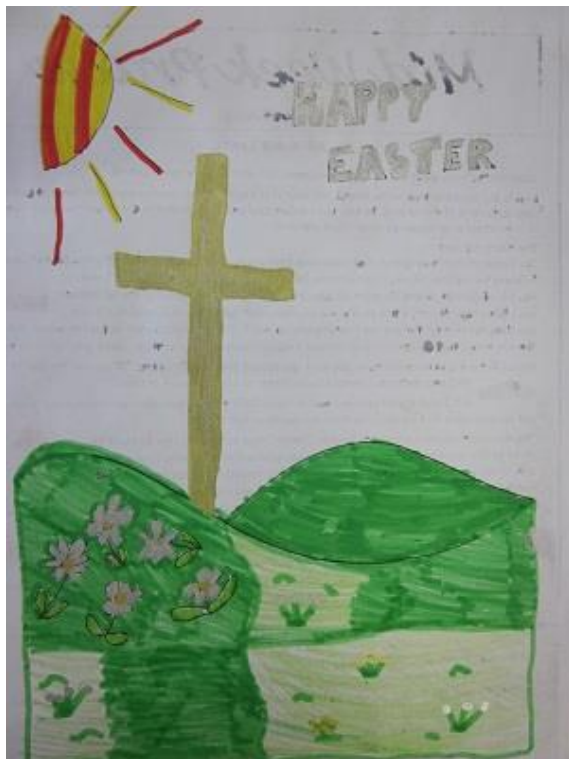


Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Artwork courtesy of Willow Bryan.

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

April 2023

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Sundays

- 8am 2nd & 4th Sundays in church for BCP Communion
- 10.30am in church for Communion / Family Service
- 6.30pm 1st Sundays in church for BCP Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

- 6.30pm in church for Mid-Week Praise

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

Front Cover Artwork

Throughout 2023 our front cover artwork will be provided courtesy of members of our Mid-Week Praise congregation.

If you missed out on the Easter picture, make sure you look out for the 'Ascension Day' colouring sheets next time you are in church – there will be a different picture to colour in each month; we'll choose one picture to go on the front cover of our Parish Magazine and then use all of the other pictures to make a colourful display in church.

This month our front cover artist is Willow Bryan.

Parish Diary April 2023

Sun. April 2nd **PALM SUNDAY**

- 10:30am Palm Sunday Procession (with donkeys!)
*Joint service with Ainsworth Methodists,
meeting at Ainsworth Methodist Chapel for
family service at Christ Church*
- 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer in Church

HOLY WEEK

- Mon 3rd 7.00pm Holy Week Reflection
- Tues 4th 7.00pm Holy Week Reflection
- Weds 5th 7.00pm Holy Week Reflection

MAUNDAY THURSDAY

- Thurs 6th 7.00pm Holy Communion & Stripping Of The Altar

GOOD FRIDAY

- Fri. 7th 7.00pm Good Friday Meditation

Sun. 9th **EASTER SUNDAY**

- 6.15am Easter Dawn Service in the churchyard,
followed by light breakfast in church
- 8:00am BCP Communion
- 10:30am Holy Communion

Sun. 16th **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 10:30am Holy Communion
- Weds 19th 6.30pm Mid-Week Praise

Sun. 23rd **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER** **(St. George's Day)**

- 8:00am BCP Communion
- 10:30am Holy Communion
- Wed. 26th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise
- Sat . 29th 1.00pm Wedding of Scott Davies & Stacey Johnson

Sun. 30th **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 10:30am Holy Communion
- 1.15pm Baptism of Isla Hollingworth
- Wed. 3rd May 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise

Sun . 7th **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 10:30am Holy Communion
- 6.30pm Songs of Praise

Interregnum Update

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who was part of our Parish Discussion last month, and an even bigger 'thank you' to the many people who have come forwards to offer to help with various different tasks; following our shout out for volunteers, we now have additional Readers and Sidespeople, a few more people on our prayer rota, enough volunteers to open our church on a Wednesday afternoon for private prayer, people to manage our facebook page, to review our website, to co-ordinate sending anniversary cards out, to help out with general maintenance, AND we have a Treasurer.

Obviously, there are still many gaps in our work force, but we've made a tremendous start, and as the saying goes, 'many hands make light work. I am so proud to be part of such a proactive and generous Church Community!

Thanks also for the various ideas and suggestions that have been offered with regards to taking our Church forwards; it won't be practical or possible to do everything that's been suggested, and some things will take time and patience, but there are also plenty of smaller things that we can begin to work on straight away.

