

# Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Eco Garden at Christ Church Ainsworth

(This garden is being created by our Family Gardening Group)

**Serving the Community**

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

August 2024

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# Parish Diary August 2024



## TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer  
 Weds 7<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Wild Worship

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 8.00am BCP Communion  
 10.30am Holy Communion  
 Tues 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Coffee & Conversation (*Ainsworth Church & Community Hall*)  
 Weds 14<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Wild Worship

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 6.30pm "Be Still" – a time of contemplative prayer & quiet reflection  
 Weds 21<sup>st</sup> 6.30pm Wild Worship

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> 8.00am BCP Communion  
 10.30am Holy Communion (*followed by refreshments & Lucky Lotto draw*)  
 1.30pm Baptism  
 Weds 28<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Wild Worship  
 September

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am View From The Pew  
 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer  
 Weds 4<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

## Interregnum Update

*“Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass. It’s about learning how to dance in the rain.” (Vivian Greene)*

This wonderful quotation is true of so many situations in life; we learn from experience not to allow circumstances to deter us from reaching our full potential; we learn not to passively wait and hope for bad things in our lives to go away; we learn to roll our sleeves up, to get out there and get on with it.

At Christ Church Ainsworth, July has been very much about getting out there and getting on with it!

Despite the fact that our Church has now been in interregnum for almost 18 months, and despite the fact that we still have no timescale from the Diocese as to when the advertisement and recruitment process may begin, there are so many positive things happening within our Church and wider community.

Alongside our usual diary of Services and worshipping opportunities, July brought us a huge range of mission and outreach opportunities: the Summer Prom Concert was a great night, and brought lots of people, plus a great atmosphere into our wonderful Church; Ainsworth Village Day saw us once again welcoming our wider community into Church – this time to enjoy coffee, cake and tranquillity; whilst the two Mission Community Litter Picking events created further opportunities for us to get out there and interact with local people, plus do some good work within our local community.

Alongside all of those opportunities to ‘dance in the rain’, the school holidays, better weather and lighter nights, bring the opportunity to make more use of our Church grounds; it’s great to see children and families enjoying our lovely Churchyard during the Gardening Group and Wild Worship, and also good to see the butterflies, bugs and bees that are already starting to make use of the newly created EcoGarden.

So, we may still be without an Incumbent, but we’re definitely not sitting quietly waiting for the storm to pass!

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to work so hard to maintain our regular Services and worshipping opportunities, and to all who go the extra mile to organise and support these extra events – we couldn’t do it without you!

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

## Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the August 2024 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is once again full of interesting articles, updates and information.

Whilst the Uniformed Organisations are taking a well-earned break, there are still a huge variety of reports and updates from recent events and ongoing initiatives – thank you to everyone who regularly taps away at their keyboard to make sure we are all kept up to date and up to speed with everything that is going on in our Parish.

August may be a slightly quieter month for many of us, but time moves a pace, and before too much longer we'll be turning our thoughts to Harvest and Remembrance ... As we remain in interregnum there may be a few changes from 'the norm'; to avoid missing out, make sure you keep an eye on the Parish Diary and the weekly Pew Sheet for updates and further information about forthcoming events and Services.

Enjoy the read, and as always, please feel free to share our Magazine with others if you wish to. *Alison*

## From The Registers

Baptisms  
23<sup>rd</sup> June

We welcome to the family of God:  
Ophelia Carey

Weddings  
7<sup>th</sup> June

We offer the Church's congratulations to:  
Emma Louise Howley & Edward Bury

## Flower Rota

11<sup>th</sup> August – Mrs. G. White

25<sup>th</sup> August – Mr. & Mrs. Maudsley



## Summer Prom Concert

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us in Church on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of July for our inaugural Summer Prom Concert; what a great time we had!! Members of Farnworth & Walkden Brass Band excelled themselves, playing a fabulous itinerary of musical entertainment, along with some great opportunities for us to sing along to some of the rousing classics.

Special thanks must go to our resident Soprano, Jenny Johnson, for leading the singing of “Land Of Hope And Glory”; a truly memorable performance!

A big thank you also to the ‘behind the scenes team’ who helped to decorate Church, serve refreshments, and co-ordinate the big tidy up ahead of our Sunday Service – you know who you are, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.



**SAVE THE DATE!!** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm – members of Farnworth & Walkden Band will be joining us once again for our Candlelit Christmas Concert.

