



Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Artwork courtesy of Lily-May Sowden, age 9.

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

December 2022

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Our church building is COVID-secure, so you can either attend worship physically or worship with us on Facebook:

Sundays

- 8am 2nd & 4th Sundays in church for COVID-secure BCP Communion
- 10.30am in church for COVID-secure Communion
- 12 Noon for live-streamed midday worship on our Facebook Page
- 6.30pm 1st Sundays in church for COVID-secure BCP Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

- 6.30pm in church for Mid-Week Praise, recording posted later on Facebook

To join us on Facebook, follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth/>

NB: If you are not on Facebook, you can still watch the service – when it says “Log in” “Create New Account” simply click “Not Now” (which is below these two options)

If you missed any of our livestreamed services, some of them can be found on our website <https://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk/online-worship.html> or our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1kRCPBlymPoDSyhH9CZYrw>

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



Parish Diary December 2022

Sun. 4th Dec **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10:30am Holy Communion (in Church)
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
6:30pm BCP Evening Prayer (in Church)

Wed. 7th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in church)

Sun. 11th **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00am BCP Communion (in Church)
10:30am Carols & Communion (in Church)
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Wed. 14th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

Fri. 16th 9:30am School Christmas Service

Sun 18th **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10:30am Holy Communion (in Church)
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
6-30pm Carol Service

*Traditional nine lessons and carols, followed
by mince pies and mulled wine*

Wed. 21st 6:30pm **Christingle & Christmas Mid-Week Praise**
**** Please note change of date ****

Sat. 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**

2-00pm Christmas Eve at the Crib
A Special service for children of all ages
11-30pm Midnight Communion

Sun 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:30am Holy Communion
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Sun. 1st Jan **THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS**

10:30am Holy Communion
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

A few words from the Vicar

Advent has arrived and so begins a new Church year.

Advent is a season of hope, a special time of penitence, and joyful anticipation as we prepare spiritually for two events, one in the past, one in the future. We both prepare to celebrate our Saviour's birth at Christmas and remind ourselves that we ought to prepare spiritually for Jesus' return as our judge.

Advent won't last, of course. Before the four weeks are up, our Christmas services will come crowding in, displacing this important reflective season with Christmas carols and the like.

That's not a moan, by the way. Simply a recognition of the realities of Church life. I enjoy singing Christmas carols and, given that Advent does not conclude until Christmas Night, when else would we hold Christingle, sing Christmas carols etc?

Anyway, we can still acknowledge the special Advent combination of joy and penitence by removing flowers from Church, changing the colour of Church hangings to purple, omitting the Gloria, and saying the Commandments in full. Oh, and we'll take the opportunity to sing, *'Lo he comes with clouds descending'* a couple of times. One of my favourite hymns!

But, before long, the Christmas Tree will be rescued from the balcony and decorated with lights and baubles, the crib will be set in its usual place, and the pew-end Christmas lanterns attached and switched on.

As always, we have a full programme of services during December. Full details can be found in the Parish Diary. So, come along. Come along to our Carol Service and enjoy some after-service mince pies and mulled wine

Sadly, this will be my last Christmas at Ainsworth. No more Ainsworth Christmases for me. I have served as Vicar here for a little over 12 years and am fast approaching the compulsory retirement age for parish priests. Rather than wait until the last moment for the Diocesan heavies to drag me kicking and screaming from the vicarage, I shall retire on 28th February.

There will be time for goodbyes later, but all good things come to an end, and it is the right time for me to go. I'm not sure where my ministry will take me, but I don't doubt that God has something lined up for me.

I have applied to Bishop David for what is known as 'Permission to Officiate'. If granted, this will allow me to continue to exercise my priestly ministry within Manchester Diocese, except for the parish of Ainsworth. So, from 28th February, our futures will diverge.

As for this parish, it is now more important than ever that you engage fully with our new mission community. Very soon, you will need their help. In today's Church of England, it is difficult for parishes to be independent, not least because in most dioceses the ideal of one vicar per parish is simply unaffordable (hopefully, not forever though). Success in mission lies in the emergence of more lay leaders and parishes collaborating with one another. There is no sense wishing things were as they were in the last century; we are where we are!

Polly and I aren't moving far, only a couple of miles away to Harwood. Maybe our paths will cross when out shopping in Harwood, Bolton or Bury – I plan to take full advantage of my bus pass!

In the meantime, let's have a holy Advent and a joyful Christmas.

God Bless

Dave

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the December 2022 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine.

As I write this column, we are still clinging on to the final days of November, the weather has turned, and the daylight is dwindling. It's hard to believe that another year is almost over and we are once again entering the season of Advent and the run up to Christmas.

Whilst Covid-19 hasn't gone away, and for many people life will never be quite as it was pre-pandemic, the lockdowns of 2020/21 now seem like a distant memory. Thank goodness for the progress that has been made in managing the virus and let us hope and pray that this progress is maintained.