Over the coming months we'll be looking at ways to reach out to and engage more with our local community; we'll be looking at how we can be more involved with various local and national initiatives, and we'll be starting our 'Eco Church' journey – all exciting stuff!

Please keep sharing your ideas, suggestions and feedback; and remember this is 'our' church and we all have a shared responsibility for its future.

Alison Hartley – Churchwarden (on behalf of the PCC)

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the April 2023 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which seems to be practically overflowing with interesting articles, events and updates.

Whilst school and the uniformed organisations may be enjoying a well earned Easter break, there is a huge amount of Easter activity at our Church; make sure you check the Parish Diary and Pew Sheet for details of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Services – times and formats may be slightly different to previous years – and please do your best to join in whenever you can.

Apart from our church services there are a whole range of other activities on offer this month; a self-led Easter Chick Hunt (see pg15), plus a Fun Dog Show (pg16) and Friends of The Delph Fundraising Event (pg17) later in the month.

If you don't already receive the Pew Sheet via email, simply send an email to ainsworthnewsletter2023@gmail.com and we'll add you to the weekly mailing list.

Enjoy this month's magazine – I hope you find something to interest or inspire you. *Alison*

From The Registers

HOLY BAPTISMS	We welcome into the family of God:
February 5 th	Jermaine Rhoden
	Ranaiyah Dawn Rhoden

Flower Rota

9 th April	Mothers' Union
23 rd April	Ms. A Hartley

Private Prayer

From Wednesday 12th of April, our Church will once again be 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. Many thanks to our volunteer 'Church Sitters', who have made it possible for us to offer this opportunity once more.

EcoChurch



Christ Church Ainsworth is now registered with A Rocha UK's award winning Eco Church Scheme. Eco Church is a scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth.

The fifth Mark of Mission is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth", and many church communities across the UK are already imaginatively living out the fifth Mark of Mission through care for God's creation.

The first step of the Eco Church journey is for us to complete an online questionnaire which highlights the ways in which we are already caring for God's world in our worship; in how we look after our

buildings and land; in how we engage with our local community and in global campaigns, and in how our congregation already integrate 'green' initiatives within their daily lives.

Completing the questionnaire creates a baseline and helps us to identify things that we are already doing well as a Church, and also areas that we need to improve on. The actions that we take will then help us to work towards an Eco Church Award at Bronze, Silver or Gold level.

We're really excited to be a part of this scheme, and to begin to look at the ways in which we can improve our 'green credentials'. Watch out for more information coming soon, but in the meantime, here's the

Eco Church Top Tip for April:

"Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. As the weather warms up, it's worth considering what journeys can be made by walking or cycling. Could you get off the bus a stop early to walk the rest of your journey, take a relaxing stroll home, or hop on a bike and enjoy a cycle friendly route? If you prefer exploring outdoors on foot, find out if there's a local Ramblers group in your area."

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!

Church Electoral Roll Review 2023

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 23rd April 2023. After this date, no names can be entered or removed from the Roll until after the APCM on 21st May 2023.

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 23rd April 2023.

Can You Help??

We are incredibly grateful to Mr. David Holden for taking on the role of Church Treasurer, this is a hugely important role within our Church, and an essential part of 'the way forwards' for us.

As David was previously our Independent Financial Auditor, it does mean that we now urgently need to find someone who is willing to audit the 2022 Church accounts – this must be done and signed off before our APCM in May. If anyone is able to help us with this or knows anyone who would be willing to carry out the audit, even just as a 1 off for this year, please contact Alison on 07952-709041 or speak to Revd Debra or Revd Elaine next time you're in Church. Thank you.

Brain Tumour Charity – Sponsored Walk Update

Along with friends and family, on 14th March we completed our sponsored walk for the Brain Tumour Charity and what an amazing day we had in Heysham / Morecambe.

We walked further than planned and experienced rain, wind, sleet, snow, hail and finally sun, but had loads of fun along the way! Thank you to our friends, family, the parish and the local community for supporting me. I'm exhausted but feel very proud of our achievement. So far, we've raised over £2200! 😊

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us. The fundraising page will remain open until the end of June and the scouts have a sponsored walk arranged too. ❤️

Many thanks - Rachel Charlesworth.



The Great Easter Chick Hunt

There are 10 cheeky Easter chicks hiding somewhere in Ainsworth – can you find them all?

Each time you spot 1 of the chicks write down its name, then when you have all 10 names bring your list to our MidWeek Praise family service on Weds 19th April at 6.30pm to claim your prize!

Mission Community News

Many thanks to all who took part in our Mission Community Zoom prayers throughout Lent; watch this space for details of future shared initiatives.

