

# Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



When New Year Sounds The Midnight Bell  
(Photo Courtesy Of Mike Watson)

**Serving the Community**

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

January 2025

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# Parish Diary January 2025



## EPIPHANY

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	Funeral of John Bulcock
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Funeral of Jane Lord

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Church Parade
	11.00am	Covenant Service – Ainsworth Methodist
	11.30am	Interment of Ashes of Janice Whitehead
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee & Conversation ( <i>Ainsworth Church &amp; Community Hall</i> )
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Be Still
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion ( <i>followed by refreshments &amp; drawing of the January Lucky Lotto</i> )
	12.30pm	Baptism of Penelope Coyne
Weds 29 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

## FEBRUARY

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.15pm	Baptism of Maisie & Olivia Dickinson
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer

## **Interregnum Update**

We stand once more at the threshold of a New Year, and many of us will be wondering where on earth the time has gone.

The start of a new year is always a great time to look back on what has been achieved; to reflect on what has gone well, but also on those things that may not have taken the direction we had expected; to learn from the things that have happened over the course of the previous year, and to begin to plan for the year ahead. A New Year is like the blank pages of a book, waiting to be written on – there are endless possibilities and endless potential; and so it is at Christ Church Ainsworth, as we prepare to step forwards into another year. Much has been achieved over the course of the past year; our PCC, members of the various groups and committees, and members of our worshipping community have worked hard to ensure that our Church continues to thrive during the ongoing interregnum; we've begun to develop new links with our wider community, we've tried new things, and we've worked to build on and strengthen existing links with Christ Church Ainsworth School, with our friends at Ainsworth Methodist Church, and with the other churches of our Mission Community.

Not everything has been straight forward, but that's all part and parcel of learning and growing; I'm not sure who first said, "It's not how many times you fall down that you need to be counting – it's how many times you pick yourself back up again", but it's very true!

It seems incredible that we have been in interregnum now for almost 2 years; whilst the vacancy has been advertised again, we have no way of knowing whether anyone suitable will apply, how long it will take for any successful applicant to take up their new position, or what plans the person who is appointed may have.

None of us can predict what 'the powers that be' will decide to do with our vacant post if we don't get any applicants this time around, or what the timescale will be. But what we can all do, is to continue to be positive, continue to look upwards and outwards, continue to pull together as a team, and continue to do our best for God's Church here in Ainsworth and for our wider community.

Here's looking forward to a positive and proactive year ahead for our Church and wishing everyone at Christ Church Ainsworth a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

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

## Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the January 2025 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, and to another New Year; what on earth happened to 2024? Time flies when you're having fun!

There were certainly plenty of opportunities to have fun on the run up to the festive season; for those who weren't able to participate in the many seasonal activities, this month's magazine brings you updates and reports on many of the Parish events. Not quite the same as being there, but a close runner up.

After all of the extra events and activities during the run up to Christmas, most of our groups and uniformed organisations have been enjoying a well-earned break, with many not starting back until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January. We can all look forward to hearing about their festive fun in next month's magazine. If your group or organisation has something to report, or you'd like to include an article in a future edition, please get in touch at [ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com)

Finally, just to wish all of our readers a peaceful and prosperous New Year - *Alison*

## From The Registers

We welcome to the family of God:

24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Harriet Cooper

8<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Hari Lewis

We commend to God's keeping:

14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Janice Whitehead

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 John Brian Flowers

11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Ian Watts

## Flower Rota

5<sup>th</sup> January – Beryl Sixsmith

19<sup>th</sup> January – Jean Eddleston

## Acknowledgement

A huge thank you to everyone who sent cards, flowers and messages of sympathy & support following Ian's death; your kindness is very much appreciated – from Valerie Watts.

## Christmas At Christ Church Ainsworth

What a fantastic variety of Christmas Services and activities were on offer at Christ Church Ainsworth throughout December 2024!

The season got off to a flying start with our 'Bring Your Own Christingle Service' – it was fantastic to see our Church quite literally full, with children and adults alike proudly displaying their lighted Christingles.



The following day saw a small team of volunteers back at Church, this time doing 'Experience Christmas' with the Reception Class children from Christ Church Ainsworth School. The children listened to the Christmas Story, before splitting into groups to make candles, decorate stars, and create paper plate angels, all of which were used to decorate our Church.

