

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Wildflower Garden at Christ Church Ainsworth

(Photo courtesy of Lesley Parry)

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

July 2024

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Parish Diary July 2024



Tues 2nd 10.30am Funeral of Jean Clifford
 Weds 3rd 6.30pm MidWeek Praise
 Thurs 4th 11.45am Funeral of Joanne Hamer
 Sat 6th 7.00pm Summer Prom Concert

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sun 7th 10.30am Holy Communion
 11.30am Interment of Ashes of Jean Clifford
 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer
 Tues 9th 10.30am Coffee & Conversation (*Ainsworth Church & Community Hall*)
 Weds 10th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise
 Sat 13th 12-3.00pm Ainsworth Village Day Open Church Event
 (*Refreshments & Chat*)

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sun 14th 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30am View From The Pew
 12.15pm Baptism
 Weds 17th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise & Mission Community
 Litter Picking Event
 Fri 19th 9.30am School Leavers' Service
 Sat 20th 10.30-11.30am Mission Community Litter Picking Event

Sun 21st EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.30am Holy Communion
 12.15pm Baptisms
 6.30pm "Be Still" – a time of contemplative prayer & quiet reflection
 Weds 24th 6.30pm Wild Worship

Sun 28th NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am Celtic Morning Prayer
 10.30am Holy Communion (*followed by refreshments & Lucky Lotto draw*)
 Weds 30th 6.30pm Wild Worship

Interregnum Update

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. (Jeremiah 29;11)

If ever a verse from the Bible ought to give us encouragement during the interregnum, it is this one. God has plans for us. Whatever we might think at times, there is nothing haphazard about our lives; events that might seem random, with hindsight, generally have a reason and a purpose.

When Christ Church Ainsworth first moved into vacancy in March 2023, we were advised by the Diocese that the intention was to advertise for a 0.5 post, specifically for Christ Church Ainsworth.

Time passed and the suggestion was made by the Diocese that, in the light of the additional vacant posts in our Mission Community, it might be a better option to consider advertising a full-time post to be shared between 2 Churches. Thus, last Summer, members of the PCC dutifully compiled our Parish Profile, completed all of the required paperwork, ‘dotted all the i’s and crossed all the t’s’. At last things seemed to be moving.

Then came the advice that it would be preferable to wait until Spring 2024 to place the advertisement, as this would coincide with a cohort of newly qualified Curates seeking employment ...

Spring 2024 has rolled on into Summer 2024; a full-time post to be shared between our nearest neighbours, Christ Church Walshaw and St. Andrew’s Radcliffe, was advertised some time ago; and the latest update for the Christ Church Ainsworth vacancy ... the Diocese intends to advertise for a 0.5 post, specifically for Christ Church Ainsworth, possibly towards the Autumn ...

Another change of direction and further delays may not be what we wanted to hear, but it at least means that we know where we’re at and can begin to plan Services and Clergy cover for the latter part of the year. Amidst our frustration, in the passage from Jeremiah we are reminded that even when events seem puzzling and strange, God has a plan; he knows what he is doing; God’s plans are to bless us and not to harm us; God’s plans are to give us hope and a future.

We might not have a clear idea yet of where we are going or what the future looks like, but let’s remember God’s promise; that he knows what he is doing, and his plans will give us hope and a future.

Alison Hartley – Churchwarden (on behalf of the PCC)

Editor's Spot ...

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

With Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost all now distant memories, you might think that July would be a quieter month, but not so – there are a whole host of activities and events on the horizon; from the inaugural Christ Church Ainsworth Summer Prom Concert to our Open Church Event, then straight on to Mission Community Litter Picking – the list is endless! And that's before we begin to list all of the usual groups and gatherings that take place each month ...

Make sure you keep an eye on the Parish Diary and the weekly Pew Sheet for updates and further information about all of these and other events and Services.