## Wild Worship

Once again, we are holding Wild Worship each Wednesday evening through the summer holidays; our theme this year is “Going On A Prayer Hunt”!

In spite of a rather damp start to proceedings, our intrepid ‘Wild Worshippers’ were not deterred, and set off enthusiastically in search of hidden prayers and all things beginning with the letter “P” in our lovely Churchyard. This resulted in some great rubbings which were used to create a “P” collage.



After snacking on **P**ineapple and **P**omegranate seeds, we turned our attention back to our prayer hunt, and finished the evening off with **P**eople prayers.

In the coming weeks we’ll be hunting for more prayers and exploring a variety of wild, wacky and fun ways of praying.



## Family Gardening Group



A small but enthusiastic group of 'gardeners' got our family gardening group off to a great start, as they worked hard to create a vegetable and herb patch, and a bright and colourful pallet garden, designed to attract butterflies, bugs and bees.

Many thanks to members of the Churchyard Team for clearing an area for us to work in; in return for their hard work, our little gardeners swept the Church path and enjoyed raking up fallen leaves and twigs for composting.



We'll be meeting at Church each Wednesday throughout the Summer holidays from 10.30 – 12 noon, to get stuck into some great outdoor activities; next up is building bug hotels, designing bird feeders, plus helping the Churchyard Team with lots of fun gardening tasks.

No need to book, just turn up.

Please note, all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please bring your own gardening gloves; all other equipment provided.

## Christ Church Ainsworth Book Of Remembrance



If you have lost a family member or loved one and would like their name to be recorded in our Book of Remembrance, please speak to a member of our Clergy or one of the Churchwardens, or email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com). This option is available for those who have been a part of our local or worshipping community, or those whose funeral has been held in Church.

Please note there is a charge of £5-00 per entry for this service.

## Church Flower Rota



There are currently a number of spaces on the Church Flower Rota; placing flowers in church can be a lovely way to remember a loved one, or to commemorate an anniversary or special date.

If flowers are 'your thing', you are welcome to buy and place your own arrangements; alternatively Kathy Armstrong-Rand will purchase and arrange flowers on your behalf (suggested minimum donation for this is £20-00).

If you would be interested in joining the Church flower rota, please speak to one of our Churchwardens, or contact Gwen White on 01204-595378.

## Christ Church Ainsworth - Grave Cleaning & Maintenance

If you choose to have a memorial stone on your loved one's grave, you are welcome to tend the grave and place flowers yourself, but if you are unable to do so, our Churchyard Team offer a number of options:

- Regular cleaning of headstone £30-00 / year
- Regular cleaning of headstone, flowers placed monthly & wreath placed at Christmas £210-00 / year

For more information about grave maintenance please contact Janet Hayes on 07895-033736

## EcoChurch



We have lots of fun activities going on at Church this Summer, but EcoChurch isn't just about what we do in Church, it's also about considering our own actions and lifestyles, and how they might impact on nature and the world's resources.

### Top Tip for August:

Help birds in hot weather. Keeping your bird bath topped up with fresh water in warmer weather can be a life saver for our feathered friends. Get your garden birds through a heatwave when natural supplies, like worms, become scarce, by putting out supplementary food - black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mealworms, waxworms and good seed mixture.



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

The July Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July, with the lucky winner walking away with £24-00!

This fabulous fundraiser runs each month; tickets cost £1 each and are available at the back of Church; you can enter as many times as you like!

The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto is drawn in Church on the last Sunday of each month, when the winner receives 50% of that month's ticket sales!!

To enter simply fill in a '50/50 Lucky Lotto' ticket, then place it in the box at the back of Church; all proceeds to Church funds.

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

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

## Raising Awareness – Earth Overshoot Day; 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024



**What Is It?** Imagine the planet as a huge piggy bank where, instead of money, we deposit all the natural resources we need to live: water, air, trees, etc.

Now, think of Earth Overshoot Day as the moment each year when we've taken out everything the Earth can afford to give us within that year, and we start overdrawing.

This date moves around each year due to the many variables affecting energy consumption etc, but it has been creeping earlier since the 1970s due to the ever increasing demands we place on the earth's resources.

**Why do we mark this day?** Earth Overshoot Day is a wake-up call, a reminder that we're using resources faster than the Earth can replenish them. The main culprits are how much we consume, how we make things, how many of us there are, and how much nature can produce.

Think of it as nature's way of saying, "*Hey, you're spending too fast!*"

But it's not all about doom and gloom; Earth Overshoot Day is a chance to change how we live, consume, and think about our planet. It's about finding a balance that ensures our Earth's piggy bank stays healthy and full, not just for us but for all future generations.

