

# Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Spring Is In The Air!

(Photo courtesy of Jane Holden)

**Serving the Community**

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

March 2024

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## Parish Diary March 2024



Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.15pm	Baptism
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Prayer & Reflection
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>		<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>
	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Prayer & Reflection
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee & Conversation ( <i>Ainsworth Church &amp; Community Hall</i> )
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>		<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
	10.30am	Holy Communion ( <i>followed by refreshments</i> )
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Prayer & Reflection
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>		<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Palm Sunday Procession (with donkeys!) <i>Joint service with Ainsworth Methodists, meeting at Ainsworth Methodist Chapel for family service at Christ Church (followed by refreshments)</i>
		<b>HOLY WEEK</b>
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Prayer & Reflection
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion & stripping of the Altar
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Good Friday Reflection
		<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	6.30am	Easter Dawn Service in the Churchyard (followed by <i>light breakfast in Church</i> )

10.30am Holy Communion *(followed by refreshments  
& Lucky Lotto draw)*

APRIL

Sun 7<sup>th</sup>

## **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Prayer

### **Interregnum Update**

*“The only way out is through.”*

I'm not sure who these words are attributed to, but they ring true in so many difficult or challenging situations and seem particularly pertinent to our time of interregnum – it's not an option to turn back, we simply have to keep looking ahead and moving on through.

As we move into March, we have officially completed our first year of vacancy; we have ticked all the boxes the first time round and are preparing to begin a second lap; although I think as a Church, as a PCC, and as a worshipping community, we are significantly better equipped than we were for the first lap!

We've learnt many things during the past year; discovered strengths and abilities in ourselves and in those around us. We've ploughed our way through admin, regulations, Parish Returns; we've discovered how to do things which we've never had to do previously – a recent example being 'Hmm, how do we make these Palm Crosses into Ashes for the Ash Wednesday Service?' If you want to know the answer to that one – simply Google it then watch some of the many u-tube videos; please note – you will require numerous Palm Crosses, a firepit and a blow torch, (honestly a household lighter will simply get you scorched fingers!!). This will eventually produce enough ash to fill a thimble. Oh, and don't mix it with water – that causes burning, you need to use a small quantity of oil ... Enough said!

Hopefully all the things we have learned will stand us in good stead and allow us to be more effective and proactive whenever we do have a new Incumbent in post. At a time when we're looking at part time or shared ministry, it will be really important that we continue to take some initiative, and ownership of our Church and our worship; although I think the production of Ashes is something we will be happy to hand back to our next Incumbent.

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

## Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is once again ram packed with news, articles and information. Alongside our regular articles and updates, you'll find information about our 'Green Lent Challenge', Mothering Sunday and Holy Week.

As always, at this time of year, there are a number of additional Services and initiatives running, both at Christ Church Ainsworth and across the wider Mission Community – make sure you keep an eye on the Parish Diary and the Pew Sheet to be sure that you don't miss out on special Services around Holy Week and Easter – if you haven't yet been to one of our Holy Week Services, then why not make this the year to come along.

Following a long overdue review, you'll notice that we have a new 'Advertiser's Section' this month – all of those featured are local businesses either run by, or recommended by, a member of our congregation or local community – please do your best to support our advertisers, and if you know of any other businesses who might like to advertise with us, please get in touch.

As always, enjoy the read and feel free to share our Magazine with others if you wish to. *Alison*

## From The Registers

Baptisms  
28<sup>th</sup> January

We welcome into God's family:  
Beau-Delilah Duffy

## Flower Rota

No flowers during Lent.

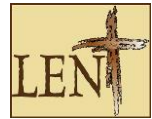
There are currently a few dates available on the church flower rota; if you would like to join the rota to mark a special date or simply to make sure our Church continues to look bright and welcoming, please contact Gwen White on 01204-595378 for further details.

## 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.

## 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 February Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, with the lucky winner walking away with £18-00!

This fabulous fundraiser runs 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

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Grand Raffle – those who bought and sold tickets, and also those who donated prizes; the total amount raised for Church funds was a fantastic £167-60!



## Just A Thought ...

"Friends are like angels who lift us to our feet when our own wings have difficulty in remembering how to fly."

## **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**

A huge thankyou to everyone who supported this initiative – in total we collected and dropped off 34 bin bags full of warm clothing!

As this appeal has proved so popular, the collection box will remain in Church; if you have any clean and serviceable items of clothing which you wish to donate, simply place them in the box next time you are in Church.



## 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 3; 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March - Grow Your Own



Did you know there is a direct relationship between how we grow and distribute our food and the carbon emissions that are a major contributor to global warming!

Approximately 25% of global carbon emissions are caused by the worldwide industrial production of food. Clearing of land, the removal of trees reduces nature's ability to absorb, distribute, and store carbon, releasing more into the atmosphere and contributing to the increase in greenhouse gases. This is compounded by the consumption of fossil fuels in the transportation and use of synthetic fertilizers and the long-distance distribution of the resulting food products.

**Did you know** – growing your own reduces carbon emissions?

Commercial farming requires a lot of heavy equipment which uses a lot of fuel for cultivation and transportation and produces a lot of carbon emissions. Food items that we buy on a regular basis can have travelled hundreds of miles, whilst products imported from around the globe obviously travel much further!

Growing your own fruits and vegetables = no carbon emissions. AND you're drawing carbon down into the soil by growing food on your property.

**Did you know** – growing your own reduces fertiliser & pesticide use? A

recent study showed that, in the US well over \$15 billion is spent annually on pesticides, and over \$19 billion on fertilizer. That's a LOT of synthetic chemicals going into our food stock.

When you grow your own, you decide what goes in the soil and what goes on the plant and how much. You decide when to use a pesticide or fertilizer and whether they're synthetic or organic.