As always, many thanks to those who take the time to send in their reports and articles each month; it's very much appreciated. Enjoy the read and feel free to share our Magazine with others if you wish to. *Alison*

From The Registers

Confirmation
2nd June

We offer our congratulations to:
Elijah Bale, Louise Cropper, Freya Howcroft-Swift, Lottie Newton, Lily-Mai Pridgeon, Lily-May Sowden & Amelia Trainer.

Flower Rota

7th July – Mr. G. Hampson
21st July – Mrs. J. Ainsworth

Summer Prom Concert



Last few tickets are still available for our inaugural Summer Prom Concert, at which we will once again be partnering with members of Farnworth & Walkden Brass Band, for a fabulous evening of musical entertainment.

Come along and enjoy all of the rousing classics, whilst raising much needed funds for our Church.

Saturday 6th July, 7pm; tickets - £7.50 adults, £5 children under 16years, includes refreshments. For more info email ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com or contact 07952-709041.

Confirmation 2024

We offer our congratulations to Elijah Bale, Louise Cropper, Freya Howcroft-Swift, Lottie Newton, Lilly-Mai Pridgeon, Lily-May Sowden & Amelia Trainer, who were Confirmed by The Rt Reverend Dr Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton, at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe on Sunday 2nd of June 2024, along with candidates from the other Churches of our Mission Community.



(Photo courtesy of Vicky Howcroft-Swift)

'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.

Why not join us in Church for a time of gentle contemplative prayer & reflection on the 3rd Sunday of each month @ 6.30pm. Starts on Sunday 21st of July, everyone welcome.

Family Gardening Group



If you are looking for ways to keep the kids busy through the Summer holidays, why not come along to our Family Gardening Group! We'll be meeting at Church each Wednesday throughout the Summer holidays from 10.30 – 12 noon, to get stuck in to some great outdoor activities; creating a pallet garden, building a bug hotel, designing bird feeders, plus helping the Churchyard Team with lots of fun gardening tasks.

Family friendly fun in the fresh air – and it's FREE!! 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.

EcoChurch



Top Tip for July:

Help hedgehogs in hot weather. Hedgehogs particularly need help in a heatwave, as their usual prey of slugs, snails and worms are often unavailable. Leaving out a juicy snack, such as mealworms or canned dog food, can help in sustained warm weather. If you have a garden pond, ensure there's always a way for hedgehogs (and other small mammals) to climb out if they fall in.

'Ordinary Time'



The following reflection comes from The Revd Luke Maguire, Incumbent of All Saints, Stretford and Mission Community Leader.

Having celebrated the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, and rejoiced in the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Church now enters this long season of 'ordinary' time. But what does it mean to speak of this season as ordinary?

It might be tempting to think that this long stretch until Advent is ordinary in the sense that nothing much happens, that the Church simply goes through the motions until things get busy again. But what if the events of Easter and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church have redefined ordinary? What if 'ordinary' for Christians is supposed to look radically different from what the rest of the world thinks of as ordinary?

The Spirit we have received is God Himself, at work in and through his people. The Holy Spirit is the Lord and giver of life. The Holy Spirit is the one who leads us into truth, and the one by whose power Christ was raised from the dead. The Holy Spirit is the one who is at work renewing creation and transforming God's people into the likeness of Jesus. St Paul reminds us that the Spirit gives gifts and manifests fruit in the lives of God's people, gifts of supernatural grace and the fruits of godliness.

So what should ordinary be for the Church? Throughout this so-called ordinary time, the Church is challenged to live lives shaped and reformed by the realities of Easter and Pentecost, called to be a people of the resurrection, rooted in Christ, empowered by his Spirit, and walking in newness of life.

May God bless us as we seek to let our lives be shaped by his life, and may we find that in our daily walk with Jesus, extraordinary become our new ordinary.

Raising Awareness – Christians Against Poverty; Money Coaching Course

The CAP Money Coaching Course will be running from July 25th for four weeks. This is an excellent, life-changing course which looks at how we can make the most of our money.