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

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.

The children that come to Midweek Praise have done a fabulous job of colouring in their Easter pictures:



Space To Share A Prayer

Dear Lord,
Strengthen us to serve You in response to Your love,
By giving freely to others without keeping a record,
By working hard for others without counting the cost,
And by being a blessing to others without even knowing it.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord – Amen.



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

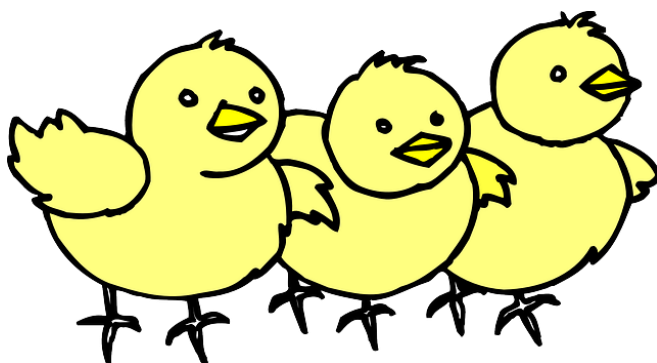
Tuesday 11th April

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





The Great Easter Chick Hunt

There are 10 cheeky Easter chicks hiding somewhere in Ainsworth - can you find them all?

Each time you spot 1 of the chicks write it's name down, then when you have all 10 names, bring your list to our MidWeek Praise family service in Church on Weds 19th April 6.30pm to claim your prize.





AINSWORTH FRIENDS OF THE DELPH
ARE HOLDING A

FUNDRAISER

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DOG SHOW
ON

SUNDAY

30th April 2023

11:30am – 3:00pm

ON THE DELPH

THERE WILL BE
HOT FOOD, DRINKS & CRAFT STALLS

ALL MONEY TO GO TO MAINTAINING
AND IMPROVING THE DELPH BY THE
GARDENING TEAM

AINSWORTH VILLAGE FUN DOG SHOW

SUNDAY 30TH APRIL 2023


On The Delph

Registration on the day

from 11.30am

Showtime 1pm

**Refreshments
will be available**



CLASS 1 - PEDIGREE POOCH
CLASS 2 - BEST TREAT CATCHER OR TRICK
CLASS 3 - RESCUE POOCH
CLASS 4 - NEW DOG ON THE BLOCK (PUPPY)
CLASS 5 - GOLDEN OLDIES (VETERAN'S 7+)
CLASS 6 - PRETTIEST FEMALE
CLASS 7 - HANDSOME MALE
CLASS 8 - MOST LIKE ITS OWNER
CLASS 9 - HEINZ 57 POOCH (MIXED BREED)
CLASS 10 - BEST JUNIOR HANDLER

BEST IN SHOW
£2 PER CLASS
OR 3 CLASSES PER DOG £5



Find us on Facebook @ Ainsworth Village Day

Proceeds will be donated to

Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary and Friends of the Delph





A big thank you to everyone who was part of our recent Parish Discussion; we realise that many people have busy lives and lots of commitments already, but right now we could really use your help! We desperately need to fill some of our official roles, but here's the good news – there are also lots of small things that don't take up too much time and don't need you to have any special skills.

We need volunteers to help with:

- Maintaining our beautiful churchyard
- Carrying out general maintenance jobs
- Cleaning in church
- Organising and serving refreshments after Services
- Helping out at Baptisms
- Sitting in Church for 1½ hours on a Wednesday afternoon to allow us to open for private prayer
- Leading prayers at our Sunday morning Services
- Reading at our Sunday morning Services
- Managing / reordering supplies of consumables
- Co-ordinating the advertisements in our Parish Magazine

We also need people to fill the following official roles:

- 2nd Churchwarden
- Building Officer
- Electoral Roll Officer
- PCC Secretary
- Independent Financial Examiner
- PCC Members

(Please note that our official roles have specific requirements attached to them; for instance having been Confirmed and being on the Church Electoral Roll for this Parish)

If you think you may be able to help with any of the above, we would love to hear from you; either speak to Reverend Debra or Reverend Elaine in Church; contact Alison Hartley (Churchwarden) on 07952-709041 or email vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk

And remember; God doesn't just call those who are equipped; He calls people and then equips them.

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 11th April

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 Village Fun Dog Show

Sunday 30th April on the Delph

Registration on the day from 11.30am; show starts at 1pm. Proceeds to be shared between Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary and Friends Of The Delph.