### **What Can We Do To Help?**

*Calculate Your Footprint:* use an online calculator to find out your personal Earth Overshoot Day, then, challenge yourself to change your lifestyle to push that date back. Share your results and encourage others to do the same.

*Green Your Commute:* try to reduce your carbon footprint by walking, biking, carpooling, or using public transport, even if it's just for 1 week each month. Share your experience on social media to inspire others to consider more sustainable ways to get around.

*Support Sustainable Brands:* commit to buying products from companies that prioritize sustainability. Choosing eco-friendly brands can make a big difference in clothing, food, or everyday items.

*Join a Local Cleanup:* participate in or organise a local cleanup event in your community. Cleaning up local parks and communal areas helps the environment and strengthens community bonds.

*Educate and Advocate:* share information on your social media channels about Earth Overshoot Day and why it matters. Encourage discussions on how we can all contribute to a more sustainable planet..

### **'Be Still' – A Time Of Contemplative Prayer & Reflection**

In a world that's increasingly busy, we often get caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday life; we find ourselves rushing from one thing to the next; sometimes we're working around the clock to keep all the plates spinning and make sure that everything goes to plan; but how often do we take the time to simply be still?

Being still in our increasingly busy world can be a challenge, but the reality is that the quieter we become, the more that we can hear. How often do we ask God for help or guidance, but then forget to stop and listen?

Being still is not about doing nothing and simply hoping for the best; being still is about taking a moment to pause; to quiet our hearts and our minds; to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit; to listen to what God is telling us.

We'll be meeting in Church for a time of gentle contemplative prayer & reflection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month @ 6.30pm. Why not join us on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of August, everyone welcome.

## Mission Community News – Litter Picking Event



The first ever Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Litter Picking Event was hailed as a great success.

Across the 8 Churches of our Mission Community, there were 77 Litter Pickers out on Weds 17<sup>th</sup> July, and another 38 out on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July, collecting a grand total of 52 bags of rubbish.



As well as being a great outreach opportunity, this event will feed into our EcoChurch journey as individual Churches and also as a Mission Community.

A number of Churches reported 'meaningful encounters' with members of their wider community whilst out and about litter picking, plus support from people who don't usually attend Church – a great result all round!

## Mission Community Prayer

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church  
In the burning fire of your love,

We lift before you the churches of our mission community and the  
communities where we live and serve you.

Grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of your gospel,  
Bearing with one another in love as You build us together into one  
community.

Always abiding in You, may we be found steadfast in faith and active  
in service.

Open our eyes to see the opportunities you have prepared for us to  
work together in mission in new ways;

Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen

*Please pray for all of the Churches within our Mission Community –  
Christ Church Walshaw, Christ Church Ainsworth, St. Andrew's,  
Radcliffe, St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, St. Mary, Radcliffe, All  
Saints Stand, St. Andrew's, Hillock and St. George's, Unsworth.*

# Christ Church Ainsworth



Family Friendly



Gardening Group

This Summer, why not join us  
for family friendly, fun  
gardening activities!

Help us to create a pallet garden, set  
up a bug hotel, design bird feeders and  
nest boxes,

Plus help our Churchyard Team with  
lots of fun gardening tasks.

Starts Weds 24<sup>th</sup> July, then each  
Weds throughout the school holidays,  
10.30 - 12 noon.

*No need to book; just turn up, or for more info  
email: [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)*



# **CHRIST CHURCH AINSWORTH 50/50 LUCKY LOTTO!!**



- Only £1/ticket
- To enter simply fill in your '50/50 Lucky Lotto' ticket, then place it in the box at the back of Church.
- Lucky Lotto will be drawn in Church on the last Sunday of each month; the winner will receive 50% of that month's ticket sales!!
- Tickets available at the back of Church
- You can also enter by BACS payment or standing order, for details email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)
- All proceeds to Church funds

The next Lucky Lotto draw will take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

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



# *Coffee and Conversation*

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

**10.30 – 12 noon**

**Ainsworth Church and Community Hall**

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





!! WILD



WORSHIP !!

Why not join us for  
Family friendly outdoor worship  
in our lovely churchyard this  
summer

Wednesdays @ 6.30pm

Starts Weds 24<sup>th</sup> July

Come along & join the fun!!



Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall, Greenside

# Cuppa, Cakes & Company

New  
Group

Only  
£2



Info: 07533 696 776 [fionajbelli@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fionajbelli@hotmail.co.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month 2 till 3.30 (from 4/7/24)

Play games or just chat & relax— bring a friend—meet new friends





## *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."*





## *Be Still ...*

*In the midst of busy lives, making time to pause and reflect can seem counter intuitive, but is in fact a huge investment which can be beneficial in many ways.*

*For those who want it to, taking time to pause and reflect can also create space in which we can meet God in a powerful way. A space where we can offer everything that is going on in our lives to God, allowing Him to help us to carry our burdens, and giving Him space to speak, comfort and shape us.*

*Be Still ... Why not join us in Church for a time of gentle contemplative prayer & reflection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month @ 6.30pm; everyone welcome.*



EVERGREEN  
EVENTS

# CRAFT & MAKERS MARKET

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall  
Ainsworth, Bolton BL2 5PQ

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SUNDAY

13

OCTOBER  
11am - 3pm

Art & Crafts  
Gifts  
Furniture  
Knits  
Local Jewellery  
Scents  
& Many More  
Cafe Open

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Follow us

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



Evergreen Events  
Presents

# Christmas Craft & Makers Market

- Art
- Knits
- Crafts
- Scents
- Furniture
- & More
- Gifts
- Cafe Open

Ainsworth Community Church  
Hall, Ainsworth, Bolton, BL2 5PQ

8th

DECEMBER

11 - 3

## **Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements Coffee & Conversation**

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

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

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

Everyone welcome

### **Mothers' Union August Meetings**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2.30pm ACCH**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2.00pm at 'The Mill House', Kings Church.**

All are welcome at any of our meetings.

### **Wild Worship**

**Wednesday Evenings 6.30pm, Christ Church Ainsworth**

Throughout the school holidays we'll be holding outdoor worship in our churchyard each Wednesday evening; why not join us for family friendly worship and outdoor fun. Please dress appropriately for the weather!!

### **Christ Church Ainsworth Family Gardening Group**

**Wednesdays 10.30-12noon; starts 24<sup>th</sup> July**

This Summer, why not join us for family friendly, fun gardening activities!

Help us to create a 'pallet garden' and a 'bug hotel', plus help our Churchyard Team with lots of fun gardening tasks. No need to book – just turn up.

### **Candlelight Prayer**

**Each Friday @ 8pm on Zoom**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFOZz09>

### **!!Save The Dates!!**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 11 – 3pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

**Evergreen Events Crafts & Maker's Market**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 11 – 3pm**

**Evergreen Events Christmas Crafts & Maker's Market**

Two fabulous new events are coming to Ainsworth Church & Community Hall this Autumn; save the dates & watch this space for more info.

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

### **Cub Scouts**

Well, term is ended, and we are now on our summer break. Our final Friday was a Cubs versus Mums and Dads rounders match followed by a hot dog supper.

Cubs have completed a wide variety of badge work over the last couple of months, gaining both chest and arm badges. Several are now very close to achieving their Silver Award (Highest possible in this section).

Plans for the Autumn term are already in hand with the first being a trip to Anderton Water Activity centre in September where the Cubs can work on 2 or 3 different water based badges.

We hope everyone has a good summer, weather permitting!!!!

More in September.

Gwen – Baloo

### **12<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Guides**

After enrolling Serena, we did another part of our skills builder badge - designing a gadget that could be useful on camp and using the knots we have been practicing, to make a small version of it - not much variety though as everyone went for a tepee shape and a washing line to hang tea towels on! However, by completing this final part, we were able to award the badge to Amelia B, Amelia S, Beatrice, Eloise, Erin, Grace M, Grace S, Libby, Lilly, Lily May, Lucy, Poppy L, Poppy L and Serena. We also awarded the mixology interest badge and the Be Well theme award to Grace M. Eloise completed her Guiding History interest badge; her backwoods cooking badge and so achieved her Have Adventures theme award.

To mark Father's Day, the girls made shortbread cookie biscuits – and as well as making the bake, they did a good job washing up! Making the most of the good weather, we did a combined penny hike and litter pick and, as well as the usual litter, one group found a hub cap and the other a dead bird – but we left both in situ!

The Guides have been human space stations – making unusual combinations and then drifting apart, with the mission controller trying to remember how each one went together - and most were quite successful. They have listened to pieces of music and have drawn images of how each made them feel.