Whatever the coming year has in store for us as individuals, we can be certain that it has change in store for us as a Parish, Dave has announced his pending retirement and so we will enter a period of interregnum whilst we await the selection of his replacement; thankfully, as our Mission Community continues to grow and develop, we will be able to look to others within the MC for support and encouragement in the weeks and months ahead.

As 2022 draws to a close, let us all raise a glass to the outgoing year, and look forward with positivity and hope for the future, whatever that may bring. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Alison*

From The Registers

HOLY BAPTISMS	We welcome into the family of God:
October 2 nd	Dorothy Jean Lee Burns
23 rd	Savannah Edith Lewis-Roberts
WEDDINGS	We offer the church's congratulations to:
October 1 st	David Cresswell Robson and Susan Linda Haworth
FUNERALS	We commend to God's keeping
October 3 rd	Alan Clifford
7 th	Winnie Horrobin
25 th	Michael Hargreaves
26 th	Margaret Irene Turner

Christingle 2022 - Wednesday 21st December 6.30pm

Please note that the date of our Christingle Service has been changed due to it clashing with the school Christmas play! It will now be held on Wednesday 21st December at 6.30pm.

Please come along to the Christingle service, to help raise much needed funds for The Children's Society and the valuable help they give children in need. This is a really fun service involving putting together your own Christingle, with all the parts provided.

The project workers from the Children's Society are out in the city centres 365 days a year, in all weather, offering homeless children a safe place to stay, a hot meal, a shower and a listening ear. Sometimes children are referred to the Society by the Police or local authorities, but whatever the reason, the project workers or other specialist advisors will continue to work with those children until their situation has resolved.

The help which the Society gives to children and young people is completely funded from charitable contributions. The Children's Society has been a charity for over 100 years and all the money

donated at Christingle services goes to pay for the work that they do with young people. Please help them to look after children in desperate need.

There will be Children's Society Christingle envelopes in Church during the Christingle service and also throughout December. Please pop your donation in the envelope and seal it before putting it on the collection plate on top of the font at the back of Church.

Thank you for thinking of children at this special time of year. I hope everyone has a happy and memorable Christmas and wish you a very happy New Year.

Susan Campbell - Local Secretary, The Children's Society

Bible Reading Fellowship

After 2 years of challenge and uncertainty, the Bible Reading Fellowship have celebrated their centenary and give thanks for all the readers who have supported them and whose lives have been touched by their work.

The Bible Reading Fellowship have also raised funds for one of their publications, *Comfort in Uncertain Times* by Rachel Turner, to be translated into Ukrainian and they are now fundraising to make this available free of charge to churches and organisations working with Ukrainians and those supporting them in the UK. If you would like to donate to this appeal, you can do so at brf.org.uk/donate or by sending a cheque payable to BRF.

Cards and gifts, including their beautiful centenary rose are available via their website brfonline.org.uk. A variety of books include *The Bible in Cockney* and our Advent book *Sharing the Christmas Story*, which traces both familiar and unfamiliar stories over the 5 weeks of Advent and allows us to fully inhabit Christmas by reading reflectively, praying thoughtfully and absorbing the message of God's love for all people, so that it becomes part of our daily lives."

Church Christmas Fair

A huge "thank you" to everyone who helped to make the Fair a success - by preparing / helping/ supervising stalls, providing items for the stalls and raffle - or simply attending and spending! And thanks also to Casalingo and Individual Beauty Salon for providing additional raffle prizes. The total amount raised was just over £2400!

Online Giving

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

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

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

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



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

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

Parish Magazine Advertising

If you, or anyone you know, runs a local business, why not consider advertising in our Parish Magazine? As an 'E-Magazine', our Parish Mag not only goes out to all those on our Parish mailing lists, it can easily be shared and is also accessible via our website

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk our facebook page and www.achurchnearyou.com

Thus potentially, the reach for advertisers is much greater than it has been previously.

For more information, please contact Alison on 07952-709041, or e-mail ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Easyfundraising

Our Easyfundraising total is now £887.16. We currently have 27 supporters registered, but we could always find room for more!

If you're shopping online, make sure you use #easyfundraising; over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise a FREE donation for

Ainsworth Parish Church - Bolton every time you shop. And it's not just for when you're buying gifts; you can use easyfundraising when you book holidays, train tickets, even when you insure your home or car!

Our cause is registered as Ainsworth Parish Church – Bolton; why not sign up now at: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=ivcmuo&char=36470&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=anwupsharebox

Mission Community News – Advent Zoom Prayers

Following on from the success of the Lent Zoom prayers and Zoom prayers throughout Pentecost, the churches of our Mission Community will be coming together once more, for 'Advent Zoom Prayers'.

As previously, the prayer sessions will be held each evening at 6pm on Zoom, for approximately 10 minutes, with each of the churches within our Mission Community contributing. The sessions are generally lead by a different person each evening, which ensures a wide variety of prayer themes and approaches to prayer are included.