**Did you know** – growing your own helps you to connect with nature?

When you grow a food garden you are as close to nature as you can



get. Growing a garden enables you to physically connect with nature; you interact with the plants, the soil, and the weather you are directly experiencing all the elements involved in the growing process. The payoff is being able to harvest and consume what you've grown, producing a profound sense of satisfaction and a deeper understanding of nature and the cycles of growth.

**Did you know** – growing your own provides better nutrition? The commercial agriculture system is built upon the idea that food needs to look a certain way and be able to travel long distances and arrive shelf-stable. This strategy is based upon the premise that people will buy produce because it looks “pretty.” But perfect and pretty have very little to do with nutrition. Healthy, nutrient-dense food comes from plants that are grown in healthy soils harbouring helpful microbes alive and working hard to help produce tasty, nutritious fruits and vegetables.

When you grow your own garden, you can manage your soil with the addition of compost, minerals and nutrients, all from organic sources, that will build up the biological life in your soil and in turn support and feed your plants giving you the most nutrition possible.

**Did you know** - home-grown food tastes the best. When you take the time to choose the right plant for the right place and rotate your crops so you are growing different things at different times to maintain a healthy soil, you're able to grow happier, healthier plants with more natural sugars for better-tasting food.

**Green Lent Challenge** – Try whichever of these works best for you:

- If you have a garden, why not create an area for growing herbs.
- Plant some vegetable seeds in an indoor propagator or seed tray.
- Plant some seed potatoes in a bucket.
- Plant some cress seeds in a paper tray or empty yoghurt pot.

#### **Week 4; 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March - The Big Plastic Count**

**Did you know** - Nearly 100 billion pieces of plastic packaging are thrown away by UK households every year, and just 12% is recycled in the UK. It's time to get serious about tackling the plastic crisis. You can help by taking part in The Big Plastic Count!



In 2022 nearly 250,000 people from schools, households and communities across the country made The Big Plastic Count the biggest investigation into UK household plastic waste. It showed that

almost 100 billion pieces of plastic are thrown away in the UK each year, with hardly any of it recycled.

**Green Lent Challenge** - Sign up for The Big Plastic Count 2024!!

1 To get started, visit [www.thebigplasticcount.com](http://www.thebigplasticcount.com) and sign up to receive your free digital or postal pack.

2 In your pack will be a tally chart for the various different types of plastic – put it somewhere which will make it easy to remember to use it!

3 For one week, you need to count every single piece of plastic packaging waste that you throw away - include plastic waste that you put in the bin and plastic you put in the recycling. Try to count anything you throw away while out and about too.

4 At the end of the week, submit your results on-line, you can do this right up to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

5 Once you've submitted your results, you'll get your household's 'plastic footprint'. You'll also get some tips on how you can get involved in campaigning on the plastic waste crisis, as well as tips for how to reduce your own plastic waste if that's possible for you.

### **Week 5; 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March - Earth Hour**

Since 2007, 'Earth Hour' has been known for the "lights off" moment, with people all around the world switching off their lights for 1 hour, to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.



Amidst the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it can be easy to overlook the climate and nature crises we are facing - Earth Hour aims to be an unmissable global reminder of the importance of our planet, the need to protect it, and how little time we have to do so.

Now more than ever, we need our world to come together to take urgent action for our one shared home. We need everyone and anyone to play a part, no matter how small. Most importantly, we must continue to shine a beacon of hope for a brighter future, harnessing and celebrating the power of the people.

In 2024, people all around the world will be encouraged to not only switch off their lights for an hour, but also to spend 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet. Find out more at [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

**Green Lent Challenge** - Take part in Earth Hour! Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, 8.30-9.30pm.

Switch off your lights and spend 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet!

You could spend 60 minutes learning more about our planet.

Find out about the threats we face, and what we can do to help!

Learn about climate change and how to make a difference.

**Week 6; 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March - The Great British Spring Clean**

**Did you know** - The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign?



Last year more than 400,000 bags of litter were collected throughout the 2 week campaign period!! In 2024, the campaign returns from 15 March to 31 March.

**So why do we need to pick litter?**

- The RSPCA receive thousands of calls a year about animals that are caught up in or injured by litter. By removing materials that don't belong from their natural habitats, we protect wildlife and marine life.
- Each year, as a country, we spend hundreds of millions of pounds clearing up litter. This is money that could be better spent on other public services, like social care and education.
- Litter is a wasted resource. Each day, around 20 million drinks containers are 'lost from the loop' (this means, they don't get recycled) because of littering. Plastic bottles, aluminium cans and glass bottles are all recyclable but if they are littered, the materials they are made of are wasted. It takes less energy to recycle than make new, so capturing these materials is critical.
- Research from Keep Britain Tidy shows that people feel less safe, and house prices are affected, when an area is littered and looks uncared for. By taking care of our neighbourhoods, we increase feelings of pride and safety.

**Green Lent Challenge** – try whichever of these works best for you:

Sign up to the Great British Spring Clean 2024

Join a local litter picking group.

Litter pick in your local area on a regular basis.

To find out more visit [www.KeepBritainTidy.org](http://www.KeepBritainTidy.org)

## **Job Vacancy - Urban Outreach (Bolton)**

Urban Outreach is an innovative charity which is well respected locally. We find solutions to difficult and intractable social problems. Today we deliver a range of commissioned and grant funded work in four main areas:

- Offender support
- Health and homelessness
- Children and families
- Food and cold weather support

### **Vacancy – Genesis Project Co-ordinator (Adult's Team)**

We are looking for a compassionate, highly motivated, and skilled individual to join our Adults Team. This role involves supporting individuals who are struggling with a multiplicity of problems and those in crisis. The job involves the coordination of our Genesis activities at the Amber Centre and between our other sites.

