

A few words from the Vicar

Well, 'Coffee and Conversation' got off to a great start. The inaugural session was so packed, I couldn't get a seat! Nonetheless, it was great to meet up with folk for a chat.

'Coffee and Conversation' is our new initiative (led by Revd Elaine and a group of volunteers) that aims to serve the older folk of this area (like me!) by providing somewhere where they can come for a brew and a chat. The next one is 10.30am – 12 noon on Tuesday 13th June in the Church and Community Hall.

Come along. There might even be some cake (yum, yum).

On 11th June, we have our annual Walk of Witness around the village. This is something we do jointly with Ainsworth Methodists and is a long-standing tradition. One of my predecessors, Rev'd Alfred Wood, who was Vicar here from 1905 to 1931, described the 1928 Sermons Sunday as one of the outstanding events on the moor. It was in July then, with each church holding their own event on separate Sundays. In those days relatives tidied graves and scrubbed gravestones for weeks beforehand and, on the day itself, something like 300 bouquets and wreaths were placed on graves.

Lots of people returned to the village for the day, which in addition to the walk itself, include three packed services (so packed that some stood outside in the Churchyard). There would have been special preachers invited for the day, Sermons Singers, a special children's choir and, in living memory (I have seen the photos), there was a Rose Queen.

This is a fine tradition. Being a Londoner by birth, I remember being amazed by Christ's Church Harwood's Sermons Sunday when I moved there some 40 years ago, and I am sure the Ainsworth event would have truly been amazing too!

In Alfred Wood's time, the walk was led by a brass band and they sang hymns. Well, we will be led by a brass band this year and we'll be singing a few hymns too!

So, come and join us for this year's Walk of Witness. We assemble at the Church and Community Hall and begin promptly at 10.30am. There will be some games afterwards (organised by Bill and Gwen White), so bring a packed lunch!

Every Blessing

Dave