The CAP Money Coaching course is a free service designed to empower individuals with the knowledge, skills, tools, and confidence to better manage their finances. Anyone can benefit, from those who have been using a budget for years to those struggling to get to grips with their spending.

The sessions will look at how to save money and make the most of our cash, the difference between essential spending and optional spending, and how to realistically cut costs. There are also sessions about building a budget. The course features practical activities, discussions, videos and provides free personal journals.

Sessions will be held once a week at Trinity Baptist Church, (Westminster Ave, M26 3WD)) on Tuesdays at 2pm.

For more info or to book your free place, contact 07592-482442 or visit www.capuk.org/trymoneycoaching



Having money issues?
Take control of your money with
free expert money coaching

Starting June 25th 2-3pm
Trinity Baptist Church,
Westminster Ave, Radcliffe
M26 3WD

Book your free place,
contact 07592 482 442
capuk.org/trymoneycoaching

With thanks to funding from the Irwell Valley Foundation



Mission Community News – Litter Picking Event

Don't miss out on the Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Litter Picking Event, which will be held on Weds 17th July 6.30-7.30pm and repeated on Saturday 20th July 10.30-11.30am, to try to ensure as many people as possible are able to take part.



Each Church will host their own events so it's relevant to their congregation and wider community.

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.

Watch this space for more info.

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.*

MISSION COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



ON WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY 6.30 – 7.30 PM &
SATURDAY 20TH JULY 10.30AM – 11.30AM THE CHURCHES
OF OUR MISSION COMMUNITY WILL BE LITTER PICKING THE
AREA LOCAL TO THEM. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN
EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE EVENTS.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

LOVE WHERE
YOU LIVE



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 24th 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*



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
- All proceeds to Church funds

The next Lucky Lotto draw will take place on Sunday 28th July.

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



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 9th July

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





Summer Prom Concert

*Saturday 6th July 7pm
Christ Church Ainsworth
Church St, Ainsworth
BL2 5RU*

*Featuring Farnworth & Walkden Brass Band
Tickets adults £7.50, children under 16 £5
Includes refreshments.*

*To book tickets or for more info email
ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com
Or Tel 07952-709041*



!! WILD



WORSHIP !!

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

Wednesdays @ 6.30pm

Starts Weds 24th 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

1st 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 3rd Sunday of each month @ 6.30pm; Starts on Sunday 21st July, everyone welcome.

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 9th July

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 June Meetings

****Please Note There Will Be No Meeting On Tuesday 2nd July****

Tuesday 16th June 1.00pm at The Rose & Crown

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 Open Afternoon

Saturday 13th July 12 – 3pm

Church will be open for tea / coffee & cake throughout Ainsworth Village Day; why not call in & have a look round this beautiful grade II listed building & enjoy the peace & tranquillity within.

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>

Christ Church Ainsworth Family Gardening Group

Wednesdays 10.30-12noon; starts 24th 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.

Mission Community – Litter Picking Event

Wednesday 17th July 6.30 – 7.30pm & Saturday 20th July 10.30-11.30am

Meet at Christ Church Ainsworth to help to keep our village tidy; refreshments available.

Around The Organisations ...

Cub Scouts

We welcome to the pack Myles, Isaac, George, Patrick, Archie and Theo and hope they enjoy their time as cub scouts.

What fun it was for some leaders to attend Mollie and George's wedding in May. It was a great event and they both looked lovely – yes, even George, and of course Buzz (the dog)! We all wish them every happiness in the future.

Planting peppers, making cheesecakes, designing and flying paper aeroplanes, learning the phonetic alphabet, cooking smores on small open fires are just a few of the tasks the Cubs have been doing in the last few weeks. There will mean lots of badges to present before we finish for the summer - both chest and arm, so get ready all you mums, dads or grans who do the sewing!

We already have several plans for both outings and activities in the autumn term so watch this space for all the news as we near the time.

Gwen – Baloo

16th Radcliffe Brownies

Since the last update, the Brownies have been very busy working towards different badges including the 'Feel Good Badge' and a 'Bake Off Badge'.