It involves the provision of practical support, planning and organisation of activity groups, training and supporting mentors and service users.

The successful candidate for this position will be passionate about developing our work in providing life-transformational support to those afflicted by poverty, poor lifestyles, disadvantage and distress in our town, as a practical expression of the Christian faith we share.

Hours and salary - Ideally, this position is full time (35hrs per week), however part-time may be considered. Full-time salary is £22,410 pa.

#### **Benefits**

- Friendly office working environment
- Enhanced sick policy
- Pension through Nest – employer contribution 3%
- 28 days holiday with staged increase up to 30 days
- Training support and personal development commitments
- Wider team opportunities including away days
- Dedicated management support with cases
- Professional support networks and groups
- Pastoral and wellbeing support

Details on how to apply, and our recruitment and selection process, can be found on our website at [www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/vacancies/](http://www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/vacancies/)

The closing date and time for applications is **12.00 noon on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

## **Children's Society Box Collection**

The annual Children's Society box collection will be held on Wednesday 13th March 2024.

I will be writing to those people who have a collection box, to confirm that I shall collect the boxes between 1pm and 5pm. If this date is not convenient for you, please let me know and I will arrange another time. If you would prefer to bring your box to Church for me to collect there, simply speak to me prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> March. My number is 01204 522523 landline 07508 106590 mobile.

### **Your Valued Support**

Last year, The Children's Society box collection across the country raised £1.3m. This money is used to fund the practical help given to children and young people. For example, some of this money is used to pay the costs of the refuge in Manchester which provides hot meals, warm showers and a safe place for young runaways whilst they wait for temporary accommodation to keep them away from exploitation on the streets. Some money is used to pay for specialist counselling to help an abused young person come to terms with what has happened to them, and how to move forward with their lives.

### **A Change In Spending Habits**

A lot has changed since 1882 when the first box collections were made. Nowadays, many people hardly use cash to pay for goods and services, so what is the point of having a box designed to collect loose change?

The answer to this is quite simple: the need is still there. Each year, thousands of children are helped by project workers funded by the donations we make in the house boxes.

Many people these days use the box to place their donation to the Children's Society each year. This can take the form of a cheque, or a bank note or some pound coins. Some people place their cash donation into the box because they do not want to sign up for a direct debit. Whilst others wish to donate in memory of a loved one.

Whatever your reason for donating, please accept a sincere thank you on behalf of all the children for whom the Society makes a difference. Thank you for being the light that shines through the darkness.

Susan Campbell

Local Secretary for The Children's Society

## **Holy Week And Easter**

Easter is arguably the most important time in the Christian year; our preparations begin on Palm Sunday, as we recall Jesus, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey; the crowds welcomed Him, shouting 'Hosannah! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!', but already there were those who were looking for a reason to condemn Jesus and were plotting His downfall.

### **Maundy Thursday – The Last Supper**

The following Thursday was the first day of the feast of Passover; the disciples met with Jesus to share the Passover meal. Before they all sat down to eat, Jesus took water and a towel and insisted on washing the disciples' feet - a job that the lowest of the servants would usually have been expected to do. Before Jesus and His friends ate, Jesus thanked God for the bread and shared it with the disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body which is given for you". Then He took a full cup of wine, He thanked God for it and said, "This is my blood, which will be shed for many people so their sins may be forgiven."

Jesus told the disciples that they should always do that in future "in remembrance of me".

### **Good Friday – The Betrayal**

Judas Iscariot was one of Jesus' disciples, but he had secretly decided to betray Jesus – early the next morning, Judas went with the Guards to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was praying with His disciples, he walked up to Jesus and kissed Him. Thus, identifying Him to the Guards, who arrested him.

Jesus was taken before the Governor, Pontious Pilate, for questioning; Pilate didn't find any reason to punish Jesus, but the people had turned against Jesus and demanded his death. Pilate tried to reason with the crowd, but without success.

And so Jesus was lead through the streets to a hill known as 'Golgotha', where He was crucified along with two other convicted criminals. The crowds gathered round mocking Him and calling out that He should save Himself.

Jesus died later that afternoon, and at the same moment a great darkness came over the whole land, whilst in the temple a huge curtain suddenly tore in half. Too late, some of the people realised

that they had been wrong about Jesus, they realised that He truly was the Son of God.

### **Easter Sunday – The Resurrection**

After Jesus died, His friends took His body away and placed it in a stone tomb; they wrapped Him in white cloths and, before they went away, they rolled a huge boulder in front of the tomb so that nothing and no one could get in.

On the third day, which was Sunday, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went back to the tomb early in the morning, taking special oils with them. When they reached the tomb, they saw that the boulder had been moved and the tomb was open, and Jesus's body had gone.

An angel appeared by the tomb and said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died, but He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would."

The angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus, He is on his way to Galilee."

As the women were returning to their homes, suddenly there was Jesus! The women knelt down and worshipped Him, Jesus told them not to be afraid, but to tell the disciples to go to Jerusalem, and He would see them there.

We have a whole range of additional Services throughout Holy Week and Easter; most of them are fairly short, but very spiritual – if you haven't previously been to our Maundy Thursday Communion Service with stripping of the Altar, or attended the Easter Dawn Service around the firepit in our Churchyard, why not join us this year – everyone is welcome.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Vestry Meeting**

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting will be held in Church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of April following on from the 10.30 morning Service.

At this meeting we will elect our Churchwardens for the coming year, plus appoint / reappoint PCC members, but we will also report on the activities of our Church and the various groups, organisations and committees that operate in conjunction with our Church.

All Parishioners are encouraged to attend this meeting, but please note that you must be on our Church Electoral Roll if you wish to vote or hold any office within our Church.