Our last meeting of the term was a party, but not the one we'd planned as the general election prevented us from using the kitchen, but we still enjoyed ourselves – and we made slime so it was a messy party as well!

A belated thanks to all the Guides who helped at the Church Spring Fair, clearing tables, serving customers, drying pots and tidying away; and to all the parents who donated sandwich fillings and items for the kids-meal-deal.

12th Radcliffe Guide Leaders

## Transformation - Now!



We were privileged to join with the family and friends of Jean Clifford to celebrate her life at her funeral in Church and share memories afterwards in the Church Hall. We will miss Jean's support and loyalty over the years and promise to keep her family and friends in our prayers. As a mark of respect, we cancelled our Mothers' Union meeting that afternoon.

By the time you read this letter, I hope that we will have enjoyed our summer lunch at the Rose and Crown. We aren't expecting to have to cancel due to a heatwave this year!

On Tuesday 6th August at 2.30pm we shall meet in the Church Hall for a time of worship and fellowship led by Andrew.

This will be a busy week as the Bolton Archdeaconry Festival is on Friday 9th August at 7.30pm at St Maxentius, Bradshaw, Bolton. It would be good if we were represented but I know that it isn't always easy.

9th August marks a special day in the Mothers' Union calendar as it is the date that we remember our founder, Mary Sumner, who established the organisation in 1876 and died in 1921. As the wife of a Rector in Hampshire, she set up a group to support mothers of all kinds in bringing up their children. After delivering a speech in 1885 to churchgoing women at the Portsmouth Church Congress, she inspired many of them to go back to their parishes and set up similar groups.

On Tuesday 20th August we will meet at The Mill Coffee House for tea, coffee, cakes, tasty treats or whatever takes our fancy! The cafe is situated in The Kings Church, Bury New Road, Brighton. Once again, due to the closing times of The Mill at 3.00pm, we need to meet at 2.00pm.

Notes from around the Diocese.

### **MAKING A DIFFERENCE. MU LIVE.**

TOTAL of those impacted by our work, so far this year 1444

and these fantastic figures are because you make a difference with all the projects you do.

### **AWAY FROM IT ALL**

26 more people from this diocese will benefit from holidays, camps or trips this summer. THANK YOU for your support.

Do you know of anyone in need of such a break? Please get in touch with Jean, Andrew or me and we'll give you the phone number of the office to find out how to refer a group, individual or family.

### **PRISON WORK; FOREST BANK**

Attention all knitters!! We have been asked if we would donate knitted baubles for pad doors at Christmas, that will contain a Ferrero Rocher chocolate or similar. Let's see how many we can make as there are up to 1,500 men in Forest Bank. I should be able to get hold of a pattern from the office and if anyone wishes to donate Ferrero Rocher nearer Christmas that would be wonderful

Jennifer White

### **Just A Thought**

God doesn't always take us out of the problem; sometimes He stretches our faith by taking us through the problem.



## **From the Archives – August 1999**

The sketch on the inside front cover of the Parish Magazine in August 1999 depicted people wearing sunglasses and looking up to the sky ... all becomes clear on reading the article later in the magazine; a solar eclipse lasting around 2 hours was expected to occur at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August that year!

In August 1999, 'News From The Parish' brought a number of reminders and requests with regards to the forthcoming Flower Festival – donations of supplies for refreshments, plus volunteers to help out on the day would be greatly appreciated. There were also a number of messages of sympathy and condolence with regards to the death of Geoff Wood, who had been an active member of the church and Church Choir for many years.

Elsewhere, the Uniformed Organisations may have been on their Summer break, but the ladies of the Parish were as busy as ever: Mothers' Union members were invited to a Service at All Saints, Stand, to commemorate the life and work of Mary Sumner, they were also planning their annual trip to Mossley for a shared Church Service followed by Afternoon Tea. The ladies of the Church Women's Fellowship had enjoyed an 'interesting and informative talk' given by Bolton Mountain Rescue Team; and members of Cockey Moor Women's Institute had held a musical entertainment evening to celebrate their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Committee of Ainsworth Church & Community Hall thanked everyone who had contributed to the 'decorating fund'; the New Room was due to be painted before the end of the Summer break; whilst a report from Christ Church Ainsworth PTA thanked everyone for supporting the various fundraising initiatives that school had run throughout the course of the year.

In August 1999, the 'Face To Face' interview was with 'A good friend and colleague, Mr. Belli, the Minister at Ainsworth Methodist Church'. In August 1999 there were 4 Baptism, 1 Wedding and 2 Funerals recorded from the previous month. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 352, collections were listed as £1863.