Hot on the heels of this fun filled afternoon came our wonderful, and extremely popular, Candlelit Christmas Concert held in Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. It was great to see our Church full, as 120 plus members of our congregation and local community were entertained with a fantastic selection of festive music played by Farnworth & Walkden Band. As well as being a thoroughly enjoyable evening, this event raised over £800 for our Church funds.



A 'first' for Christ Church Ainsworth was the 'All Age Christmas Service', held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – the children from our MidWeek Praise family service did a fantastic job; retelling the Christmas Story, leading prayers and singing some lovely Christmas songs – the atmosphere was wonderful and again it was great to see our Church so full.

The joint Carol Service at Ainsworth Methodist Church was next on the Christmas agenda, with people from Ainsworth Methodist Church, Christ Church Ainsworth and Harwood Methodist Church all coming together in worship. The combined choir, led by Mike Bainbridge, were amazing!

And finally, to Christmas Eve – Christmas at the Crib and The First Communion of Christmas, followed by BCP Communion on Christmas morning.

Many thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to bring all of these things to fruition, and also to the many people from our Church and

our wider community, who have come along and supported us – it's a wonderful time of year.

## **Candlelit Christmas Concert**

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the Candlelit Christmas Concert – what a great night we had! The band were magnificent and entertained us with a whole range of festive music, interspersed with terrible jokes!

A big thank you also to the small team of people who helped to get things set up and ready, served refreshments, and tidied away afterwards.

The total amount raised from this event was £1,104-00 before the band's expenses.



## **Churchyard Team - Christmas Wreaths**

A big thank you to everyone who ordered Holly wreaths via the Churchyard Team; the total amount raised was £134-00!



## **Porch Boxes – Christmas Meal Appeal**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our 'Christmas Meal Appeal' so generously throughout Advent. It was great to see our 'Porch Box' being filled each week with items to help local people who are in desperate need.



Many thanks also to Jan, who delivers these items to the Porch Boxes depot, for distribution.

## Unwanted Gift Amnesty

Most of us will, at some point, receive a gift which, although well-meant, simply 'isn't our thing'; maybe you have a 'double up', or something which isn't the right size.

Perhaps these items aren't useful to you, but they could be used at one of our fundraising events as raffle prizes or sold on a stall at one of the Church fairs.

If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, please consider donating them to Church; simply leave them in the box at the back of Church, marked 'Gift Amnesty'. Thanking you in advance!

## EcoChurch



Having achieved the EcoChurch Silver Award at the end of 2024, our aim for the coming months is to make sure that, as a Church, we are maintaining the required standard on all things Eco, and not slipping back towards less eco-friendly practices.

But caring for our environment isn't limited to our church-based activities; we can all make small changes to our lifestyles which, collectively, would undoubtedly make a difference.

In the coming months we'll be giving you a 'Make a difference' idea each month, letting you know what we're doing to implement these ideas in Church, plus suggesting small changes that you might like to try to incorporate into your own home or daily routine.

### **Make A Difference - January:**

**Energy** – *At Church we've swapped to a 'green tariff' for gas & electricity, and we're in the process of applying for permission to swap some of the internal lighting over to LEDs.*

Is your gas / electricity from a renewable source, or are you on a 'green tariff'? Do you, or could you use LED or other low energy light bulbs? Is your home insulated / double glazed to reduce heat loss / energy waste? Is this something that you could consider doing?

## Just A Thought

Happiness is not the absence of problems, it's the ability to deal with them.



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

The December Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, with the lucky winner walking away with £28-00!

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!!*

## Bible Reading Fellowship

The Bible Reading Fellowship offers a fantastic range of daily Bible reading notes, which are ideal for anyone wanting an accessible, yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith, and their knowledge of the Bible.