## Raising Awareness – Marie Curie’s Great Daffodil Appeal

The Great Daffodil Appeal encourages people to donate and wear a daffodil in March to support the Marie Curie charity so it can help people with any terminal illness and their families.

Marie Curie is the UK’s leading ‘end of life charity’. It cares for people with illnesses including Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, heart, liver, kidney and lung disease, motor neurone disease, Parkinson’s, and advanced cancer. Today one in four people don’t have access to the end of life care that they need.

Marie Curie is dependent on public donations, and last year supporters helped the charity provide direct care to more than 44,200 people across the UK via its nine hospices and through overnight nursing care in people’s own homes.

The money raised also funds the charity’s free support line and webchat, which is available to anyone with a terminal illness, and also those close to them. It offers practical and emotional support on everything from symptom management and day-to-day care to financial information and bereavement support.

For more information visit [mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](http://mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil)

## Bible Reading Fellowship

Lent and Easter are important seasons in the life of the Church, and an 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 also a great range of Easter cards. For more information visit [bfronline.org.uk](http://bfronline.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!

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! To get started simply visit:

[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)

## **Manchester Diocese General Lay Training Courses**

General Lay Training Courses are now open for applications. These are easy access courses open to any lay person wanting to develop their calling and gifting in one of the following areas of ministry:

- Children & Families
- Community Outreach & Social Action
- Ecology & Creation
- Mission & Evangelism (Short Course)
- Parish Admin, Finance & Governance (Update to follow soon)
- Prayer & Spirituality
- Worship & Liturgy
- Youth Work

For more details, including a full course prospectus and application forms, visit: <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/development-and-training/general-lay-courses/>

Closing date for applications is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

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

The next "Exploring Prayer" sessions will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 2 - 3pm at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, with the same session repeated on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 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 are being 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.

Upcoming dates in March include:

Tuesday 5th March 7.30pm - Christ Church Walshaw. BL8 3FS

Thursday 7th March 2pm -All Saints, Stand. M45 7NF

Thursday 7th March 7pm - St. Mary, Radcliffe. M26 2QA

Tuesday 12th March 7.30 – 8.30pm - St. Andrew's, Hillock. M45 8NA

Wednesday 20th March 7pm - St. Andrew's, Radcliffe. M26 4HU

Friday 22nd March 12 noon - St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe. M26 2UD

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; plus a great opportunity to 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.*



# **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 31<sup>st</sup> March, all proceeds to Church funds

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



## *Coffee and Conversation*

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**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 12<sup>th</sup> March**

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

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

Everyone welcome

### **Mothers' Union Bring & Share Tea & Cake Event**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm**

**Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

Raising funds for the Mothers' Union 'Make a Mother's Day' appeal and 'Fortalice', Bolton, a charity for women and children experiencing domestic abuse in the area. All are welcome.

### **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!

### **Save The Date – Summer Prom Concert!**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July; 7pm**

**Christ Church Ainsworth**

A fantastic opportunity to get together & enjoy a great evening of entertainment by Farnworth & Walkden Band. More details coming soon.

### **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**

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> March 2 – 3pm, St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, same session**

**repeated on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 – 8.30pm, St. Andrew's, Hillock**

Everyone welcome; for more info email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)

## Around The Organisations ...



I'm sure by now you will have all heard of the sad loss of our much-loved Group Scout Leader, Bill.

Bill started his Scouting at the age of 11 when he joined 4<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Scouts. Bill became Scout Leader at Ainsworth after he met Gwen in 1964. He never stopped being involved in his favourite pastime, sharing this passion with both me and Ella. Until about 18 months ago he would still come and visit us on a Friday night and say hello to all the young people.

Doing a quick work out of numbers we think during Bill's time in Scouting he has had a hand in moulding over 2000 young people.

Rather than me going on about how ace my dad was, I thought it would be more appropriate to share some of the comments we have received since his passing:-

*Out of a thousand memories, this one stands out for me. Bill and I were sitting in the pub where we held our Venture Scout meetings one night, when this elderly gentleman came up to us. Gesturing towards a group of older locals, he told us, "don't like them, don't end up sitting there saying 'I wish I'd done this', or 'pity I didn't do that'. Live your life so you can say 'I did that', 'I succeeded at that'". Like a lot of kids, our immediate reaction wasn't great, but it really stuck with us, and we really tried to live up to it. Whenever Bill and I got together in later life, we'd sit and reminisce about all the things we'd tried, all the things we'd failed at, and all our successes, and at the end of the day, I can say, just as Bill was able to say 'I've had a good life'. - Dave Hardman – long time friend and best man*

*Your Dad he was a true gentleman and a fabulous leader and role model for so many children. – The Charlesworth Family*



*Going to miss his great stories of Scouting, a true gent. – **Rob Staton (Scout Leader)***

*Lost our leader of the pack, a special person, touched and influenced so many lives. – **Rachael Bailey***

*All my recollections of conversations with Bill involved laughter. – **Ian Lonsdale (Scout Leader, West Lancashire Scouts)***

*Such a lovely man who will be a huge loss. – **Emma Ashworth (Ex Scout Leader)***

*What a selfless gentleman he was – **Gill Godfrey (Ex Scout Parent)***

*Great memories of your dad at 14<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe – **Mark Cuddy (Ex Scout)***

*For decades your Dad has given so much to so many. – **Ste Hartley (Ex Scout)***

*From a young age being in scouts really made a positive impact on my childhood and helped influence me and strengthen my morals and it was all down to Bill and his family – **Warren Hall (Ex Scout)***

*He was a lovely man giving many years to Scouting. He will be missed by all those that knew him – **Carl Walter (Scout Leader – Hampshire Scouts)***

*He was a member of the scouting network and will always remember him for that – **Mike Hall (Parent of ex Scouts)***

*Bill was always kind to me and had good advice – **June Ascroft (Ex Scout Leader)***

On a personal note, Dad mentored me throughout my time in Scouting, supporting me in my endeavours and I know he was very proud that I became District Commissioner in 2022. I will miss him more than words can ever say, but it is so nice to hear so many lovely comments about him.