Friends Of The Delph Fundraiser

Sunday 30th April

11.30 – 3.30pm on the Delph

Why not join us for refreshments, craft stalls and family fun. All proceeds to The Friends of The Delph

Ainsworth Social Club

Tuesday 4th April & Tuesday 18th April

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

The Great Easter Chick Hunt

Can you find the 10 cheeky Easter chicks that are hiding in Ainsworth? Write down all their names then bring your list to MidWeek Praise on Weds 19th

April to claim your prize!

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 ...

Cubs

What a pleasure it was on Church Parade to see Yvonne Woolstencroft, our assistant Cub Scout Leader, receive her Silver Acorn from the District Commissioner. Yvonne has been with us for a long time and prior to that was Akela at St Johns Radcliffe until its closure. She is also a frequent helper at the campsite.

The Cubs have done really well on their Disability awareness badge learning about seen and unseen disabilities, following blind trails and learning to sign their name and using the phonetic alphabet.

Promotions to Sixers: Arthur Cope, Harvey Jones, Dylan Green, Scarlett Fogg and Jacob Yates The post of Senior Sixer is a position not done on a regular basis so congratulations to Zachary Coyle.

Group Camp, Easter break and St Georges fun day all in the next few weeks so a busy time for us all

Gwen White - Baloo

Scouts - Summer Coach Trip

We have now planned our Summer Coach Trip and we are having a day out to Llandudno on Saturday 8th July 2023. The costs for the trip are:-

- 14 and over - £27
- 13 and under - £17
- Family ticket - 2 x adult and 2 x under 13 - £70

If you would like to join us on our fun day out by the beach please follow the link below to book your seats:-

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/AinsworthScoutGroup1/FundraisingFamilyCoachTripLlandudnoSaturday8thJuly2023>

12th Radcliffe Guides And Brownies

With Thinking Day in the middle of the February half term, we are looking at the things that Guides did in the past – and the girls made macrame keyrings to practice different knots. Whilst they were doing this, the Brownies looked at their place within the Girlguiding organisation – and demonstrated it by trying to blow a bubble inside a bubble inside a bubble ...

The girls also did more of the first aid badge – learning how to stay calm and react appropriately in an emergency, and how to improvise with everyday items if a first aid kit wasn't available; and the Brownies made outfits out of recycling materials. During February Isabelle completed her Mediation interest badge and Tayah her Confectionery badge – Well done!



At the February Church parade, Izzy carried the Union flag, with Grace and Lilly May escorting; Amelia carried the Guide flag, with Scarlett and Sofia escorting; Lucy carried the Brownie flag; and Lily May did part of the reading

12th Radcliffe Guiding Leaders

Transformation - Now!

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Thank you, Enid, for making our pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and for everyone who provided several tasty ingredients.

By the time you read this, we will have had two informal 'get togethers' at the Rose and Crown. The staff look after us so well and we thank them for their hospitality. We'll be back in the summer!

We will start back in the Church Hall on **Tuesday 18th April at 1.30pm for 2.00pm** for our delayed Christmas meal.

Several members contributed towards the Make a Mother's Day appeal and we were able to forward £55. I received a 'Thank You' letter which I will pin up on our notice board. In it, we heard about how the theme of Perseverance was making a difference in one woman's life.

Our work would not be possible without you. I wanted to share with you one more example of the difference your support makes.



Machozi is a 26-year-old single mother from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Unlike her brothers, she was not allowed to attend school and was told that girls are only supposed to get married. Thanks to Mothers' Union's literacy program, Machozi is now literate and excited to be able to help her daughter with her homework. She is also a passionate gender champion and has been trained to discuss issues in her community, such as gender-based violence and domestic violence.

"You can have a second chance in this world. I'm now able to get a salary and can even pay for my children's school fees when before I was literate, it was a real challenge".

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of women and girls. May God's promise of a hope-filled future comfort and bless you this Mothering Sunday.

So, what about activity in Manchester? The TOTAL of those impacted by our work in 2022 was 3424 people and in Jan-Feb 2023 it was 269. Just a couple of examples:

"Our members have just delivered a further substantial volume of toiletries to Thameside hospital and with the help our church Craft Class we have supplied 30 more blankets and hats for the Neo Natal unit at the hospital. We are still knitting Teddies for the chaplaincy at Manchester Airport." - St. Mary's Mothers' Union, Droylsden.

"We donated a shed to Women's Aid Salford Refuge". "I just wanted to say thank you so much for the fantastic shed! It is now up and running and looks fab. It is a really good size and will be so useful for us and any families we support if they need to store any larger items."
- Jo - DAPA/ Domestic Abuse Prevention Advocate

The office and shop have now moved to St John's House in Bury but isn't yet fully operational. If you need anything from the shop, please telephone 0161 828 1427 and Ruth / Frances will sort your order out. Spring Council is in our new home of St John's House in Bury Town Centre on Saturday 22nd April. It is from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Everyone welcome. Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided.