Each booklet covers 4 months, with each daily reading followed by a short reflection on the passage. The reflections are readable, enlightening and make the Bible relevant to our daily lives. For more information visit [brfonline.org.uk](http://brfonline.org.uk)

## Epiphany

January 6<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Epiphany, sometimes called "Three Kings Day," and starts what some consider to be the Season of or after Epiphany, continuing until Ash Wednesday. In some cultures, January 6<sup>th</sup> is a large and festive end to the Christmas season; a day of presents, parades, and celebration. Epiphany is an invitation to follow stars, listen to dreams, and step out of what we have always known.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us this is the day the magi ("kings") arrived in Bethlehem, directed by angels and guided by a star,



bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. Gold symbolized Jesus as a king. Frankincense and myrrh are sweet-smelling resins that were burned as sacred offerings and during burials. The magi go home by another road. Little else is known about them, although a robust tradition has grown around them over time, including their number (three) and their names (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar). This holy mystery invites us to wonder who the magi are and how their sacred story intersects with our own. Who or what is leading you to God incarnate? Which stars will you follow this year and what road will you take? What gifts will you offer?

## **Parish Magazine Advertising**

If you own or manage a local business, have you considered advertising in our Parish Magazine? The Magazine is emailed out directly to almost 300 people every month, and also uploaded to our FaceBook page, website and 'A Church Near You' page, as well as being shared to Christ Church Ainsworth School.

Our advertising year runs from March through to February; for more info / price options, email [ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com)

## **Online Giving**

We understand that many people no longer carry cash, however thanks to the wonders of modern technology, we can 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!

## Easyfundraising



If you're planning to hit the online sales, book a holiday, buy train tickets, or even renew your insurance policies – please consider doing so through the Easyfundraising portal.

We currently only have 26 people who have registered to support our cause through Easyfundraising – but anyone who shops online can support us in this way; it's a really simple way of raising much needed funds for our Church.

If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. Almost 6,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping, book holidays, book trains tickets, book flights, purchase car or home insurance, plus many other online transactions - at no extra cost to you! These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-rbd21-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1)

## Raising Awareness – The Big Garden Bird Watch; 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Big Garden Birdwatch is co-ordinated by the RSPB and is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds and small creatures are faring.

### How To Take Part ...

Choose an hour between 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> January; spend that hour watching the birds in your patch and record any birds that land. Record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time, then send your results back online or by post.

**Last Year ...** Across the UK, over 600,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2024, counting a whopping 9.7 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38

million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. Every bird you do – or don't – count will give a valuable insight into how garden birds are faring.

For more information or to register your findings, visit

[Big Garden Birdwatch](#)

## **Mission Community News**

Christ Church Ainsworth is part of the group of Churches which form the Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community. The Mission Community allows our Churches to come together to support one another as we seek to grow, nurture and serve our individual communities.

The Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community works on a 'Task Group' basis with separate Task Groups working on 'Growing', 'Nurturing' and 'Serving' projects, plus an additional 'Prayer & Spirituality' task group.

The Growing Group aim to identify and develop ways in which our individual Churches might help our worshipping communities to grow in faith and in numbers; themes have included communication, spreading the word, working with schools, and Baptism preparation.

The Nurturing Group consider ways in which we might support and encourage individuals in their faith journeys; themes have included co-ordinating study groups and training courses.

The Serving Group are tasked with considering how we can best serve our worshipping and wider communities; themes have included pastoral care and EcoChurch.

The Prayer & Spirituality Group works on the basis that prayer must underpin all that we do; this group works to identify prayer needs and opportunities which can be shared throughout our Mission Community, and have brought us such initiatives as the weekly shared prayers, Lent and Advent Zoom prayers, and most recently, the Mission Community Prayer Diary.

Task Groups meet roughly every 6 weeks for around an hour, usually in the evenings; we would love to have a representative from our Church on each task group. If you are interested in getting involved or want to know more, please get in touch via

[ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)

## 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.*

## News From The Diocese

### **Vocations Day - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 10am - 3pm @ St Bride's, Old Trafford**

Everyone has a ministry, and everyone has a calling. Do you know what yours is?

Join our drop-in style open day where you will get the opportunity to meet the Vocations Team, speak with various lay and ordained ministers from around the diocese, and take part in interactive workshops designed to help you explore your vocation, calling and gifts. Snacks and refreshments will be provided but please bring along your own lunch. For more information please contact [jamiemackenzie@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:jamiemackenzie@manchester.anglican.org)

