22 <b>Mark 1.9-15</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Lent	Lorraine Holden	Genesis 17.1-7,15,16 Romans 4.13-25 <b>Mark 8.31-38</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Lent	Beryl Sixsmith	Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 <b>John 2.13-22</b>



## Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy <a href="mailto:vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk">vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk</a>	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley Chris Haworth	07952 709041 07855 638450
Church Treasurer	David Holden	<a href="mailto:davelholden@aol.co.uk">davelholden@aol.co.uk</a>
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		<a href="mailto:bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk">bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk</a>
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	<a href="mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com">ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com</a>
Magazine Adverts		
Primary School Head	D Gerrard BA(Hons)PGCE	01204 527484

## Services

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 10.30am Family Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Family & Parade Service  
 6.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP) 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

Weds 6.15pm Mid-Week Praise

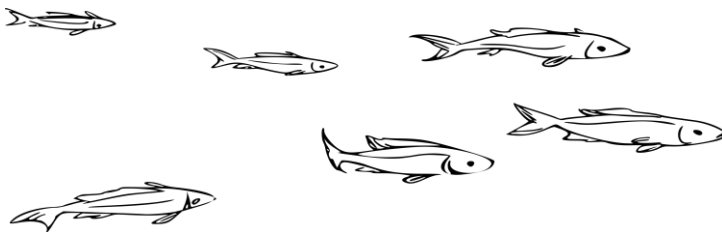
Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty.

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

Answers to Can Quiz: 1) Canvas, 2) Candy, 3) Canopy, 4) Canter, 5) Canary, 6) Cancel, 7) Canyon, 8) Canal Boat, 9) Candelabra, 10) Canine.

## Who's Who For Church Organisations

Mothers Union	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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	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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045



# Little Fishes

**Simeon & Anna**



## 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.

### Simeon And Anna

In bible times, there was a rule that the firstborn son must be brought to the temple to be presented to God. This presentation at the Temple usually happened 40 days after the baby was born; the baby's mother would show her baby to the priest so that the priest could bless him; when she did this, she knew that God's eyes also looked down on the baby in love. Then the parents would offer a sacrifice, depending on what they could afford - rich people might offer a lamb, whilst poorer people would offer a pair of pigeons or turtle doves.

Because Jesus was their firstborn son, Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem to present him to the priests in the Temple. Mary and Joseph new that their baby was special, but to the people they passed on the road to Jerusalem, they were just another family taking their baby to the Temple; no one knew them or recognised them as they made their way along.



This was the first time that Jesus had been to Jerusalem, the city of the Great King. When Mary and Joseph entered the Temple, they offered the usual sacrifice for poor people. The priest approached them and laid his hands on the child. He blessed Jesus, but he didn't

recognise that this baby was special - to the priest, he seemed just like any of the other babies that he blessed each day. But suddenly an old man entered the Temple with great haste. He hurried straight to Mary. He knew who the child was! Simeon knew because God had told him.



Simeon was a very old man, he was frail and could barely see, and he knew that he didn't have long to live, but many years previously, God had spoken to Simeon, and told him that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah - the one who would save the people of Israel and all mankind. And now the great day had finally come—the most wonderful day in Simeon's entire life. Mary offered the baby to Simeon. Reverently the old man took the child in his arms, and full of joy, he praised God. "Now I can die in peace," he cried out, "for my eyes have seen Your salvation, O Lord."



It didn't matter that Simeon lived in dark times; he knew that through Jesus, the Light of the world was finally beginning to shine. Simeon sang of that light, the great and beautiful light that descended from heaven to shine down not only upon the people of Israel, but upon all the nations.

Simeon blessed Jesus and said many things about him; Simeon said that many would come to love this child and would receive happiness through Him. But he said there would be many others who would hate him.

When Simeon finally fell silent, someone else began to speak; someone else who recognised that the baby was indeed the Messiah. An old woman, 84 years old, stooped and grey - this was Anna.



Anna was a prophetess, which means she was someone who delivered God's messages to His people. Anna spent all of her time in the Temple, and never stopped praying and praising God. Like Simeon, she saw much more than just another

baby boy being presented at the Temple; they both saw and recognised Jesus as the son of God.

Anna came to stand by the baby Jesus and sang about this great wonder. From then on, she told everyone she met that the Messiah had come.

### **So, What Can We Learn From Simeon & Anna's Story?**

There are lots of things to learn from Simeon and Anna's story. Simeon and Anna were both very ordinary people who had an incredibly strong faith. They worshipped God and prayed and trusted that what God promised really would happen. Simeon and Anna had both been waiting for many, many years - but they never doubted God's word, and they never gave up hoping that one day soon, the Messiah would come, just as God had promised them.

When we are impatient about having to wait, or we feel as if things aren't happening quickly enough, Simon and Anna teach us to have faith in God's timing and to trust God's promises, even if things are taking longer than we would like.

Simeon and Anna's story also reminds us how important it is to keep praying, and that when something we have been praying about and waiting for actually happens, we should remember to be thankful.

Simeon and Anna's story is also a huge reminder to us that no matter whether you are 5 years old or 105 years old - God has something for each and every one of us to do.

### **Prayer Time**

Heavenly Father,

When we are impatient and feel like things aren't happening quickly enough, help us to remember that you always keep the promises that you make.

Help us to be patient, and to believe and trust in You. Amen

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