We have had an invitation to attend a social evening on Wednesday 26th April at 7.30pm, organised by the Union of Catholic Mothers. If

any ladies from the congregation would like to attend this event, please can they let me know by 15th April. The cost is £5.00 pp, payable on the night.

As a preliminary notice, the Annual Gathering (previously the Annual Meeting) is on Friday 22nd September in York Barbican from 11.00am to 7.00pm. Meeting and service in the Minster with the Archbishop of York all in one day. If you want tickets (priced at £23.50), please see Andrew or me. There will not be another Gathering until 2026 so don't miss out!

Jennifer White

From the Archives – April 1998

The inside cover of the April 1998 Parish Magazine included a fabulous sketch depicting the Last Supper, with Jesus and His disciples seated round a table, whilst in the background a shady looking character (presumably Judas) slipped out of the room. How incredible to be able to convey so much detail in a black and white line drawing!

As expected, the plans for Easter were clearly well underway, with details of the final Lent Devotionals, plus Holy Week Services, a Silent Procession of Witness, an Easter Eve Vigil and Service of Light, culminating in Holy Communion and Even Song on Easter Sunday – and breathe! Details of the Easter Vestry and APCM appeared in the Parish Diary, and also a reminder that the Church Spring Fair was imminent.

The Parish News page advised that the Parish Lottery had raised a grand total of £1052 in its first year, and reported that 15 candidates from Christ Church Ainsworth had recently been Confirmed by the Bishop of Manchester, the Right Revd Christopher Mayfield, at St. Thomas and St. John, Radcliffe. This page also contained a report from the PCC advising that in the light of the 'Resourcing Ministry Initiative' launched within the diocese, the PCC needed to look at ways of reducing expenditure and increasing income to try to ensure that the Parish Share payments could be met – any suggestions welcomed!

In other news, the Mothers' Union report took the form of a joint letter from Jennifer White, the new Presiding Member for Radcliffe & Prestwich Deanery, and June Hayes, the new Enrolling Member at Ainsworth, thanking everyone for their support and good wishes as they took on these new roles.

Rainbows and Brownies had enjoyed celebrating Thinking Day and were in the midst of making Mothering Sunday gifts; Cubs were gearing up for 'Job Week'; 3 Ventures had achieved their Venture Scout Award, and hooray! A couple of new leaders had been recruited to help out with the lads' organisations. Sunday School were less fortunate though, and reported having had to close for a week due to insufficient helpers being available – assistants urgently required!

In March 1998, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Mrs. Barbara Leigh - 'our hard working Magazine Advertisements Secretary', whilst the Holiday Church article, provided by Miss Bessie German, featured Ishavkaterdralen in Norway – described as 'the church of the Arctic' this was an interesting and informative article.

In April 1998 there were 3 Baptisms and 2 Funerals recorded from the previous month, but no weddings. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 404, with the Collections listed as £1655.

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

Little Robin Redbreast

When winter days are short and cold and snow lies on the ground,
And all the other birds are still, you'll hear a merry sound.

And when you look, perhaps you'll see him perched upon the shed,
With shining eyes, and pointed beak, and feathers brown and red.

He'll tilt his head and look at you, then hop along the wall,
He'll ruffle up his feathers, then repeat his cheerful call.

But why the robin's breast is red, we really all should know,
It comes from an act of courage from a time that's long ago.

When Jesus hung upon the cross, a robin was nearby,
He watched all that was happening, then down to help did fly.

And as the robin tried to pluck the thorns from Jesus' head,
A drop of blood splashed on his breast, and stained his feathers red.

The robin keeps his bright red breast, and still his call is heard,
To remind us of the courage of this cheerful, small, brown bird.

Just A Thought

Time is never wasted if you've learned from it.

Praying Through The Seasons ... Easter



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live," - John 11:25

For Christians worldwide, the important message of Easter is praising and acknowledging Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and His glorious assurances of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

As Christians, we celebrate Easter as a time of new life and new hope, a time of renewal; we have full confidence that no matter what happens to us on this Earth, we can experience eternal joy with God in heaven.

God of renewal, of life and death and rebirth

God of promise. of all beginnings. and all endings

God of hope, of new growth, and harvest;

Renew our hearts and minds this Easter time and help us to grow in faith. Amen

The Hymn That's In My Head



Hymns and music play a large part in Christian worship; you can't beat listening to (or singing along with) a joyful, rousing hymn - whether it's in church, on the radio or listening to a CD. There are literally hundreds of fabulous hymns and worship songs out there.