To book your place, visit: <https://vocationsday2025.eventbrite.co.uk/>

## Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Prayer Diary



**January 2025**

1 <sup>st</sup>	We give thanks for all that has been achieved by & through the Churches of our Mission Community throughout the past year and pray for inspiration & guidance as we & our Churches prepare for the year ahead.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	We pray that the new year will bring positive progress with the filling of some of the vacant posts throughout our Mission Community.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	We pray for all at St. George's, Unsworth who will be litter picking tomorrow; praying that they may have meaningful encounters.
4 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for the use of Braille & for all who raise awareness of blindness issues.
5 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for & give thanks for the work of the Food Pantry Team at St. Andrew's, Hillock; praying also for all of the individuals & families who access this service.
6 <sup>th</sup>	We celebrate & give thanks for the visit of the Magi to Jesus.
7 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for & give thanks for the volunteers who work so hard to maintain our Churchyards.
8 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for the children & families who come to MidWeek Praise at Christ Church Ainsworth, we pray that through this Service, the seeds of faith may be sown in young hearts.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Praying for all who will be involved with the Wardens' meeting at All Saints, Stand today. Giving thanks for all that our Churchwardens do.
10 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
11 <sup>th</sup>	We pray that the Carbon Literacy Training session at Christ Church Walshaw will be a well-supported & successful event. Praying for all Churches who have begun their EcoChurch journey.
12 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for wisdom for those at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe, as they seek to resolve the issues with their boiler & explore ways to prevent future flooding.
13 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for those who represent their Churches at Deanery Synod & pray for all who will be attending the meeting this evening.
14 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
15 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.
16 <sup>th</sup>	On World Religion Day, we pray for interfaith understanding & harmony.
17 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for the work of our PCC Treasurers & pray that Christ Church Walshaw will be able to recruit a new Treasurer when Bill stands down at their APCM.
18 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
19 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for & pray for our Church Officers, Lay Leaders & Volunteers.
20 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for those who will be part of the Prayer & Spirituality Group meeting this evening; we pray that there will be someone from each Church who feels called to be a part of this group.
21 <sup>st</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints Stand.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	We pray for & give thanks for all who provide Funeral Ministry throughout our Mission Community.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
24 <sup>th</sup>	We pray that the advert for an Incumbent at St. Andrew's, Hillock & St. George's, Unsworth will, this time, bear fruit. We pray for everyone who is involved with the recruitment & deployment process.
25 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
26 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for the families of the children who will be Baptised at Christ Church Ainsworth in the coming weeks; may they know God's presence & grow in faith.
27 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for those who will be part of the Task Group meeting this evening; we pray that there will be someone from each Church who feels called to be a part of these groups.
28 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
29 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
30 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for the congregation, volunteers & community at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
31 <sup>st</sup>	We give thanks & pray for all those who are involved with ministry for children & families.

*"What wings are to a bird, & sails are to a ship; so prayer is to the soul."*



## **RECYCLE FOR CHARITY**

**Did you know, many of your unwanted items could be recycled?**

**Do you have any of these items stuck in a drawer or cupboard?**

**Please bring along your glasses, hearing aids, foreign currency, stamps, keys, ink & toner cartridges (branded only) & bra's & place them into the boxes provided in church.**

**All items will be collected at the monthly Mission Community Task Group meetings where they will be sorted and sent to where they are needed most.**

**Thank you**



**RADCLIFFE & WHITEFIELD MISSION COMMUNITY**



# **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 26<sup>th</sup> January.

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





# *Coffee and Conversation*

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

**10.30 – 12 noon**

**Ainsworth Church and Community Hall**

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



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

## **Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements**

### **Coffee & Conversation**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

**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 Meetings**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

**1pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January – time & venue to be confirmed**

New members always welcome; please come along to any of our meetings to find out more.

### **Cuppa, Cakes & Company**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

**2 – 3.30pm Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall**

Participate in board games, dominoes, table tennis & jigsaws or just come for a chat. Cost is £2.00 payable on the day.

### **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>

### **Volunteers Needed**

If you’re looking for a new challenge / interest for 2025, why not consider volunteering within one of our Church teams. The Churchyard Team meet on a Wednesday morning & work in our lovely Churchyard; the Pew Polishers meet alternate Thursday mornings & do a fabulous job of cleaning & tidying in Church. Both of these teams would appreciate additional volunteers; if you have a couple of hours to spare even once a month, they would love to hear from you. For Churchyard team enquiries contact Janet Hayes (01204 796404); for Pew Polishing enquiries speak to 1 of the Churchwardens.