We gave him a great send off, the sun shone, and Scouting did us proud with the fantastic guard of honour.

Thank you for all your support over the past few weeks.

Stacey



## **Cubs**

A great deal of hard work is being done by the Cubs at present. They have been completing tasks to gain their Personal Safety and Road Safety proficiency badges and the older ones have also been doing work on their Personal Challenge. The ones arriving after Christmas have been preparing to be invested.

My personal thanks to Suzanne who has been planning all the various tasks over the last few weeks. I am hoping to be back into the swing of things soon after half term.

We are full in the pack and have a lengthy waiting list, but could do with a couple of extra leaders, if you think you may be interested in helping with the pack either call in on a Friday night or give me a ring.

Thanks for all your cards, kind words, donations and messages following Bill's passing in January, they have really made the family feel proud of him and his life in Scouting. Almost £1,500 has been raised for Bill's favourite charity, the RNLI. God bless you all.

Gwen White – Baloo

## **Scouts**

The last month has been strange at Scouts, following the loss of our Group Scout Leader.

However, we have kept going, as he would have expected and at the start of February, we held our Christmas Camp. We all arrived on Friday night, put up the Christmas Tree and just relaxed playing cards, Uno, Skyjo and Dominoes.

Saturday saw us doing a variety of activities, making Christmas Trees out of Paracord, decorating Christmas cookies, some Christmas Archery (we got Christmas Tree targets where they had to aim at the baubles), they also got to play on the climbing frames. The best activity of the weekend (according to the young people) was the visits to the Tuck Shop.

Saturday night we did a Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings.

Sunday, after spending a lot of time tidying their bedrooms, they spent the rest of their time playing a variety of games, or just exploring outside. A great weekend was had by all. I've seen the photos of some of the young people who were asleep in their parents' vehicles before they reached the end of the campsite lane!!!

On the Friday nights in February, they have worked hard to complete the Craft Badge and a lot of the Creative Challenge Award.

March sees us starting on other new badges, we will keep you up to date.

Stacey

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

During the past few weeks, the Brownies have completed their Space Badge – first off we did a space training camp where each team had to complete an obstacle course, involving space shoes and a rocket, as quickly as possible. We also tried some freeze-dried sweets, courtesy of Elf Owl's sleuthing on TikTok, giving us a small taste of what astronauts enjoy in space.

We have now moved onto our Communicate Badge, which is all about expressing yourself. This has involved painting canvases to represent all things 'us'. We also did a thought-provoking role play that explored the sensitive topic of bullying, learning valuable lessons about standing up for others and fostering a culture of kindness. Lastly, we built a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows and the Brownies had to work in teams to build the tallest structure – as you can see, they all did a fantastic job at a tricky task!

Finally, we attended the pantomime, Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs, at Ainsworth Methodist Hall. If the cheering, booing, hissing, 'oh yes you dids', and singing along were anything to go by, the Brownies thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was worth the late school night out!

A round of applause to all those who attended Church Parade and contributed to the service – well done to Amarah and Liv for bell ringing, Elise for carrying the flag, Annabelle and Jess for doing the collection, and Lily, Esmi, and Phoebe for reading the prayers.



16th Radcliffe Brownie Leaders

## 12<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Guides & Brownies

This term we have been doing activities towards our Influence skills builder badge - giving three facts about ourselves, two true and one false, and then trying to influence the group to convince them that the false fact was true; and we thought who makes decisions, listened to others and shared ideas of how to make change. We have thought of issues we feel strongly about and created placards - and the issues were certainly varied: cutting down food miles by buying locally; protest against deforestation and pollution; stereotyping and homework! A game showing how Grey Squirrels are taking territory from the native red ones, and how someone protecting them can help, made us think how we could make a difference.



We have also been engineers – making paper airplanes, seeing how well they fly, then putting weights on to see how that changes their flight – and we certainly have some budding engineers here. And to celebrate Chinese New Year we made spiral dragons and also decorated biscuits with our initials in English and in Chinese (and some of the Chinese ones were very complicated) - the best bit though was eating them!

Lucy has been busy baking a Christmas cake which gained her the baking badge and her Express Yourself theme award; and Eloise has been upcycling plastic to gain her badge – Well done!

12<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Guiding Leaders

## Transformation - Now!

We send our condolences to Gwen and family on the loss of Bill and to Revd. Debra and family on the loss of her dad, Robert. We will continue to hold you all in our prayers.

What a shame it was that we were unable to have our first meeting of the year due to the snow and ice. We were very much looking forward to having our Faith Brunch and getting our Prayer Partners for 2024 which had to wait until our AGM at the start of February.

Decreasing membership has meant that it became necessary to review how we continue to meet as a branch. Rather than viewing this as a cause of lament, we have tried to view it as an opportunity.

We are therefore introducing a new pattern of meetings:

1st Tuesdays in the Church Hall lower room at 2.30 p.m.

3rd Tuesdays at different venues at 2.30 p.m.

We hope that this will enable us to continue our usual pattern but will encourage others to join us as we visit local cafes, coffee shops, pubs and garden centres on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. These will be advertised via the pewsheets, the church magazine and e-mail. If you would like to join the Mothers' Union e-mail list, please speak to Jean Eddleston, Jennifer White or myself.