## Space To Share A Prayer

Heavenly Father, fill us with your light and hope; grant us strength when we are weak; grant us love when we feel forsaken; grant us courage when we feel afraid; grant us wisdom when we feel foolish; grant us comfort when we feel alone; grant us hope when we feel rejected; grant us peace when we are in turmoil. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## You Might Like To Read ...

*"Unveiled; Women of the Old Testament, and the choices they made", Clare Hayns; published by BRF.*

Some women of the Hebrew scriptures are well known, but many others are barely remembered. Even when they are, we often don't pause on them long enough to think about what we might learn from them. *Unveiled*, written with frankness and humour and illustrated with striking artwork from a young Oxford-based artist, explores the stories of 40 women in 40 days. Each reflection ends with a short application to everyday life, guidance for further thought and a prayer.

## Top 10 Holiday Destinations Worldwide 2023

According to [www.timeout.com](http://www.timeout.com) – the following were the top 10 worldwide holiday destinations for 2023:

1. Benidorm
2. Zanzibar
3. Greece
4. Dubai
5. Mexico
6. Marmaris
7. Germany
8. Albania
9. Florida
10. Cyprus

## Praying Through The Seasons – Summer



*“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”*

*Genesis 8; 22*

It is August already; it may feel that Summer is only just arriving, but in the Celtic year, Summer starts at the beginning of May; it is a time when the world seems full and abundant; the land is awash with warmth and colour, and the sun seems to bring joy to the world. Take a step back from feeling ‘cheated’ that the better weather has taken so long to arrive; instead, consider the winter that has passed recall the bareness of trees awaiting spring’s warmth, the first snowdrops beginning to emerge and flower, remember again the pale colours beginning to return to our lives; feel once more the warmth of the sun, bringing life and light to the dark places in this world; in our lives ... Nature’s endless cycle of life and death.

Summer reminds us that there is hope in the world, that the light within us can spread to the far reaches of the globe and inspire others. Let us remember also, that we can nurture others, just as the Sun nurtures us.

*Loving God, as we are surrounded by the light and warmth of the sun, may we know the surrounding of your light and warmth in our lives. May we know this not only because we see your light, but because by your light, we see everything else. Amen*

## For All The Saints – August; St. Clare of Assisi

Name: St. Clare of Assisi

Feast Day: 11<sup>th</sup> August

Born: 16<sup>th</sup> July 1194

Died: 11<sup>th</sup> August 1253

Place of burial: Basilica di Santa Chiara, Assisi, Italy.

Patron Saint Of: Eye disease, goldsmiths, laundry, television, bicycle messengers, good weather, and needle workers!!

Clare was born in Assisi, the eldest daughter of a wealthy Roman family. From an early age Clare and her younger siblings received a thorough religious education from their mother; Clare was particularly influenced by the works and teachings of Francis of Assisi.

At the age of 12, Clare was to be given in marriage to a wealthy young noble of her father's choosing, however Clare fled before this could happen.

Clare approached Francis and asked him to help her to live after the manner of the Gospel. On the evening of Palm Sunday, 20 March 1212, with the consent of the Bishop of Assisi, Clare left her father's house accompanied by her Aunt Bianca and another companion, and proceeded to the chapel of the Porziuncula to meet Francis. There, her hair was cut, and she exchanged her rich gown for a plain robe and veil. Fully cutting a woman's hair was a symbolic act showing that she was no longer bound by the laws of man or society but rather that she followed the will of God.

Francis placed Clare in the convent of the Benedictine nuns of San Paulo, near Bastia. Her father, along with other members of her family, attempted to convince her to return home. At first, they tried to persuade her by enticing her with wealth, and the privileges of nobility, but she resisted each attempt, professing that she would have no other husband but Jesus Christ.

Finally, when they tried to use force, she clung to the altar of the church and threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair. It was only after seeing her cropped hair that her family relented and left her in peace. In order to provide the greater solitude Clare desired, Francis later sent her to another monastery of the Benedictine nuns on one of the flanks of Subasio.

During her lifetime, Clare founded the 'Order of Poor Ladies', a monastic religious order for women in the Franciscan tradition. The Order of Poor Ladies was different from any other order or convent because it followed a rule of strict poverty. Clare herself, wrote their Rule of Life, the first set of monastic guidelines known to have been written by a woman.