### **16<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Rainbows**

**Thursday Evenings in Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

This group will be for girls aged 4 – 6years; for more info visit:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

## Around The Organisations ...

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

After half term we were joined by two new Guides, Lilly and Liberty, and at the end of term we were please to enrol Mila, Mirabel and Rubi. Welcome to Girlguiding to them all.

Since October, we have painted under pressure, designing wallpaper and painting it in the allotted time - and what a variety there was. In recognition of Remembrance Day, we made poppy pinwheels and displayed them on our notice board, then we decorated biscuits to make a poppy. At the Church parade Poppy carried the Union flag and Grace the Guide flag, with Rubi and Mila escorting.



As Christmas approached, we got into the mood with a Santa escape room – one team managed to complete the challenge with 30 seconds to spare! (others remained locked in the room!!) and we made Christmas decorations – using sand and mosaic designs. Then we had a relaxing end of term by pampering ourselves with face packs, nail varnish, glitter tattoos, stress balls and bath bombs – all followed by pizzas and garlic bread!

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

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

We are pleased to announce that a Rainbow group is opening at the Church Hall after February half term. This is for girls aged 4–6 and will

meet on Thursdays. If you wish your daughter to go on the waiting list, please register her through the Girlguiding website:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

## Join Us & Join In!



Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are already at the start of another year. It's not only a new year for Mothers' Union, but also the start of a new triennium which brings with it a new theme and new presidents. Our theme for 2025-27 is 'Join Us and Join In!' and we will be sharing more about this theme over the next three years. Anyone is welcome at our meetings, so come and find out what Mothers' Union is all about.

Our former diocesan president, Christine Sharp, now becomes the York Provincial President. Pauline Greenhalgh is the new Bolton Archdeaconry President and Tricia Stokes continues as the Deanery Leader for Bury & Rossendale.

We were delighted to have Tricia with us for our morning service on Sunday 24th November when we not only marked the start of our 16 Days of Activism campaign but also celebrated a special anniversary for Enid Horrocks as she reached an impressive 60 years' membership of Mothers' Union. Congratulations, Enid, from all of us in the branch. I am glad that we managed to keep the surprise!

In order to gather information without arousing suspicion, I came up with the ruse of a new feature for the magazine - My Mothers' Union Story - with Enid as the first 'volunteer'. Of course, it's impossible to do justice to 60 years within the confines of a magazine article, but Enid gives us a flavour of her time in various branches, and you can find her account at the end of this article.



It was good to share some of the work of the Mothers' Union RISE UP campaign during the service at the end of November, an important initiative about raising awareness concerning domestic abuse. We would like to thank all those who donated to our retiring collections at the end of both this service and the following week's. In total, we raised £99.41 which will be spent on purchasing items for a local refuge and we hope to report on this in due course.

We had an enjoyable Christmas meal at the Rose and Crown on 3rd December and very much enjoyed finding out who our Prayer Partners had been during 2024.

Weather permitting, we shall have our first meeting of 2025 in the Church Hall on Tuesday 7th January. We will meet at the earlier time of **1 p.m.** and would ask everyone to bring something savoury to share at our lunch. We will also choose our new Prayer Partners for the year ahead.

We will meet again on Tuesday 21st January. More details will be shared once confirmed.

Finally, we would like to send our condolences to Valerie Watts on the loss of her husband Ian. We will keep you and your family in our prayers in the months ahead, Valerie.

Andrew Lowe

## **My Mothers' Union Journey - Enid Horrocks**

In August 1961 my husband and I married and moved to a small new housing estate in Bromley Cross, Bolton. We still continued to travel each week to our home church in Bolton where we had both worshipped for many years, going back to Sunday School, Youth Club, joining the church choir etc.

We settled quickly into our new home and very shortly a message was going around the estate that the Vicar's wife from Christ Church, Walmsley, was wanting to open a Young Wives' group in the small Chapel next to our homes. Many of our neighbours decided to go along to the first meeting and I joined them. Mrs. Burnett (the Vicar's wife) took the meetings and she very often mentioned the Mothers' Union, what they did, how often they met etc. After quite a few months at these very friendly evening meetings we asked why we had to be a Young Wives' group and not Mothers' Union, and to cut a long story short, I along with others joined MU in November 1964.