The meetings for March are as follows:

Tuesday 5th March: Church Hall at 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 19th March: Rose and Crown, 2-6 Cockey Moor Road at 2.30 p.m.

Speaking of activities during Lent, Make A Mother's Day is the annual Mothering Sunday fundraising campaign raising funds to support global community projects which transform lives every day. The Mothers' Union website says:

We know how important mothers, caregivers and grandmothers are and how much they do to help their children, families and communities thrive, often unnoticed and without thanks.

For Mothering Sunday (10th March) we are asking you to buy a 'Gift of Dignity' to help empower women to transform their lives and reach their full potential.

Any donations will be gratefully received and added to branch members' donations to give to the campaign. Please place in an

envelope marked 'Mothers' Union Make a Mother's Day' and give it to Jean E, Jennifer W, Revds. Debra and Elaine, or any of the sidesmen.

There is also the option to purchase an individual gift online. When buying these life-changing gifts you will receive a card that explains your gift along with a Mothering Sunday greetings card, which you can give to a loved one. You are also able to give a gift in memory of someone special. More information can be found on the website - <https://mueshop.org/collections/make-a-mothers-day-2024>



Finally, we send our congratulations to our former diocesan president Barbara Taylor who is to be admitted to the Order of William Temple at a special service of Evensong at Manchester Cathedral on Sunday 3rd March at 5.30 p.m. Installation into this order is at the invitation of the Bishop of Manchester and is in recognition of the work of lay members within the diocese to champion social justice and improve the lives of others. The service will be livestreamed on the Cathedral's Facebook page for those unable to attend.

Andrew Lowe

## From the Archives – March 1999

In 'The Vicar's Letter' in March 1999, Father Alan talked about the need to be still, to take time out from the busyness of our lives and to create a space to listen. The Parish Diary for March 1999 included a number of opportunities to do just that, with Lent Devotionals and reflections. Also included in the Parish Diary was a Mothering Sunday Service and the APCM and Vestry Meeting – the years may roll on by, but the backbone of our Church and its routines and traditions remain very little changed.

'News From The Parish', contained a number of thank yous and acknowledgements – for good wishes following an operation and support following bereavement; plus a reminder that the churchyard team would be having an extra 'clean up session' ahead of the Easter weekend – all volunteers welcome; and an advanced notice that a



flower festival was to be held in September, the theme of which would be 'Say It With Flowers' – offers of help or donations towards the cost of the flowers etc would be very welcome.

In March 1999 the PCC were in the enviable position of being able to report that they were only £1,200 off paying the previous year's Parish Share in full and hoped to return the full payment in 1999. The Church & Community Hall however returned a slight deficit in their accounts, due to the significant expenses incurred during the repair and refurbishment programme.

In news from the various groups and organisations, Mothers' Union members had held a successful Jumble Sale, Young Families were planning a trip to 'Camelot', Brownies and Guides were working towards their First Aid badges, Beavers had been enjoying creating Beaver Masks, Cubs were working on their Health and Fitness badges, Scouts were looking for extra helpers to lead the group, and Ventures were looking for additional members – busy times!

In March 1999, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Hazel Uppiah, 'Secretary of Cockey Moor Women's Institute'. In March 1999 there were no Weddings recorded from the previous month, but 2 Baptisms and 3 Funerals. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 399, collections were listed as £1741.

## Praying Through The Seasons – Lent ...

*"He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye." Deuteronomy 32; 10*



Lent is a time for reflection, a time for us to commemorate the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and overcoming temptation by the devil. When we think about the wilderness, we maybe picture a desert like environment – burning heat by day, freezing cold by night; nothing and no one to reach out to or connect with. Why on earth would Jesus choose to spend time in such a place?

And yet, the wilderness is not presented as a hopeless place in the Bible. God used the wilderness to speak with His people on many separate occasions; God spoke to Abraham while he was in the wilderness. God brought the Israelites into the wilderness because He wanted to speak to them at Mount Sinai. God met with Elijah in the wilderness. God spoke to John the Baptist in the wilderness, in fact

John the Baptist spent most of his life in these tough conditions, becoming known as the Voice Calling in the Wilderness.

Each of these stories is filled with miracles. These wilderness seasons were not wasted; God used these difficult times for something meaningful and powerful. In the wilderness God was present and made Himself known.

Jesus didn't wander into the wilderness by accident; the Holy Spirit sent him there so that God could have a conversation with Him. What better place to have an important conversation than somewhere where there are no distractions.

We all have times in our lives that feel like the wilderness; our hearts and minds feel weary, maybe we feel burnt out, lonely, abandoned, unappreciated, unloved. Maybe we feel as though our prayers aren't being answered or that God has forsaken us. At these times it's important to remember that the wilderness is in fact a place of encounter; as Christians, we are never alone; the Bible suggests that the wilderness is somewhere that God calls us to for a purpose; to draw us closer to Him, to reveal Himself to us in new ways; to remind us that God will never leave us or forsake us.

*Loving God, when we find ourselves in a season of wilderness, quieten our hearts that we might hear Your voice; shine Your light upon our path that we may see the way you want us to travel; help us to remember that the wilderness is a place of encounter and of healing and of preparation; help us to trust in your plan for us, and help us to use the wilderness to grow stronger in faith and nearer to you - Amen*

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

*"When They Crucified My Lord", A BRF Centenary Classic.*

On this journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day, you are invited to become a pilgrim with Brother Ramon. Each day there is the opportunity to stop and reflect on the Gospel story, drawing insight from the experiences of those who were there during the events of the first Easter, finding inspiration and strength for the greater journey of our lives. Suffering and glory are intermingled in this book, which is designed for personal and group use, for Christians of all traditions.