"Be Still, My Soul" was written by Katharina Amalia Dorothea Von Schlegel, it was originally a German hymn which reads in German, Stille meine Wille, dein Jesus hilft siegen. The English version that we are familiar with today is a translation dating back to 1855, the work of Jane Laurie Borthwick.

The words of this hymn are sung to the hauntingly beautiful tune 'Finlandia', which was written by Jean Sibelius in 1899, originally as a series of 7 patriotic pieces, each reflecting portions of Finnish history. From a tumultuous opening which symbolises the struggles of the Finnish people, emerges the serenity of 'Finlandia', symbolising hope and resolution.

Currently sitting at number 23 in the 'Songs Of Praise Top 100 Hymns Chart', the words of this hymn are in fact a prayer for us to patiently put our trust in the Lord, even in the day of adversity. It tells us that no matter what we go through, God is on our side. He always has been, and He always will be; ultimately there is a joyful end to our sufferings.

Whilst the words of this hymn are incredibly reassuring, 'Finlandia' seems to have been a popular choice on Classic FM recently, and once I hear those opening notes, I just can't help but join in!

1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past;
your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he lived below.

3 Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then you will better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still my soul; when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last

If you have a hymn that you just can't get out of your head, why not share it; simply email the words, the first line, or the phrase / verse that you have 'running on repeat', to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Be Inspired

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.' – Psalm 16:8

Hatches, Matches & Despatches - April!

Born in April ...

1512 – James V, King of Scotland

1770 – William Wordsworth, English poet.

1829 – William Booth, English Preacher and founder of The Salvation Army.

1926 – Queen Elizabeth II, Longest serving British Monarch.

1932 – Omar Sharif, Egyptian Actor.

1939 – David Frost, TV host.

Married in April ...

1614 – Pocahontas (Indian Princess) to John Rolfe

1836 – Charles Dickens (English writer) to Catherine Thomson Hogarth

1977 – Donald Trump (American Real Estate Tycoon) to Ivana Zelnickova.

1979 – Rod Stewart (British Singer) to Allana Collins

2008 – Beyonce (Singer – Songwriter) to Jay-Z.

2011 – Michael Buble (Canadian Singer – Songwriter) to Luisana Lopilato

Died in April...

1498 – Charles VIII (King of France) aged 27

1739 – Dick Turpin (English Highway Man), hanged aged 33

1919 – Frank Woolworth (Retail Pioneer) aged 66

1947 – Henry Ford (Ford Model T) aged 83.

1973 – Pablo Picasso (Spanish Painter) aged 91

2013 – Margaret Thatcher (British Prime Minister) aged 87

Cheat's Kitchen



Seriously Simple Bread Pudding

You Will Need:

- 1 sliced choc chip brioche loaf / pack of 8 choc chip brioche fingers
- 50g butter
- $\frac{3}{4}$ pt milk
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 50g caster sugar
- 4 eggs beaten

Here's What To Do:

- 1) Tear the choc chip brioche into small chunks and arrange in a medium sized ovenproof dish.
- 2) Place the butter and milk in a jug and microwave for approx 1 minute, until the butter has melted.
- 3) Beat in the vanilla essence and eggs, then pour the liquid over the brioche pieces, ensuring they are all covered / soaked.
- 4) Sprinkle with the sugar, then bake at 180c for approx 20 mins, or until golden and crisp.

Enjoy with cream / ice cream or just on its own.

Straplines

Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

Confidence is keeping your chin up; over confidence is sticking it out.

Ambitious people climb, but faithful people build.

Many of things we worry about may never happen anyway.

Time For A Smile

On a recent visit to look around our Church, the children of Nursery Class came to the conclusion that the Vicar's Vestry was likely to be the place where 'the vicar puts his vest on', and the Choir Vestry is 'actually the Vicar's bedroom really because you can see all his dresses hanging up on the rail'.

Out of the mouths of babes!!

The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

G O O D F R I D A Y

Gold Quiz ...

As the liturgical colour for Easter Sunday is gold, it's a gold quiz this month!

1. What's the chemical symbol for gold?
2. The Golden Temple is located in which Indian city?
3. The Golden State is a nickname for which U.S. state?
4. What term is given to gold that has been hammered into thin sheets by beating and is often used for gilding?
5. What was the name of the ship captained by Francis Drake in his circumnavigation of the world between 1577 and 1580?
6. Which groups' 1967 cover version of 'Silence is Golden' reached number one on the UK Singles Chart?
7. Which annual celebration has the celebratory colours purple, green, and gold?
8. What carat gold is also called pure gold or 100 per cent gold?
9. Gold Hill is a steep cobbled street in the town of Shaftesbury, in Dorset, famous for which 1970s advert?
10. The Gold Coast is a coastal city in which country?