In 1970 we moved again and I continued to be a member at St. Philip's, Bolton, but because they met in the afternoon and I was now back at work this made going to meetings very difficult. We moved to our first Post Office in 1975 and I still just paid my subs and went to meetings as and when possible. We moved to our second Post Office in Abram, Wigan. On our first day of opening I decided to wear my Mothers' Union badge, as we were quite near the local Church and I thought someone would notice it and I could make contact. It worked and I very quickly made new friends and attended the meetings. The meetings were evening ones and I was able to attend each week. As happens, we moved back again to Bolton, another Post Office, and I continued paying subs to St. Philip's and attending when possible.

In 1992, we decided to retire as we had heard changes were coming in the Post Office and didn't want to retrain. We made a big move and went to live at Rhos-on-Sea, North Wales. We quickly joined the local Church in Wales church (similar to the Church of England) and they had a Mothers' Union branch. I joined within a few weeks: they had an afternoon group and evening group with around 110 members in all.

Around 6 months after joining, the Vicar's wife rang to say that they needed a Treasurer and as she knew that we were ex-Post Office she thought that I would be able to take it on. I took it on which led to becoming Enrolling Member (the former name for Branch Leaders). I did this until coming back to Lancashire in 2002 to be near to family in Tottington. We tried two other churches before settling here at Ainsworth.

Here in Ainsworth I have been Treasurer, Branch Leader and Deanery Leader, but now just enjoy attending meetings and helping out when needed. Things have changed over the years and numbers here and nationwide have dropped significantly, but we are continuing here as best we can. We have had to make changes in order to pay our way but we are still enjoying each other's company.

New members are always welcome. Come along, have a cup of tea and see what we are about.

## **From the Archives – January 2000**

Not surprisingly at the dawn of a new millennium, the sketch on the inside front cover of the Parish Magazine depicted a calendar just turning on to 'January 2000!', amidst a display of fireworks; what an exciting time that was. In his letter to the Parish, Father Alan

cautioned his Parishioners not to lose sight of the significance of the Christmas Season amidst all the hype of the millennium and reminded folk that had it not been for the birth of Jesus, we would not have a 'year 2000AD' to celebrate.

In addition to the regular Services, the Parish Diary for January 2000 included details of a Special Millenium Celebration Service to be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January at 12 noon, and also a special Evensong Service to which members of Ainsworth Methodist Church were invited. A separate notice from the Social Committee gave details of a Parish Millennium Party which was to be held at the end of January – 'tickets available soon'.

In other news, many of the groups and Organisations reported on their Christmas activities and celebrations – meals out, parties and pantos; many also included messages of thanks for goods donated for the Christmas Fair, and also for help given on the day; the Christmas Fair had raised an impressive £2028,00 – a huge amount of money even now!

16<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Brownies were asking for helpers for the coming term; Scouts had the great news that they had finally got an additional helper on board. The Scouting sections also reported a great result at the District Swimming Gala, with Cubs and Scouts both winning their sections, leading to them being awarded the Group Trophy.

In January 2000, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Gwen White, "joint Secretary of the Social Committee and a great worker for our Church". In January 2000 there were 5 Baptisms recorded from the previous month, but no weddings or funerals. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 287, collections were listed as £1666.

## **Space To Share A Prayer - Epiphany**

Lord Jesus, you revealed yourself to the world so that all people might look to you and be saved: may we know the wholeness that you bring. Be our light in the darkness that we may not stumble, and lift us up again if we fall; all this we ask in your holy name. Amen

## **Church Seasons & Traditions – January; Epiphany**

"Chalking the Door" is an ancient tradition associated with Epiphany. This practice consists of marking a blessing in chalk in a specific pattern of letters and numbers, to invite God's blessing on a home,



church, or other entryway, and on all who enter its doors during the year. All you need is chalk and a doorway. The markings are usually made above the front door or main entrance, in this pattern:

**20 + C + M + B + 25**

The numbers change each year to reflect the new calendar year. The letters C, M, and B are given two meanings: the initials of the traditional names of the three magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, or the initials of the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means, "Christ bless this dwelling." The + signs are for the Cross of Christ. Before, during, or after the chalking of the door, the following prayer might be offered:

*O God of Stars and Journeys, we ask your blessing on this threshold. May all whose journeys lead them through these doors be blessed with health, generosity of spirit, a joyful heart, and deep peace.*

*O God of Welcome, may all who enter this doorway rejoice to find Christ living among us, and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is the incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.*

Seeing the symbols over our door during the year remind us, even as life goes back to a regular routine after Christmas, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. They are also reminders of the welcome the magi gave to Jesus. Who might we welcome into our hearts this coming year?