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

Advent Zoom Prayers begin on Monday 28th November and will be held at 6pm each weeknight throughout Advent. Simply click the link below to take part:

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

Treasurer

We are currently looking for a volunteer to ensure our financial records are up to date, produce financial statements and simple management accounts, and undertake allied tasks. This role is crucial to the mission of our Church. You do not need formal accountancy qualifications; financial literacy will do. Think you might be interested? Please contact Revd Dave to discuss.



Candlelight Prayer



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

Simply click the following link to join in:

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

Or for more info contact Alison on 07952-709041

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





Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 13th December

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





Mission Community Zoom Prayers Are Back!

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

Starts on Monday 28th November, then each weekday evening throughout Advent @ 6pm on Zoom; simply click on the link below to take part:

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

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

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 13th December

10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome

Candlelight prayer

Friday evenings, 8pm on Zoom

Join us for 10 minutes of quiet prayer and reflection; an oasis of calm at the end of a busy working week.

Ainsworth Social Club

Tuesday 6th December & Tuesday 20th December

7.30 – 9pm, Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

We are an independent social club for the over 50's, our motto is ‘Challenge yourself’. Want to know more? Check out our facebook page ‘Ainsworth

Social Club’, or e-mail ainsworthsc@outlook.com

Ainsworth History Society

Tuesday 13th December

7.30pm; Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Everyone welcome.

Advent Conversations At St. Andrew's Radcliffe

On Zoom – Starts Weds 30th November @ 7.30pm

Or ...

Thursday 1st, 8th & 15th November, 7.30 – 8.45pm @ St. Andrew's Vicarage.

For more info visit www.standrewsradcliffe.org.uk

Ainsworth Community Walk

Every Tuesday @ 1pm; meet outside The Duke William

Why not explore your local green space and join us every Tuesday for a free circular guided walk along local country footpaths and across open farmland, taking in the beautiful surrounding scenery? For more info visit

walkwithme@bury.gov.uk

Around The Organisations ...

Beavers

This month the Beavers have made bats for Halloween and used chalks on black paper to draw bonfires and fireworks for November 5th.

We have welcomed Max, Saul, James, Andrew, Jack, Edward and Alexander who have all been invested into Beavers. We hope that they enjoy their time with us.

Peter, Max and Giovanna helped to clear masses of leaves from the churchyard on the Saturday morning before the Remembrance Day service.

During the Remembrance Service the Beavers stood quiet and very still for the two minutes silence at 11 o'clock and afterwards James and Jack, two new young Beavers, placed the wreath at the Altar - well done to them all.

The Beavers are now looking forward to their Christmas Party. We wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Rikki

12th Radcliffe Guides and Brownies

We are pleased to now have three new patrol leaders in Guides – Grace, Izzy and Poppy, who are supported by Amelia, Eloise and Isabelle as seconds. And in Brownies, Lily May gained her languages badge and her Skills theme award. At the October Church Parade, Lily May carried the Brownie Flag, Scarlett carried the Guide flag with Grace and Sofia escorting. Sofia and Izzy did the reading and Amelia, Grace and Lily May did the prayers

In our meetings we had quite a variety of activities: we all designed very colourful bird magnets and then tried tangram puzzles – we struggled to make a square (leaders included!) but the girls made interesting pictures with the tangram pieces.

We looked at how we could help others in an emergency. Using DR ABC, we learned what we should do if we found someone who appeared to be unconscious, looking for danger; checking if they were responsive; their airways clear and if they were breathing – and then we practiced putting them in the recovery position.



The Guides discovered what to do if someone has a burn and they looked at how you could tell how a person feels if they didn't say and the different ways in which we can express emotions. In developing their skills for the future, they learned about different types of light bulbs and the safety rules when changing light bulbs – then had a go at changing a variety of light bulbs for themselves.

The Brownies learned how to call the emergency services and what to say; they also looked at ways of helping an injured person using just things they had to hand. They have also done posters about the things they liked best about Brownies. So quite a mixed bag of activities!

12th Radcliffe Guiding Leaders

Transformation - Now!

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

At the end of October, I was pleased to be able to attend Mothers' Union Manchester AGM and Autumn Council. This was, as always, a very informative session though with a tinge of sadness as it was the last time that we would all be meeting at Church House. Next year, the Mothers' Union Office and shop will be moving, along with most of the Church Diocesan departments to St John's House in Bury.

At the Council meeting, we had two presentations from people who wanted to say "thank you" to Mothers' Union for help they have received.

Firstly, the CEO of 'Out There', a registered charity providing emotional and practical support and an information service for families of prisoners in Greater Manchester, thanked us for our support for such things as:

1. Providing refreshments at Family Days within a prison.
2. Funding vegetable boxes which children build when they were visiting and continue planting at home. Such activities improve resilience and develop strong family units for when their relative is released.
3. Working on a pilot program in Trafford for men released on probation. We provide rucksacks containing essential toiletries which are much appreciated, helping with self-esteem and demonstrating that someone does care, and they can make good choices that will impact their lives for the better.