Clare is credited with performing a number of miracles during her lifetime, most famously, during the Crusades era, when a pair of Saracen armies attacked the monastery of San Damiano and the town of Assisi, both targets were successfully defended as Clare prayed to Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Following her death, the order she founded was renamed in her honour as the 'Order of Saint Clare', commonly referred to today as the 'Poor Clares'. Her feast day is on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

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

### An Old English Prayer

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun,  
A bit o' work and a bit o' fun,  
Give us in all the struggle and sputter,  
Our daily bread and a bit o' butter,  
Give us health, our keep to make,  
And a bit to spare for other's sake.  
Give us, too, a bit of a song,  
And a tale, and a book to help us along.  
Give us, Lord, a chance to be  
Our goodly best, brave, wise and free;  
Our goodly best for ourselves and others  
Til al men learn to live as brothers.

*(Author unknown)*

### Strap Lines

Think like a person of action, act like a person of thought.

Silent company is often more healing than words of advice.

Think once before you speak, twice before you act, and three times before you post on social media.

### Time for A Smile

A teenager asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said, "If you get good A level grades, study your Bible and get your hair cut, then we'll talk." The boy agreed.

Some time later, his father said, "I'm pleased with your grades son, and I note you've been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed with your long hair."

The boy said, "OK, but I've noticed in my studies that Samson, John the Baptist, Moses and probably Jesus all had long hair."

His father replied, "And did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

## The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

S U M M E R H O L I D A Y S

### Bible Plants Quiz

1. Moses saw one of these burning (Exodus 3;12)
2. Jesus referred to himself as 'the true ----', and his disciples as 'the branches' (John 15;1)
3. Jesus likened the Kingdom of Heaven to this type of seed (Matthew 13;31)
4. Rachel ask Leah to give her some of these to assist with fertility (Genesis 30;14)
5. Zaccheus climbed this tree to get a better view of Jesus (Luke 19;4)
6. These flowers are clothed by God, even though they do not reap or spin or toil (Matthew 6;28)
7. Noah had to use a specific type of timber to build the Ark (Genesis 6;14)
8. A Dove brought this leaf back to Noah as the flood waters began to recede (Genesis 8;11)
9. Adam and Eve sewed these together to clothe themselves (Genesis 3;7)
10. The plant which is described as 'least of all seeds, but greatest among herbs (Mark 4;31)

(Answers on page 32)

## Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Lay Assistant</b>	<b>Prayers</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> August 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Mags Gillman	Lorraine Holden	Andrew Lowe
11 <sup>th</sup> August 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Barbara Clarkson Jan Burrow	Beryl Sixsmith	Clergy
18 <sup>th</sup> August 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Barbara Clarkson	Jenny Johnson
25 <sup>th</sup> August 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	David Holden	David Holden

## Reader's Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Readings</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> August 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Lorraine Holden	2 Samuel 11.26 - 12.13a Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35
11 <sup>th</sup> August 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Beryl Sixsmith	2 Samuel 18.5-9,15,31-33 Ephesians 4.25 - 5.2 John 6.35,41-51
18 <sup>th</sup> August 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Enid Horrocks	1 Kings 2.10-12; 3.3-14 Ephesians 5.15-20 John 6.51-58
25 <sup>th</sup> August 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	David Holden	1 Kings 8.22-30, 41-43 Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69

## Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy <a href="mailto:vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk">vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk</a>	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley Chris Haworth	07952 709041 07855 638450
Church Treasurer	David Holden	<a href="mailto:davelholden@aol.co.uk">davelholden@aol.co.uk</a>
Secretary of the PCC	Vacancy	
Organist	Jenny Johnson	07734976978
Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary	Carole Butler	07379 196608
Safeguarding Officer	Peter Holden	01204 596938
Church Hall Booking		<a href="mailto:bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk">bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk</a>
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	<a href="mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com">ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com</a>
Magazine Adverts		
Primary School Head	D Gerrard BA(Hons)PGCE	01204 527484

### Services

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

Weds 6.15pm Mid-Week Praise

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

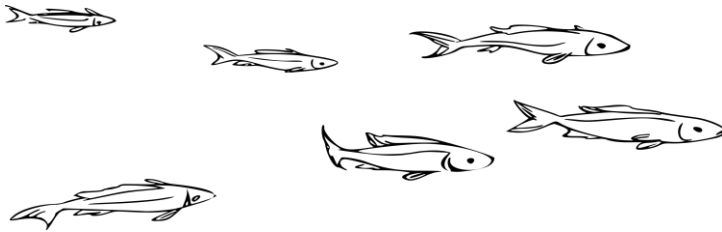
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage, and Funerals  
Contact 01204-398567.