The Feel Good Badge was a 'badge in a night' so the Brownies worked hard to earn this through several activities. We explored how we used our memories through number sequences and learned about the importance of teamwork to improve these skills. They also guessed the daily recommended water intake (a huge 1,500 millilitres), and performed a role play about bedtime routines and the best ways to wind down before sleep. Additionally, they played a variation of the Balloon Pass game to understand the difficulty of using different muscle groups, starting with the traditional method of passing the balloon over their heads and through their knees, and then using other body parts.

The Bake Off Badge has been running over three weeks and à la **The Great British Bake Off**, we've had three tasks with judges Prue, Paul and Mary Berry making an appearance (a cleverly disguised Little Owl, Eagle Owl, and Barn Owl). The judges assessed not only design

but also teamwork and tidying up (although sadly not taste!) Similar to the show, the Brownies started by making themed cupcakes. The next week involved cookie baking and the final was the showstopper. The Brownies designed their showstoppers as a team the week before and, while these were very ambitious designs, I'm sure you will agree that the final results were pretty outstanding in the form of a gravity-defying ice cream cake, very cute animal cupcakes, energetic sports-themed cupcakes, and a sweet treat Hansel and Gretel cottage.



In addition to our weekly meetings, we have also had the Church Spring Fair where the Brownies ran the café, Butterfly Bistro. A massive thank you to all the Brownies for all the cake donations and to the superstars Sofia, Amarah, Pippa, Isla, Maddy and Lily who came to help at the café, we made a huge £430 for the church!

We also attended the Whit service on the Delph. A very blustery and cold day, it was still lovely to see lots of Brownies and parents attend and enjoy the service and brass band. We hope everyone had fun at the stalls afterwards and liked their raffle prizes and cake!

16th Radcliffe Brownies Leaders

12th Radcliffe Guides

Making the most of the good weather at the start of May, we went to George's Wood to build different styles of fires for different circumstance (although we weren't able to light them – that will have to wait until we are on camp). We made sure that we could keep our kit waterproof – the girls were successful at this (but not at undoing the knots after – so in real life many would have been sleeping in the open air!). We followed this with a water race – and got rather muddy shoes in the process! We have also looked at the jobs we will need to do when we go on camp.

We had a great evening sewing our own animal pillow, with some really fantastic designs. And a fun evening making butter from cream – though some of the girls found it difficult to believe that shaking cream would produce butter and some were a little reluctant to try it!



Lily May was busy over the holiday completing her natural remedies and backwoods cooking interest badges and Amelia also completed her backwoods cooking badge - both girls cooked a really great variety of food. We were pleased to be able to enrol Libby into our Guide unit in May.

At the May Church parade, Amelia and Eloise carried the flags and Lily May and Grace escorted.

12th Radcliffe Guide Leaders

Transformation - Now!



We were saddened to learn of the death of Jean Clifford on 10th June. Jean has been a loyal member for many years and will be sadly missed. I'll miss her friendly greeting and hug at each meeting. We send our deepest condolences to her family and friends and promise to uphold you all in our prayers.

Earlier in June, another of our members, Moira Gilmore, was admitted to hospital following a fall. We are praying for your recovery, Moira, and hope that we can see you soon.

The Summer of Hope Appeal was launched in early June. This is our opportunity to build on years of wonderful work that is transforming the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), lack of literacy and

numeracy are two of the key drivers that trap women in a never-ending cycle of poverty. Mothers' Union is already making a difference in four Dioceses; now we need to expand to four more where women are most in need of support, including one of Manchester's link Dioceses - Kisangani.

Grace describes what this change has meant for her and how she feels much more empowered.

"I didn't know how to count. If I went to market, they would steal my money because I couldn't count and didn't know the weights. I joined the programme. Now I can spend my money wisely because of what I've learned.