We also heard from Linda Barlow and an articulate and enthusiastic young man, Ali, aged 12 years, who thanked us for supporting his family and others through 'Eagles Wings', a mutual support group for Asylum seekers, refugees and local people in Bury. He thanked us for providing a holiday in Wales for him and his family. It helped him and his siblings to feel included when they returned to school. He proudly modelled an ornate cloak which members of the group had embroidered. The group support each other by providing a time and place to relax, exchanges of experiences as well as getting advice from professionals on health matters, financial management, debt management and language classes. Ali was delighted that his mother had gained the confidence to go swimming.

Through the hard work of Tricia Stokes, our Deanery Leader, and a band of knitters, we have sent over 300 knitted teddies to Manchester Airport (a request from the Airport Chaplaincy) to give to Ukrainian children as they arrived in this country.

Since the start of this year, 2546 people have been impacted by the work of Mothers' Union in Manchester, including 432 in October alone. Some achievement to be proud of!

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party on Tuesday, 6th December, 2pm for 2.30pm. Just another little reminder not to forget your Prayer Partner's gift. Any problems, contact Andrew or me.

We will then have a break over Christmas and New Year and meet up again on 17th January.

Finally, on behalf of all members, I wish everyone who reads this magazine a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Jennifer White

Ainsworth History Society www.ainsworthhistorysociety.org

We meet on the Second Tuesday of each month from 7:30pm in the upstairs room of Ainsworth Church and Community Hall (on the corner of Bury Old Road and Ainsworth Hall Road). The next meeting is Tuesday 13th December. All are welcome.

November Meeting:

At the request of some of the members, we looked at drinking houses in Ainsworth – and there were quite a few! - and also at wells in the village (as many of the brew houses had wells attached to them)



From the Archives – December 1997

The Parish Diary for December 1997 was positively saturated with Christmas activities; a coach had been booked to take parishioners to Whalley Abbey for the Parish Christmas lunch (not too late to book), there were 3 carol services listed – Mothers' Union & Church Women's Fellowship Carol Service, Day School Carols and the traditional 9 lessons and carols Parish Carol Service, a Christingle Service, a Crib Service at which Bishop David would be in attendance, a Midnight Communion Service, and finally the Christmas Day service – and breathe!!

The Parish News page contained a number of thank yous relating to the recent Christmas Fair; thanks for goods provided, thanks for help on the day, and thanks to all who supported the Fair, which seems to have been a huge success. An additional article in this section came from the Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary, with news of a new BRF publication called "LiveWires", aimed at children / teenagers – anyone interested, please get in touch.

The various groups and uniformed organisations had Christmas very much at the forefront of their minds; Church Women's Fellowship and Mothers' Union members were looking forwards to Christmas outings; Young Families had a 'Play & Sing' session planned, plus a children's

Christmas party AND a ladies meal; whilst Rainbows, Brownies and Guides were looking forwards to a trip to the panto. In other news, Hilary Hartley had stepped down as Guide Lieutenant after 14 years of service, handing over the reins to Alison Anstee; Ken Jones had made a welcome return as Assistant Cub Scout Leader, and the lads groups had wiped the board at the District Swimming Gala, with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures all winning their sections and bringing the Group Trophy home to Ainsworth for the 4th consecutive year – what an achievement!

The Day School reported their Christmas fund raising events had gone well; the playground appeal had reached £3678-27. Various other Christmas events were planned before the end of term, including plays and concerts.

In December 1997, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Revd. Alan Flaherty. The Holiday Church featured was St. Mary and All Saints, Whalley, with an interesting and informative article written by Philip Hinchliffe.

In December 1997 there were 3 Baptisms, 1 Wedding and 3 funerals recorded from the previous month. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 348 with the Collections listed as £1408.

The Season Of Christingle

(Artwork courtesy of Jessica Sowden, age 6)

The idea of Christingles came from a Moravian Church in Germany in 1747, when the minister, John de Watteville, gave children at the service a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. This represented Jesus being the light of the world and the final prayer of that first service was:

"Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become".



The custom went around the world with the church with Missionaries bringing the Moravian Church to England in the late 1700s, and with it their custom of Christingle. In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held either on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve

Over the years the symbolism of the Christingle has grown from that simple candle, into what's known as a Christingle today.

Here's what the different parts of the Christingle represent:

- The orange is round like the world.
- The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God.
- The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us.
- The four sticks point in all directions and symbolise North, South, East and West - they also represent the four seasons.
- The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets!) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and the rain.