(Answers on page 31)

Church Trivia

Last month's question:

Q. Which is the only Vicar to have served 2 terms in office (1647-53 & 1656-60)?

A. Peter Bradshaw

This month's question:

Q. Which Incumbent was in post for the shortest length of time?

Answer in next month's magazine.

Sidesmen and Lay Assistant Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant
2 nd April Palm Sunday	Mags Gillman Dennis Gillman	Family Service
6 th April Maundy Thursday	Chris Haworth Lillian Haworth	Alison Hartley
9 th April Easter Sunday	Barbara Clarkson Jan Burrow	Peter Holden
16 th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Sue Campbell Lillian Haworth	Lorraine Holden
23 rd April 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	Chris Haworth
30 th April 4 th Sunday of Easter	Mags Gillman Dennis Gillman	Lillian Haworth
7 th May 5 th Sunday of Easter	Mags Gillman Dennis Gillman	Carole Butler

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
2 nd April Palm Sunday	MWP	Matthew 21.1-11
9 th April Easter Sunday	Peter Holden	Acts 10.34-43 Colossians 3.1-4 (John 20.1-18)
16 th April 2 nd Sunday Easter	Lorraine Holden	Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21 Acts 2.14a,22-32 (John 20. 19-31)
23 rd April 3 rd Sunday Easter	Beryl Sixsmith	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Acts 2.14a,36-41 (Luke 24. 13-35)
30 th April 4 th Sunday Easter	Jenny Johnson	Genesis 7 Acts 2.42-47 (John 10. 1-10)

Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Church Treasurer	David Holden davelholden@aol.co.uk	
Secretary of the PCC	Vacancy	
Organist	Jenny Johnson	07734976978
Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary	Carole Butler	07379 196608
Safeguarding Officer	Peter Holden	01204 596938
Church Hall Booking	bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk	
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com	
Magazine Secretary		
Magazine Adverts		
Primary School Head	D Gerrard BA(Hons)PGCE	01204 527484

Services

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

Weds 6.15pm Mid-Week Praise

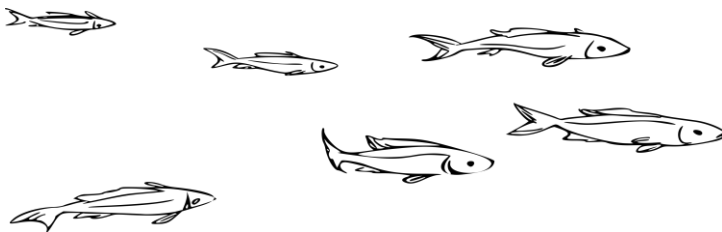
Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty.

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

Answers to Gold Quiz: 1) Au, 2) Amritsar, 3) California, 4) Gold Leaf, 5) Golden Hind. 6) Tremeloos, 7) Mardi Gras, 8) 24 Carat, 9) Hovis, 10) Australia.

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

Gideon



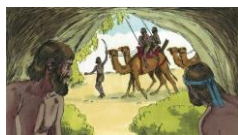
People In The Bible

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.

For the last few months, Little Fishes has been about Moses and Joshua, the people that God chose to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and towards the promised land. When Joshua eventually died, there wasn't really anyone suitable to take over as the leader - and so at that time, the people of Israel were ruled by 'Judges'. A Judge was kind of like a special leader that could help people. One of those Judges was called Gideon; you can read the full story in the book of Judges, chapter 6 - 7.

Gideon

It seemed that no matter how much God helped the people of Israel, and no matter how many miracles He performed for them, there would always be some of the people who were behaving badly, forgetting about the 10 Commandments that God had given them, and forgetting how much God had done for them. Every now and again, the people would go through a bad patch where they seemed to forget all of these things completely; when this happened, God would lose patience with the people and leave them to sort themselves out, and guess what - when this happened, everything started going wrong for the people of Israel!



Their enemies, the Midianites, sneaked into the Israelite's land and stole their animals and ruined the crops; the people of Israel ran away

and hid in the desert or in caves to try to escape from the enemy, until eventually they pleaded with God to help them again.

Even though God must have been very disappointed by this behaviour, God always listens when we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us and help us, and it was the same with the people of Israel.