Today, I would have the cabbage in my garden (as well as the root vegetables and bananas) because of what I was taught. The cabbage I use for my family consumption. My family is healthy and I'm able to send my children to school. I go to buy fish in the market and sell the fish or trade it with cocoa growers. I was doing business before, but it wasn't working because I didn't know the money. I used to keep spending and didn't know about profit. Now I make sure that I have enough for savings and things that I need to buy for the business."

With our, combined efforts for this Summer of Hope, we can roll out new programmes enabling more transformations like Grace's. Over the next two years, we aim to support a further 4,800 households and that will help lift 19,200 more people out of poverty, including children and other dependents.

If anyone would like to contribute towards this important work, then please hand your donations to Jean Eddleston, Enid Horrocks, or me, or place in an envelope marked for Mothers' Union attention and hand it to one of the sidesmen or clergy.

A small, but enthusiastic group of us were made very welcome at 'Cosalea' on Walshaw Road for our 'away date' in mid May. Thank you to the staff for their hospitality. We are now getting to be known at several local venues!

Please note that there will be no Mothers' Union meeting on Tuesday 2nd July.

Our summer lunch will be held on Tuesday 16th July, when we will be at the Rose and Crown at 1.00pm.

Jennifer White

From the Archives – July 1999

The Parish Diary for July 1999 was definitely a little quieter than in previous months, but still boasted 3 Services each Sunday, plus Holy Communion on a Wednesday morning and various Sunday School activities.

A report following the Archdeacon's Visitation Service gave information about the 'Archdeacon's Charge' – a list of specific issues likely to be of major significance to the diocese, and in which all Parishes were required to engage. The list for 1999 included the following areas for action: 1) Pastoral Reorganisation, 2) Parish Share – 92% had been received the previous year, the aim for 1999 was a full 100% payment!! 3) Disability audit to be carried out by each Church, 4) Each Church to implement a First Aid Policy which should then be reviewed annually, 5) Millenium Preparations.

Elsewhere, there were a huge number of end of term trips being planned or reported on: Mothers' Union members were heading off for a day in Chester, Young Families were off to Camelot, Church Women's Fellowship had had an enjoyable day at Mount Pleasant Farm, and Members of the WI had visited Harrogate Flower Show, whilst Beavers had been to Gulliver's World, 12th Radcliffe Brownies had had an amazing time on Pack Holiday, and 16th Radcliffe Brownies had taken part in the County 'Dabble Day' – busy times for all concerned!

In July 1999, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Hazel M. Wood, 'A valued member of the Church Choir, now also playing a key role as the Electoral Roll Secretary'. In July 1999 there was 1 Wedding recorded from the previous month, plus 3 Baptisms but no Funerals. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 387, collections were listed as £2752.

Space To Share A Prayer

Heavenly Father, everywhere I walk, let it be on your path.
Everything I see, let it be through your eyes.
Everything I do, let it be your will.
For every hardship I face, let me place it in your hands.
In Jesus's name I pray – Amen.

You Might Like To Read ...

"The Everyday God", Jonathon Arnold; published by BRF.

Described by Justin Welsby as 'a great gift to the church', the everyday God is a God who is for everyone, who appears in everyday events and ordinary people. 'He calls us to move out of our comfort zones and into his liminal space on the margins of our society, to see the face of Christ in a stranger...' Jonathan Arnold, a seasoned community engagement expert, delves deep into the heart of the biblical mandate to love one's neighbour. Through a tapestry of real-life stories, he unveils the power of practical faith, illustrating how it can ignite transformation among the homeless, refugees, the poor and vulnerable, imprisoned and marginalised, as well as those living with dementia, disability and disease. In these pages, you'll witness how acts of social and environmental justice, intertwined with mercy, have the potential to reshape lives, offering a vivid portrait of the profound impact of embracing the everyday God. As he reflects upon Jesus's teaching in Matthew 25:34–40, Arnold challenges us to discover God's presence in the most unexpected places and join in with where he is acting, whether inside or outside our churches.