The word Christingle could have come from several sources. It might be an 'English' version of 'Christkindl' (meaning little Christ child), the present bringer in some parts of Germany and other European countries, who represents the baby Jesus. It could be the putting together of the words 'Christmas' and 'ingle'. Ingle is an old Scots word for fire and so that would make it mean the 'Christ Light'. As Christingles originally came from Germany, the first theory is more likely.

Christingles became more widely known in England when the Children's Society began to use them to front up their Christmas fundraising campaign. The first Christingle service held in the Church of England by The Children's Society was in 1968; the idea came from John Pensom who subsequently became known as "Mr Christingle"! People didn't think the service would work as they thought that making the Christingles would be too complicated - but they were proved wrong, and the custom has spread through to all kinds of churches and is now one of the most common and popular Christmas services in the UK, especially among children, with monies collected at the services generally being donated to support the work of the Children's Society.

Hints And Tips From Yesteryear

These nuggets of information first appeared in the Parish Magazines of 1997:

"To keep brown sugar soft, put a slice of bread in the same container as the sugar. The sugar will pull the moisture from the bread and stay soft." (*Who does these things to find them out?? Ed*)

Top 20 Christmas Carols of 2021

Each year, throughout December, Classic FM invites listeners to vote for their favourite Christmas Carols, the top 30 are then counted down on Christmas Day between 1 and 3pm. In 2021, 'O Holy Night' took the top spot for the sixth consecutive year, with 'Silent Night' coming in a close second. Here's the Classic Fm top 20 carols from 2021:

1. Holy Night
2. Silent Night
3. In The Bleak Midwinter (Gustav Holst version)
4. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
5. In The Bleak Midwinter (Howard Darke version)
6. O Come All Ye Faithful
7. Carol Of The Bells
8. O Little Town Of Bethlehem
9. Once In Royal David's City
10. Away In A Manger
11. Joy To The World
12. O Come, O Come Emmanuel
13. Ding Dong! Merrily On High
14. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
15. The Holly And The Ivy
16. Good King Wenceslas
17. In Dulci Jubilo
18. Gaudete
19. Coventry Carol
20. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Just A Thought

Weaknesses are simply strengths in the wrong environment.

Words Of Comfort

Many of us have a 'go to' passage or verse from the bible that gives us particular comfort in times of difficulty or need. According to the website www.christianitytoday.com since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, online Bible searches have soared, and a record number of people have turned to online scripture for passages addressing fear, healing and justice.

The final instalment in this series is an article written by Bishop Mark Davies, which appeared in the October edition of 'Crux'.

"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Bishop Mark Davies wrote ...

"It has been a tough few years for all of us in one way or another and many charities have warned that we face a challenging winter ahead – something that will resonate with many of us.

So how do we make sense of the words of St. Paul to the Thessalonians? This is not a call to diminish the challenges and sorrows of life. Indeed, our Christian faith compels us to take these sorrows very seriously, as Jesus did. Now, Paul calls us to give thanks in everything and not for everything- an important distinction in my experience.

The scripture and our liturgy call us to be thankful people – we are a people who have the Eucharist, the great Thanksgiving, at the heart of who we are and what we do. But am I thankful, are we thankful?"

Bishop Mark then went on to share an exercise which aims to help to develop a spirit of thankfulness; why not give it a go:

- "Write down the names of 3 people or things that you want to give thanks for.
- Have a conversation with someone and share with them what you are most thankful for.
- Tell someone that you're thankful for them.
- In the words of the Prayer Book – find a way to show forth your thanks not only with your lips but in your life. Prayer and action go hand in hand.
- Reflect on the difference that expressing your thanks has made in your life and in your relationship with God and others."

Hidden Gems

Hardcastle Craggs

Situated just North of Hebden Bridge, Hardcastle Craggs is a spectacular wooded Pennine valley, historically part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and today owned and managed by the National Trust.

Covering an area of approximately 400 acres, Hardcastle Craggs is comprised of 2 densely wooded valleys that meet at right angles forming a unique habitat which has become home to a wide variety of wildlife and foliage; throughout the valley are a series of small rocky outcrops of millstone grit, known as the craggs, which again are unique to this area.

Through the base of the valley, Hebden Water flows down from the north, continuing on towards Hebden Bridge in the South.

Hardcastle Craggs is different every time you visit, but is never less than spectacular; in Spring the valley sides are carpeted with bluebells and the trees are bright with fresh buds and leaves; moving through to the summer months and the trees are now in full leaf, anemones, wild garlic, and campion are widespread, filling the air with a heady fragrance. As the autumn months draw in, the landscape is transformed to a sea of orange, gold, red and brown as the trees begin to shed their leaves; then on into winter with pockets of snow bright against the dark mossy ground beneath the now bare trees.

There are many miles of well maintained, waymarked footpaths throughout the valley; alternatively, you can head off through the woodland, wherever the mood takes you.