Gideon was an ordinary person, just going about his daily tasks and minding his own business; he wasn't super brave, or super strong, or super clever. One day, as he went about his work, an angel of the Lord came to him and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. You must save the people of Israel from their enemies, the Midianites."



Gideon couldn't believe he was hearing this! He was just an ordinary person - how could he possibly do what the angel told him to do? But the angel knew exactly what Gideon was thinking, and he said, "Do not fear; God will be with you and will help you to do this."

Gideon was still very uncertain, so he asked God for a sign, something to prove that God really was with him. Gideon left a sheep's fleece outside his door over night; he said to himself, "If this really is what God wants me to do, in the morning the grass will be wet with dew, but God will make the fleece stay dry."



Sure enough, next morning the grass was wet through, but the fleece was dry!

Gideon was still not sure, so he left the fleece outside once again and said, "If this really is what God wants me to do, in the morning the fleece will be wet with dew, but God will make the grass all around the fleece stay dry."

And guess what ... next morning, there was the fleece, all wet and soggy, but the ground was completely dry!

So now Gideon had to believe that God had chosen him and would help him to defeat the Midianites.



Late that night, Gideon sneaked down to the place where the Midianites were camping, and he hid outside their tents and listened to what they were saying; he heard someone talking about how

the Midianites were so powerful that the Israelites would never be able to get rid of them, not even if every single person came out to fight them all together! But then Gideon heard one of the men telling his friends about a strange dream he'd had about a huge loaf of bread rolling into their camp and

knocking the tents over. Then he heard someone else say that the dream was to do with the sword of Gideon, and that God would help the Israelites to defeat the Midianites!



Gideon crept away, and began to gather the biggest army that you could possibly imagine, there were literally thousands of people in the army; Gideon probably felt quite pleased (and also relieved) that so many people had come to help to defeat the



Midianites, but God had other ideas ... He knew that He had to do something special, otherwise the Israelite's would think that they had beaten the enemy all by themselves, and would go right back to behaving badly and forget all about God until the next time they needed something.

So, God said to Gideon, "This army is too big. Tell anyone here that is afraid of fighting the Midianites to go home."

Gideon did as God told him, and absolutely loads of the Israelite army turned out to be frightened about fighting the Midianites, so absolutely **loads** of people quickly went back home.

Gideon felt a bit nervous about this, but God hadn't finished yet, he told Gideon, "This army is still too big! Take all the people down

to the river to drink; anyone who drinks the water in a certain way must be sent home."

So, Gideon took his army down to the river to drink, and only 300 out of all the thousands of people there, drank the water in the exact way that God had told to Gideon, so everyone else was sent away!



Now there were only 300 people left, including Gideon, but by now Gideon understood that God was on His side, and he made a cunning plan. He told the 300 Israelites to split up into 3 equal



groups, and that each person should take with them a trumpet, and a small jar with a flaming torch in it. By this time the people trusted Gideon and did as he told them.

Once it was dark, Gideon went to the Midianite's camp with his teeny little army. There were thousands of tents, but Gideon did his best to keep trusting God. He told the people that they must surround the tents and to have their trumpets and their torches at the ready, and when he gave the signal, everyone should blow their trumpets really loudly and hold their torch up in their hand.



This didn't seem like a great strategy for beating the huge Midianite army ...

But remember, God was on Gideon's side and had promised to help him. When Gideon gave the signal, the 300 Israelites blew their



trumpets as loudly as they could, and the flames from their torches suddenly shone all around the camp ... and guess what ... The Midianites were filled with terror! They ran out of their tents and simply ran away; the Israelite army didn't even have to fight,

they simply blew their trumpets and held their torches high and watched as the Midianites fled into the darkness.

And so, with God's help, Gideon saved the Israelite people and defeated the Midianite army.

So, What Can We Learn From Gideon's Story?

Gideon was just an ordinary person; he was probably really scared about what he was being asked to do, but he knew He could trust God. And so can we! We might not think we are special or strong, but we don't have to be. We just need to be willing to listen and to let God work through us, and if we can do that, we know He will always give us whatever it is that He has promised us - how amazing is that!

Prayer Time ...

Loving God, help us to remember that the Bible is there to teach us about You. Even though Gideon was just an ordinary person, he was part of your plan and You helped him to be brave and keep trusting You. Help us to remember that You are there for everyone. If we feel scared or worried about something, help us to remember that we can always talk to You and trust You - Amen.

Here's Something Fun To Do

Can you find 8 words from Gideon's story in the grid below?

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

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

Gideon, Midianite, Israelite, Trumpet, Torch, Trust, Army & Angel

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