Answers to Bible Plants Quiz: 1) Bush, 2) Vine, 3) Mustard, 4) Mandrakes, 5) Sycamore-fig, 6) Lilies, 7) Gopher, 8) Olive, 9) Fig, 10) Mustard.



## Who's Who For Church Organisations

Mothers Union	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Altar Flowers	Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
ABC First Steps Toddler Group	Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Jennifer White	07964 587694
Group Leader	group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscoouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Cub Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Scouts' 14 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscoouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Friday 7.30 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader John Turner	01204 381590
Brownies 16 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045



# Little Fishes

Job



## 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.

### Job

The story of Job is an interesting one ...

Job was an ordinary sort of a person; he worked hard, and he cared for his family. Job had 7 sons and 3 daughters. He also had 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 oxen, 500 female donkeys and a very large household.



Job was also a very faithful person; he worshipped God and prayed every day, and always tried to treat the people around him with love and respect.

One day, Satan noticed Job, and decided to make some trouble for him. Satan told God that the only reason Job was faithful was because he had so much, and he had an easy life. God knew that this was wrong, he knew that Job believed and trusted and was a faithful servant. God decided to play along with Satan; He told him that he could do anything to Job, but he mustn't physically harm him.

Soon after, a servant came to Job and told him that whilst his oxen and donkeys were in the fields, robbers had come and taken them and killed all the servants except for him!



While that servant was talking, another came and told Job that there had been a great fire, and all the sheep and shepherds had been burned alive, all except for the one that came to tell Job.

While that servant was talking, another came hurrying to Job to tell him that a group of bandits had crept out of the hills and stolen all the camels and killed all the servants who cared for them, except for himself.

Job was still trying to understand all of these things, when another servant came rushing up to him and told Job that his children and all the rest of his family were eating a meal, when a great wind came and killed everyone, except for the servant who was talking.

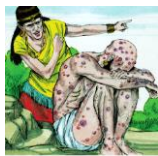


Job stood up and tore off his robe and shaved his head, but he didn't get angry with God; instead, he knelt down on the ground in prayer. Job said, "The Lord gives, and He takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord."



Satan was not impressed with this; he had hoped to upset Job and make him doubt God. But Satan had another idea to try to upset Job. Satan told God that Job had stayed faithful to God, only because he didn't really care about his children, or his animals, or his family; losing those things didn't hurt him physically. God knew Job was better than that, so He told Satan that he could do what he wanted to Job, except that he must not kill him.

Satan began by sending a horrible disease to infect Job; it covered him all over in itchy, sore boils. Job's skin peeled and cracked as he scratched at the sores.



Job's wife told Job to curse God because of what was happening to him, but Job said, "sometimes there's good in life and sometimes there's bad - that's just how it is!" And Job did not curse God or sin.

Three of Job's friends heard of all that had happened to him and came to see him. Job looked so terrible that to start with, his

friends didn't even recognize him! They sat quietly with Job for seven days and nights; they all expected Job to be angry with God because of all the bad things that had happened to him, but Job just sat there quietly praying. Then his friends tried to convince Job that all of the bad things were God's fault; they tried to persuade him to be angry with God; but Job stayed faithful and didn't blame God, and eventually his so-called friends went away and left him alone.



After his friends had gone, Job prayed to God, he prayed for his friends, and he also asked God what he could do to try to make things better.

God heard Job's prayers and saw that he had never doubted or been unfaithful, even after all of the disasters and bad luck that



had befallen him, and so God blessed Job; He rewarded him by giving Job back all of the things that he had lost, and even giving him some more!

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

God had such confidence in Job's faith that He allowed Satan to test him. Satan took away Job's wealth, his children, and his health. Job's wife and friends were not much help because they tried to convince him that he probably deserved the things that were happening to him. Despite his suffering, Job refused to give up his faith in God. Satan was proved wrong, and in the end, the Lord blessed Job with even greater health, wealth, and family than before. Through praying and talking to God, Job learned that God knows more than any human does. We may not know why things happen, but God does, and even when we don't completely understand things, we can always trust Him.

### **Prayer Time ...**

Dear God, we thank You that You are with us in our good times and our bad times. We thank You that You have a plan to make everything better. Help us to stay faithful and keep our hope in you, like Job did. Amen.

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