Gibson Mill is situated within Hardcastle Craggs woodland and beside Hebden Water; it was built in the early 1800s, 1 of the first mills of the industrial revolution, it used water power to produce cotton cloth up until 1890. In the early 1900's the mill was refitted and used as an entertainment emporium by the locals, offering a dance hall, roller rink, refreshments and even boating on the mill pond!

After world war II, the mill slipped into disuse and disrepair, eventually being acquired by the National Trust in 1950. Since then, the mill has been restored to create a building which is totally sufficient on natural resources, and is used by the National Trust as a visitor centre and learning resource. As you would expect, it also houses a small café

area, supplying the constant stream of walkers, cyclists and general visitors with much needed refreshments.

Prayer Opportunities Within Our Mission Community

One of the many benefits of coming together to form a mission community with other churches in our area, is having the opportunity to get to know people from the other churches, and thus to begin to share ideas, join in with things that are happening in other churches, and build a network of support and encouragement between our churches.

There are a number of 'Advent Initiatives' going on throughout the Mission Community; Advent Zoom Prayers runs each weeknight @ 6pm for approximately 10 minutes; simply click the link below to join in <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFOz09>

St. Andrew's Radcliffe also have a series called 'Advent Conversations' which will be held on Thursday the 1st, 8th and 15th December from 7.30 – 8.45pm at St. Andrew's Vicarage, or via Zoom starting on Weds 30th November at 7.30pm.

For more info on either of these visit www.standrewsradcliffe.org.uk

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

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's hope and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever;
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thy own eternal spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thy all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy gracious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

High Days And Holidays

December – International Jane Austen Day; 16th December 2022

The Jane Austen Centre in Bath, has hosted the annual Jane Austen Festival for a number of years, but in 2014 they expanded this to include International Jane Austen Day, which is held on 16th December – Jane Austen's birthday.

Jane Austen was born on 16th December 1775, in Steventon, Hampshire, where her father, the Reverend George Austen, was rector. She was the second daughter and seventh child in a family of eight, her closest companion throughout her life was her elder sister, Cassandra; neither Jane nor Cassandra ever married. Their father was a scholar who encouraged the love of learning in his children. His wife, Cassandra (née Leigh), was a woman of ready wit, famed for her impromptu recitals and stories.

Jane Austen's family circle was extensive, and included numerous cousins and friends, providing her with a rich source of inspiration for her writing; her own neighbourhood, Bath and occasional visits to London, form the backdrop to much of her work.

Whilst Jane Austen began writing at an early age, she was 36 when her first novel, *Sense And Sensibility*, was published in 1811 – and this anonymously. *Pride And Prejudice* followed in 1813, *Mansfield Park* in 1814, and *Emma* in 1815. *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey* were both published posthumously in 1817.

Jane Austen's novels were known for exploring topics such as the dependence of women on marriage to achieve social and economic security; whilst this was very much a fact of the times, it was deemed as rather shocking to put those sentiments into print. Jane Austen used a mixture of irony, realism and social comedy to paint a vivid and realistic picture of the issues and difficulties that women faced at that time, her novels became timeless classics, which have continued to increase in popularity long after her death.

Whilst Jane Austen writes extensively about love and relationships, there is little information to be had regarding her own relationships; it is thought that she may have been engaged at one time to a close friend of the family who subsequently died, however, her sister, Cassandra, was determined to protect Jane's privacy on these matters, and was careful to destroy all letters pertaining to these matters following her sister's death.

Following a period of deteriorating health, Jane Austen died on the 18th July 1817, at the age of 42, and was subsequently buried at Winchester Cathedral. Following her death her brother, Henry, 'took up the gauntlet' on Jane's behalf; announcing her authorship to the world, and overseeing the publication of *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*. Interestingly, at that time, there was no recognition that the literary world had lost one of the best writers and keenest observers of society; true recognition came many years after Jane Austen's death.

Be Inspired

"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

Mark 10:27

Cook's Corner



Easy Mushroom Soup

You Will Need:

- 90g butter
- 2 medium onions, roughly chopped
- 1 garlic clove, chopped
- 500g mushrooms, finely chopped – a mixture of chestnut & button mushrooms works well with this recipe.
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 1l hot chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 bay leaf
- 4 tbsp single cream
- Sprinkle of chopped parsley

Method:

1. Heat the butter in a large saucepan, then fry the chopped onion and garlic over a low heat for approx 10 mins until soft.
2. Add the mushrooms and cook over a high heat for approx 3 mins until soft
3. Add the flour and mix to combine.
4. Pour in the stock then bring to the boil whilst stirring.
5. Add the bay leaf and simmer for a further 10 mins
6. Discard the bay leaf, then blitz the mushroom mixture with a hand blender until smooth.
7. Reheat the soup and stir through the cream.
8. Scatter the parsley over the soup, then serve piping hot with warm, crusty bread

Space To Share A Prayer

Loving God,

In my restlessness, may I find rest in you.

In my fears, may I find peace in you.

In my confusion, may I find understanding in you.