## Space To Share A Prayer – Lent

Lord, you guide us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you will not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. Amen

## Top 10 Bible Verses 2023

According to 'Crosswalk.com' – the following were the world's top 10 Bible quotes for 2023:

1. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16
2. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11
3. *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* 1 Peter 5:7:
4. *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Romans 8:28:
5. *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9:
6. *"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."* Philippians 4:13:
7. *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."* 2 Corinthians 12:9:
8. *"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."* Psalm 23:1
9. *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* Genesis 1:1:
10. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23:

## For All The Saints – March; St. David

Name: David

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

Born: Uncertain – between 462 and 512, Henfynyw, Ceredigion

Died: 1<sup>st</sup> March 589

Place of burial: St. David's Cathedral, St. David's, Pembrokeshire

Patron Saint Of: Wales.

Tradition has it that David was born at Henfynyw in Ceredigion. He became renowned as a teacher and preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches throughout Wales and Brittany. St David's Cathedral stands on the site of the monastery he founded in the Glyn Rhosyn valley of Pembrokeshire.

In around 550, David attended the Synod of Brefi, where his eloquence in opposing Pelagianism caused his fellow monks to elect him primate of the region. As such he presided over the synod of Caerleon (the "Synod of Victory").

David's best-known miracle is said to have taken place when he was preaching in the middle of a large crowd at the Synod of Brefi: as David was addressing the crowds, the ground on which he stood is reputed to have risen up to form a small hill. A white dove, which became his emblem, was then seen settling on his shoulder. David is said to have denounced Pelagianism during this incident and was declared archbishop by popular acclaim.

The Monks of David's order lived a simple life, drinking only water and eating only bread with salt and herbs. Those that worked the land did so without the aid of draught animals, The Monastic Rule of David prescribed that the monks had to pull the plough themselves! The monks spent their evenings in prayer, reading and writing. No personal possessions were allowed: even to say "my book" was considered an offence.

According to tradition, David died on 1<sup>st</sup> March 589; at his passing the monastery is said to have been "filled with angels as Christ received his soul".

The last words of David to his followers are said to have been, "*Arglwyddi, brodyr, a chwiorydd, Byddwch lawen a chadwch eich ffyd a'ch credd, a gwnewch y petheu bychain a glywsoch ac y welsoch gennyf i. A mwynhau a gerdaf y fford yd aeth an tadeu idl*" which translates as, "Lords, brothers and sisters, Be joyful, and keep your

faith and your creed, and do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. And as for me, I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us."

David was buried at St. David's Cathedral, St. David's, Pembrokeshire.

## **Mothering Sunday – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Have you ever wondered who the world's most famous mother is? Google it and you will come up with many different suggestions including people such as Marie Curie, Mother Teresa – who technically was not a 'birth mother' – Cleopatra and so on.

For Christians, the world's most famous mother must be Mary, the mother of Jesus, while for Jews there is the choice between Sarah, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel ...

In the UK, and many countries around the world, we celebrate our Mother Church, by giving thanks to God for his gift, and our parental mothers on the fourth Sunday of Lent. This dates from a 16<sup>th</sup> Century tradition when people were given a day off work to travel home to attend a service at their Mother Church.

This naturally developed into visiting parental mothers at the same time and by the 17<sup>th</sup> Century the tradition had evolved of taking your mother a gift of a Simnel cake that would be eaten on Easter Sunday. We all have different reasons for giving thanks to God for both our mother church and our mothers. Here are a few thoughts and quotes about mothers and motherhood:

'All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.' Abraham Lincoln

*'God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.'*  
Rudyard Kipling

*'A mother's arms are more comforting than anyone else's.'* Princess Diana

*'Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.'* Unknown

*'There is no role in life that is more essential than that of motherhood.'*  
Elder M. Russell Ballard

## Strap Lines

At 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all.

Does a church steeple with a lightning rod on top show a lack of trust and confidence?

God grant me the facility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

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

### Be Still And Know

Be still and know that I am God;  
As we sat and listened, nothing could I hear.  
O God open my ears.

As we sat and looked around, nothing could I see.  
O God open my eyes.

As we sat to read, no book could be found.  
O God give me your word.

As we sat to be in your presence, nothing could I feel.

As we sat my senses awoke,  
My ears could hear, my eyes could see.

As we sat the peace came,  
I was filled with the Holy Spirit  
Thanks be to God. Amen

*Mary Judd*

## Time For A Smile

The minister was talking to the children about the Good Samaritan story just before they left the service to go to their own groups. He explained how the man had been beaten, robbed and left for dead. He then asked the children, "If you saw a person lying by the roadside, wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A little voice at the front immediately piped up, "I think I'd be sick."

## **The Parish Puzzler**

How many words can you make from the following letters?

W I L D E R N E S S

### **Lent... Quiz**

The answers to the following questions all contain the letters 'lent'.

1. Having sufficient.
2. A food favoured by vegetarians – can be red or green.
3. Soundless.
4. Maize flour or cornflour.
5. To back down on something.
6. Ostentatiously costly or luxurious.
7. Having mixed feelings about something.
8. Skilled.
9. Activity which involves deception.
10. Without aggression or upset.
11. Of the highest quality or standard.
12. Something used to deter things eg. flies
13. Rude or disrespectful.
14. Saint celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> February.
15. Juicy or moist when referring to food.

(Answers on page 39)

### **Quick Bible Quiz**

1. Who was the blind person that Jesus healed at Jericho?
2. Who did Jesus raise from the dead, 4 days after he had died?
3. Who was the 13<sup>th</sup> Apostle, he replaced Judas Iscariot?
4. Who did David have an affair with?
5. Who was the twin brother of Jacob?