## **A Hymn For Epiphany**

What star is this, with beams so bright,  
Which shame the sun's less radiant light?  
sent t' announce a new-born King,  
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed:  
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";  
And lo! the eastern sages stand  
To read in heav'n the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays,  
An inward light the Lord conveys,  
And urges them, with force benign,  
To seek the Giver of the sign.



Oh, while the star of heav'nly grace  
Invites us, Lord, to seek thy face,  
May we no more that grace repel,  
Or quench that light, which shines so well!

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
May every tongue and nation raise  
An endless song of thankful praise!

*(Charles Coffin – 1736)*

## Things To Look Out For In January - Redwings



Redwings migrate from Iceland, the Faroes and Scandinavia to the UK, often travelling by night. They spend the winter here, usually from October to April.

The UK's smallest thrush, the redwing, is around 21cm in length. It has a creamy-white chest covered in dark brown streaks, a distinctive red-orange underwing and a creamy-white stripe above its eye.

Redwings feed on worms and berries, particularly hawthorn and rowan. When food is scarce, they will venture into gardens and orchards in search of a bite to eat – apples are a particular favourite of theirs.

Redwings were the first bird species which were proven to detect fruit using ultraviolet vision. This is because the waxy coatings of berries reflect UV light, making them more appealing to birds!

These social birds can often be seen in flocks with fieldfares, foraging for food. Having a hawthorn or rowan bush in your garden is a great way of increasing your chances of sighting one, as is leaving apples and mealworms out for them on bird feeders.

For more information about Redwings and other birds to look out for in January, visit [British Birds - Woodland Trust](#)

## Straplines

When you're going through a hard time and you wonder where God is, remember the teacher is always quiet during a test.

Forget about reaching the crowds; if you can make a difference for one person, then it's worth it.

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

### Who Are These Who Ride By Starlight

Who are these who ride by starlight  
from the corners of the earth,  
leaving home, forsaking comfort,  
drawn to one mysterious birth?  
These are wise men seeking wisdom,  
disciplined to watch and pray;  
we will read the signs and follow,  
see where Christ is born today.

Who is this who hears the wise men,  
trembling while their tale is told,  
sending troops to slaughter blindly,  
crush what cannot be controlled?

This is Herod, every Herod  
building power by others' pain;  
we will mourn the murdered children  
while their blood is shed again.

Who is this, a homeless exile,  
destined from his earliest hour  
for rejection, conflict, danger,  
marked for death by worldly power?  
Jesus, born to show God's glory  
shining through despair and loss,  
we will know you when we meet you  
by the shadow of your cross.

*(Marnie Barrell 1996)*

### Time For A Smile

A vicar at a small country parish was preparing to leave to take up a challenging position at an inner-city church. At his leaving party, a well-meaning lady told the vicar how much he would be missed. "I doubt if we will get anyone as good as you" she said. The vicar was flattered and said, "I am sure whoever comes here will be a very caring person." The lady responded and said, "No, it's always the same. I've been here for many years; we have had at least six vicars, and I can assure you that each one has been worse."

## The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

**W I S E M E N**

### King Quiz

The answers to the following all contain the word KING within them.

1. A Nordic invader
2. Walking in the country
3. Arousing from sleep
4. Playing music on the street for financial gain
5. Preparing food
6. Noise made by chickens
7. Touching something with the tongue
8. Loading up a bag or case
9. Being unable to breathe due to an obstruction
10. Wooden patio area
11. Noise as of a chain being rattled
12. Making a reservation
13. Wood pieces used in number 10
14. An item of ladies legwear
15. Pondering or reflecting
16. Communicating verbally
17. Positioning a vehicle to leave it
18. Passing comment on something
19. Boarding a boat or ship
20. Annoying or irritating to get a response

### EPI ...

How many words can you think of that begin with the letters E P I ?