Top 10 Holiday Destinations In The UK 2023

According to www.countryliving.com – the following were the UK's top 10 holiday destinations for 2023:

1. The Scottish Highlands
2. Northumberland
3. Pembrokeshire
4. The Cotswolds
5. Yorkshire Dales
6. Hebrides
7. London
8. Kent
9. Jurassic Coast
10. Isles of Scilly

Praying Through The Seasons – Counting Our Blessings



“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

James 1: 17

Sometimes it seems that the world is a place full of worry, and doubts and fears; at times it can seem as if everything is going against us; maybe we can't make the progress that we look for; maybe we feel restricted by systems or other people around us. It's all too easy to find ourselves focusing on what we can't do that we used to do or want to do, or to find ourselves dwelling on what we had that we lost, rather than what we still possess and can still do.

When we feel badly about ourselves or a situation that we find ourselves in, paying attention to what we are grateful for can put us in a more positive frame of mind.

Heavenly Father, help us to count our blessings instead of our crosses;

Help us to count our gains instead of our losses.

Help us to count our joys instead of our woes;

Help us to count our friends instead of our foes.

Help us to count our smiles instead of our tears;

Help us to count our courage instead of our fears..

Health us to count our health instead of our wealth;

Heavenly Father, help us to count on You, instead of ourself. Amen

For All The Saints – July; St. Benedict

Name: St. Benedict

Feast Day: 11th July

Born: 480AD

Died: 547AD

Place of burial: Beneath the Monastery he founded at Monte Cassino.

Patron Saint Of: Students.

St. Benedict is believed to have been born around 480, as the son to a Roman noble of Norcia and the twin to his sister, Scholastica.

In the fifth century, the young Benedict was sent to Rome to finish his education; however, Benedict was appalled by the way in which many of his fellow students lived and spent their time. They had everything - education, wealth, youth -- and they spent all of it in the pursuit of pleasure, not truth. Benedict watched in horror as vice unravelled the lives and ethics of his companions.

Afraid for his soul, Benedict left Rome, gave up his inheritance and made his home in a small village. When God called him beyond this quiet life to an even deeper solitude, he went to the mountains of Subiaco, where he lived as a hermit under the direction of another hermit, Romanus.

One day, during his time living in a cave above a lake as a hermit, the Devil presented Benedict's imagination with a beautiful, tempting woman. Benedict resisted by rolling his body into a thorn bush until it was covered in scrapes. It is said through these body wounds, he cured the wounds of his soul.

After years of prayer, word of his holiness brought nearby monks to ask for his leadership. He warned them he would be too strict for them, but they insisted -- then tried to poison him when his warning proved true. The story goes, the monks attempted to poison Benedict's drink, but when he prayed a blessing over the cup - it shattered.

So, Benedict was on his own again -- but not for long. The next set of followers were more sincere, and Benedict worked with them to set up twelve monasteries in Subiaco where monks lived in separate communities of twelve.

But it was in Monte Cassino that he founded the monastery that became the roots of the Church's monastic system. Instead of founding small separate communities he gathered his disciples into one whole community. His own sister, Saint Scholastica, settled nearby to live a religious life.

Benedict was an innovator. No one had ever set up communities like his before or directed them with a rule. What is part of history to us now was a bold, risky step into the future.

Benedict had the holiness and the ability to take this step. His beliefs and instructions on religious life were collected in what is now known as the Rule of Saint Benedict, and are still directing religious life after 15 centuries!

Benedict died of a fever at Monte Cassino not long after his sister, Scholastica, and was buried in the same tomb. According to tradition, this occurred on 21 March 547.

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

The Believer's Prayer

Open Thou mine eyes, Lord,
That I may behold,
In Thy word rich treasures,
Better far than gold;
Let me know my need, Lord,
And Thy glories see,
Grow in grace and knowledge,
More and more like Thee!

Open Thou mine ears, Lord,
Let me hear Thy voice,
And with swift obedience,
Cause Thee to rejoice.
Midst this world's confusion,
Speak, O Lord, to me,
Guide me by Thy counsel,
Let me follow Thee!