In my wanderings, may I find my true home in you.

Amen

Strap Lines

A wise person is one who thinks twice before saying nothing

All of us could take a lesson from the weather; it pays no attention to criticism

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional

The secret of happiness lies in liking what you do and not in doing what you like.

God didn't promise a life with Him would be easy or painless; He just promised it would be worth it.

Time For A Smile

FACEBOOK for Seniors - For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at that moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "Like it". And it works just like Facebook. I already have four people following me. Two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

A local authority notice: There has been a change of mind regarding a name for our new housing complex for the elderly. We feel that St Peter's Close is inappropriate.

During his rounds, a vicar asked a man he met casually if he ever attended the local church. When the man said he never attended, the vicar asked him what he had against the church.

"Plenty," said the man, "the first time I went they threw water all over my head; the second time they tied me to a woman I have had to support ever since and the next time I go, no doubt they'll throw dirt on me."

The Parish Puzzler

Christmas Carol Quiz ...

Can you identify the following carols from there first letters?

Eg. A I A M = Away In A Manger

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

(Answers on page 30)

Village Trivia

Last month's question:

Q. What time is the last postal collection made at Ainsworth Post Office on a Saturday?

A. 11.45am

This month's question:

Q. Where would you find the Stuart Fairclough Pavillion?

Answer in next month's magazine.

Who's Who

Vicar	Revd Dave Thomson Christ Church Vicarage Ainsworth Hall Road. Ainsworth BL2 5RY vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk Twitter @Vicar_Dave	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Church Treasurer	Vacancy	
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	Geoff Hampson	Bookings via website
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com
Magazine Secretary		
Magazine Adverts	June Brooks	01204 527244
Primary School Head	D Gerrard BA(Hons)PGCE	01204 527484

Services

Sunday 8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am	Family Service, 2 nd Sunday Family & Parade Service
12.00pm	Baptisms (Except 2 nd and last Sunday)

Weds 6.15pm Mid-Week Praise

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

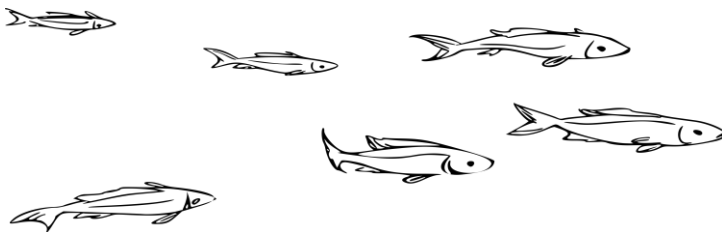
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage and Funerals

Contact Revd Dave Thomson.

(Answer to Christmas Carol Quiz: 1) Once In Royal David's City, 2) O Come All Ye Faithful, 3) Angels From The Realms Of Glory, 4) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, 5) Silent Night, 6) Good King Wenceslas Looked Out, 7) I Saw Three Ships, 8) The Holly And The Ivy, 9) Ding Dong Merrily On High, 10) O little Town Of Bethlehem, 11) Unto Us A Boy Is Born, 12) Joy To The World, 13) While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night, 14) Three Kings From Persian Lands Afar, 15) In The Bleak Mid-winter.

Who's Who For Church Organisations

Mothers Union	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Altar Flowers	Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
ABC First Steps Toddler Group	Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Jennifer White	07964 587694
Group Leader	Bill White group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.00pm in the Church Hall Leader Valerie Watts	01204 398634
Cub Scouts	Friday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall	
Scouts 14 th Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Monday 7.30 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader John Turner	01204 381590
Rainbows 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 4.30pm to 6.00pm in the Church Hall Rainbow Guider	
Brownies 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045



Little Fishes

Moses - Part 1



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.

This month, Little Fishes is all about Moses. Moses is one of THE most important religious leaders in the whole of history, but, like so many of the people who God chooses to do important things, Moses' story begins in a very unusual way ... his story begins in the book of Exodus.

Moses

When Joseph lived in Egypt, he got on really well with Pharaoh; if you remember, it was Joseph that had saved the Egyptian people from starving when there was a huge famine and the crops failed.

Moses was born about 200 years after this, and lots of things had changed in Egypt in that time; Joseph had died a long time ago, and so had the good Pharaoh, but Joseph's descendants (the Israelites) still lived in Egypt, and they had done very well for themselves. In fact, they had done so well that the new Pharaoh was getting a bit worried that the Israelite people might try to take over Egypt completely! And so he hatched a plan - he made a law that all of the Israelite people had to become slaves; from that day onwards they would take their orders from the Egyptian people; they weren't allowed to do anything or go anywhere without permission, and they had to do everything the Egyptians said.



Pharaoh was cruel and he encouraged the Egyptians to make the Israelite people work really hard, doing horrible jobs. If the Israelite people moaned or complained, the Egyptians simply threw them in gaol!