(Answers on page 30)

## Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Lay Assistant</b>	<b>Prayers</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> January 10.30am Epiphany	Mags Gillman	Chris Haworth	Jenny Johnson
12 <sup>th</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Epiphany Church Parade	Scouting Sections	N/A	Scouting
12 <sup>th</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Epiphany Covenant Service at the Methodists	N/A	N/A	N/A
19 <sup>th</sup> January 10.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun Epiphany	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Lorraine Holden	David Holden
26 <sup>th</sup> January 10.30am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun Epiphany	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	Barbara Clarkson	Andrew Lowe

## Reader's Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Readings</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany	Jenny Johnson	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
12 <sup>th</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of Epiphany	Scouting Sections	
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Epiphany	David Holden	Isaiah 62.1-5 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 John 2.1-11
26 <sup>th</sup> January 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Epiphany	Enid Horrocks	Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a Luke 4.14-21

## 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
ALM	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
	Chris Haworth	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	Mrs L McGreavy BA(Hons)	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	6.30pm	Mid-Week Praise

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

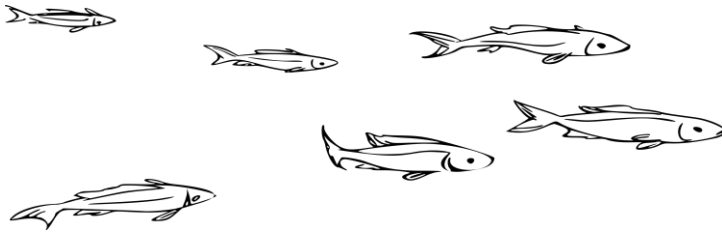
Answers to King Quiz: 1) Viking, 2) Hiking, 3) Waking, 4) Busking, 5) Cooking, 6) Clucking, 7) Licking, 8) Packing, 9) Choking, 10) Decking, 11) Clanking, 12) Booking, 13) Planking, 14) Stocking, 15) Thinking, 16) Speaking, 17) Parking, 18) Remarking, 19) Embarking, 20) Provoking

## Who's Who For Church Organisations

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



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# Little Fishes


Epiphany!







## Epiphany

**Did you know ...** The word 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', that's because this is when baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

When Jesus was born in the stable at Bethlehem, a bright star appeared in the sky and shone above the stable. Far away in the East, 3 very wise Kings saw the bright, new star shining and they knew it was a sign from God that a new 'King' had been born. 

The 3 Kings decided to follow the star and visit the new king, so they prepared to set out on a long journey towards Bethlehem. Before they set off, they chose special gifts which they could give to the new king; King Caspar chose gold, King Melchior chose Frankincense and King Balthazaar chose Myrrh. Then the Kings set off riding their camels through the desert, always following the bright, new shiny star.

When the Kings arrived at Judea, they looked for somewhere to rest; the King of Judea at that time was called King Herod and he invited them to stay with him at his palace. King Herod was a very jealous person, and when he heard that the 3 Kings believed that a new baby King had been born he made a cunning plan; he told the 3 Kings that he was really excited about the new baby King and would love to meet him - he asked the Kings to come and tell him when they had found the baby so that he could also take him some gifts, but secretly King Herod was furious that there might be a new king and he was determined to get rid of him. 

The 3 Kings continued to follow the star and travelled on until they reached Bethlehem, and there the star seemed to be shining over a humble stable. The 3 Kings went in and saw baby Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in a 

manger, and they knew that this was indeed a very special baby - they offered their gifts and prayed to God and gave him thanks.

As the 3 Kings rested that night and prepared for their long journey back to the East, an angel came to them in a dream and warned them of King Herod's evil plan and told them not to return to Judea, but to go back home a different way.



When King Herod realised that the 3 Kings had cheated him, he flew into a rage and told his soldiers to kill all of the baby boys in the area to make sure that baby Jesus could not grow up and be King instead of him. But that very night an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him of King Herod's plan; 'To save the child, you must go to Egypt immediately', the angel said. So, Mary and Joseph gathered up their belongings and escaped to Jerusalem with the baby Jesus, where they all lived in safety for a number of years until they learned that King Herod had died, and so it would be safe for them to go back home.

## **Epiphany Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

Long ago, you received special gifts from the 3 Wise Men;  
This year, at Epiphany, help us to remember and appreciate  
What a special gift you are for us. *Amen*



Gold, incense and myrrh I cannot bring,  
I'll offer my heart to the infant King.

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