(Answers on page 39)

## Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Lay Assistant</b>	<b>Prayers</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Lent	Barbara Clarkson Susan Campbell	Beryl Sixsmith	Alison Hartley
10 <sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday	Barbara Clarkson Jan Burrow	Lillian Haworth	Mothers' Union
17 <sup>th</sup> March 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Lent	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Peter Holden	Revd Debra
24 <sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	N/A	MidWeek Praise
31 <sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday	Mags Gillman Dennis Gillman	Christine Dawson	Alison Hartley

## Reader's Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Readings</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Lent	Beryl Sixsmith	Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 Luke 18.35-43
10 <sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday	Sue Johnson	Exodus 2.1-10 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 Luke 2.33-35
17 <sup>th</sup> March 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Lent	Peter Holden	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33
24 <sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday	MidWeek Praise	Matthew 21; 1-7 Matthew 21; 8-11
31 <sup>st</sup> March Easter Sunday	Alison Hartley	Acts 10.34-43 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 John 20.1-18

## 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.

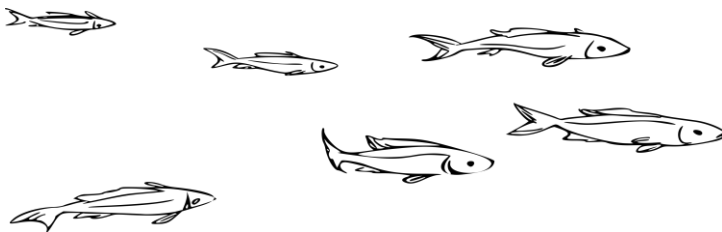
Answers to Lent Quiz: 1) Plenty, 2) Lentil, 3) Silent, 4) Polenta, 5) Relent, 6) Opulent, 7) Ambivalent, 8) Talented, 9) Fraudulent, 10) Non-violently, 11) Excellent, 12) Repellent, 13) Insolent, 14) Valentine, 15) Succulent.

Answers to Bible Quiz: 1) Bartimaeus, 2) Lazarus, 3) Matthias, 4) Bathsheba, 5) Esau.

## 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

Esther



## 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.

### Esther

There was once a very beautiful young girl named Esther. Esther was an orphan who had been brought up by her cousin, Mordecai. Mordecai was a Jew, and he had brought Esther up to follow the Jewish faith.

One day the King decided to hold a great feast and invite the rulers and most important people from all of the countries nearby. All of the Kings and Princes held their banquet together, whilst their wives and daughters had their own feast with Queen Vashti.

The King got very drunk and ordered the Queen to put on her crown and join his guests, so they could see how beautiful she was. Queen Vashti knew the King was drunk, so she refused.



The King was furious that Queen Vashti had disobeyed him; he passed a law preventing Vashti from being the Queen, and instead he sent his servants all over the land to look for a new Queen for him.

One of the Servants came to Esther's village; Esther was very beautiful, and the Servant knew that the King would want to marry her, so he spoke to Esther's cousin and told him that he must take her to the King's palace. The King's Servant didn't know

that Esther was a Jew; Esther's cousin knew that the King didn't like the Jews, so he told Esther not to tell the King that she was a Jew. Esther was very frightened - she knew that she would be in great danger if the King discovered her secret. She hoped that



the King would choose someone else to be the new Queen, but as soon as he saw how beautiful Esther was, the king fell in love with her.

One day, as Esther's cousin was waiting outside the palace to hear any news of her, he overheard 2 servants plotting to kill the King; he told what he had heard, and the servants were arrested. The King wrote Esther's cousin's name in the Royal Record Book.



The King's chief advisor was a very snooty man called Haman. He demanded that everyone should bow down to the floor when he passed by; everyone did this - except Esther's cousin, because, as a Jew, he only worshipped God. This made Haman furious, and he plotted how to kill him.

He came up with a cunning plan to get the King to sign a new law which gave permission for all of the Jews in the land to be killed!!!

Neither Haman or the King knew that Queen Esther was a Jew ... But Esther had been chosen by God to do a very special thing - Esther's job was to save her people.

Esther decided to hold a great feast and invited the King and



Haman to it. The King told Esther that on the day of the banquet he would grant her 1 very special request, he asked her to think carefully about what she would ask for.

The King had been reading his Royal Record Book, and he noticed that Esther's cousin had never been rewarded for saving the King's life. The King asked Haman, 'What shall be done for the man that the King chooses to reward?'

Haman thought the King wanted to reward him! He was very excited. He said to the King, 'Dress this man in the King's robe and crown, then let the man ride the King's horse throughout the land so that everyone will know that the King honours him.'

Haman really believed that the King meant to do all these things for him, so when the King told Haman that he actually meant to honour Esther's cousin in this way, Haman was furious; but he had to do as the King told him. As Haman led Esther's cousin through the land wearing the fine robes, all of the people cheered; only Haman knew that he was planning to trick the King into agreeing to have all the Jews killed, and that would include Esther's cousin.



The day of Esther's feast arrived. When the King asked Esther what request she would make, she told him all about Haman's plot to trick him into signing the new law to have all the Jews killed - the King was furious and ordered that Haman should be put to death instead.

Esther made her request to the King - she requested him to sign a new law which would protect the Jews and allow them to defend themselves. The King granted her request and also gave her cousin the job of Chief Advisor, so that the King would never again be tricked, and the Jews would be safe.



### **So, What Can We Learn From Esther's Story?**

Esther was a beautiful yet humble young woman, she perhaps didn't have the best start in life, but she was brave and trusted in God, and used the position that she found herself in to do God's work - through Esther's bravery in speaking out when she believed it was right, a whole generation of people were saved.

### **Prayer Time**

Heavenly Father, when we see or hear something that we know is wrong; help us to be brave enough to tell someone, so that something can be done about it - Amen



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