Not content with this, Pharaoh decided that the best way to stop the Israelite people from getting out of hand was to kill all of the baby boys, by doing this, Pharaoh thought he would eventually manage to get rid of the Israelites completely!



Can you imagine how angry and frightened the Israelite people must have been!

When Moses was born his parents hid him to begin with, but as babies start to grow, they make more noise and need more food, and become quite difficult to hide. Moses' mother was scared that the guards would find him and kill him, and so she decided to take



a big chance - she wrapped Moses in a blanket and placed him in his wicker basket, then she took the basket down to the River Nile and pushed it out into the water, trusting in God that He would allow the basket to drift and take her baby to a place of safety.

The basket drifted a little way down the river until it got caught up in some bullrushes. Moses had an older sister; she sat quietly on the riverbank to see what would happen next. Before long, Pharaoh's daughter and her maids came down to the river to bathe. Pharaoh's daughter spotted the basket caught in the reeds and heard a whispering noise coming from the basket.



"Quick!", she told her maid, "Go and fetch the basket from the reeds and let us see what is in it."

Moses' sister watched as Pharaoh's daughter took the baby from the basket and cuddled him, she listened as Pharaoh's daughter told her maids that she planned to keep the baby and take him

back with her to live in the Royal Palace; then Moses' sister had an idea ...

She went to Pharaoh's daughter and said, "The baby will need a nurse, one of his own people to feed him and raise him; would you like me to bring you one of the Israelite women to care for the baby?"

Pharaoh's daughter agreed to this, and so Moses' sister quickly ran and brought Moses' mother to her. "This woman will care for the Israelite child", she said. And so, Moses and his mother moved into Pharaoh's palace, and Moses grew up there.



Moses grew up into a fine young man, he studied and worked hard, but deep down he hated the way that the Egyptian people treated the Israelites. One day he came across an Egyptian man beating one of the slaves really badly - Moses was so angry that he attacked the Egyptian and killed him! Moses knew that the other people there would report him to Pharaoh, and so he quickly escaped and went to a nearby country called Midian.



Whilst Moses was living in Midian he worked as a shepherd and married a young woman called Zipporah. Moses and Zipporah lived quietly in Midian for almost 40 years, until 1 day, Moses was taking the sheep to find water when he spotted a bush that seemed as if it was on fire, but when Moses went a bit closer to see what was



going on, he realised that the bush was indeed on fire, but the flames weren't doing any damage.

Moses didn't realise that the burning bush was God's way of getting his attention.

As Moses went a little closer, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses replied, "Here I am."

God said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

And so Moses covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have seen how cruelly my people are being treated in Egypt; I have heard them cry out to be rescued from their slave drivers. I know all about their sufferings, and so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of Egypt to a wonderful land which I will give to them. I have seen how cruel the Egyptians are and now I am sending you to the king of Egypt so that you can ask him to let you lead my people out of his country."

But Moses said to God, "I am nobody. How can I go to the king and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

God answered Moses saying, "I will be with you. You must go to the people of Israel and talk to them and explain everything that I have said to you, and then you must go with the leaders of the people of Israel and speak to Pharaoh and tell him that God has spoken to you. You must ask him to let the Israelites travel into the desert to worship God. I know that Pharaoh will not want to let the Israelites go, but you must trust me, because I will do such terrifying things in Egypt that eventually Pharaoh will be glad to let the people of Israel go! "

Did Moses do as God asked him or not? You'll have to wait to find that out, but in the meantime ...

What Does the Story Of Moses Teach Us So Far?

Moses' journey took him from being a baby floating in a basket on a river, to a privileged upbringing in the Royal Palace. Then he had to run for his life and spent years living in a foreign land and working as a humble shepherd, before God called him back to Egypt to stick up for his people and lead them to freedom. Even though these look like very random things, God clearly had a plan for Moses; even before Moses knew it, God was preparing him for

the special task that He had in mind for him - God prepared Moses in unique and special ways to be the shepherd who would lead God's people from slavery and to the promised land.

Moses didn't always get everything right, sometimes he made mistakes and messed up, just as we all do at times, but despite the mistakes that Moses made, God still loved him; instead of punishing him when he messed up, God used the mistakes that Moses made within His plan. If we believe and trust in God, He will do the same for us too.

Loving God, help us to remember to pray and to trust You with important matters throughout our lives.

Even when things are difficult or feel unfair, help us to remember that you still love us and want what is best for us;

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Here's Something Fun To Do

Can you find in 9 words from the story of Moses in this grid?

D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S
O	L	I	D	G	G	O	E
G	T	S	B	R	Y	N	S
W	J	R	P	A	P	X	O
Y	B	A	B	S	T	B	M
I	R	E	N	Y	D	U	F
N	I	L	E	T	M	S	U
R	H	O	A	R	A	H	P

Need some help? Here are the words you're looking for:

Israel

Pharaoh

Moses

Baby

Nile

God

Egypt

Shepherd

Bush

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