Open Thou my lips, Lord,
Let me speak for Thee,
Tell of Thy salvation
Bought on Calvary;
May I boldly witness
To Thy saving grace,
Win some souls for Thee, Lord,
Ere I see Thy face!

(Alfred P. Gibbs 1890-1967)

Just A Thought

Actions speak louder than words; and sometimes inaction speaks
louder than both of them.

Strap Lines

It's nice to be important, but it's much more important to be nice.

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep; talk to the Shepherd.

Don't look behind you; it's not the way you're going.

Time for A Smile

A devout old shepherd lost his favourite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."

Bent over and obviously in pain, the old man with a cane hobbled laboriously through the sanctuary and into the minister's office while the choir was practicing.

Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and moving with grace and speed.

"Good gracious," the choir director exclaimed. "Did the minister heal you by faith?"

"No," the old man said with a smile. "He just gave me a cane that wasn't six inches too short!"

A dentist came home to his wife excited about serving in the mission field using his dental skills. When she was against the idea, the dentist replied, "I am sure the Lord is calling me to do this."

The wife was sceptical. "How do you know the Lord is calling you to do this?"

"It's in the Bible. Psalms 81:10."

So she looked it up.

"I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it."

The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

O R D I N A R Y T I M E

Green ... Quiz

1. There is one far away, without a city wall?
2. Where Anne lived?
3. Film starring Tom Hanks?
4. Small person that helps you to cross the road safely?
5. Signal which gives you 'the go ahead'??
6. Environmental action group?
7. A traditional English Folk Song?
8. The world's largest island, part of the Danish realm?
9. A brand of sweetcorn?
10. Song by Tom Jones?

Bible Creatures Quiz

1. Which creature did Noah 1st release from the Ark?
2. Which creature tempted Eve?
3. Which creature might pass through the Eye Of The Needle?
4. Which creature was sacrificed instead of Isaac?
5. Which creature did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?
6. Which creature helped to feed the 5,000?
7. Which creatures came out of the River Nile to plague Pharaoh?
8. Which creatures did not attack Daniel?
9. Which creature's jaw bone did Samson kill the Philistines with?
10. Which creature shamed Peter?

(Answers on page 32)

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
7 th July 6 th Sunday after Trinity	Mags Gillman	Jan Burrow	Andrew Lowe
14 th July 7 th Sunday after Trinity	Barbara Clarkson Jan Burrow	N/A – View From The Pew	David Holden
21 st July 8 th Sunday after Trinity	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Peter Holden	Clergy
28 th July 9 th Sunday after Trinity	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	Lillian Haworth	Jenny Johnson

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
7 th July 6 th Sunday after Trinity	Enid Horrocks	2 Samuel 5.1-5,9-10 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13
14 th July 7 th Sunday after Trinity	David Holden	2 Samuel 6.1-5,12b-19 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29
21 st July 8 th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Holden	2 Samuel 7.1-14a Ephesians 2.11-22 Mark 6.30-34,53-56
28 th July 9 th Sunday after Trinity	Jenny Johnson	2 Samuel 11.1-15 Ephesians 3.14-21 John 6.1-21

Who's Who

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

Services

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) 2 nd & 4 th Sunday
	10.30am	Family Service, 2 nd Sunday Family & Parade Service
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP) 1 st Sunday
Weds	6.15pm	Mid-Week Praise

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

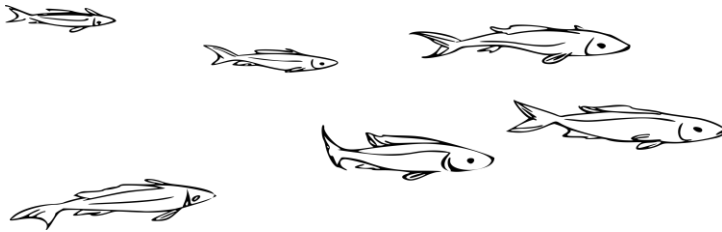
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage, and Funerals
Contact 01204-398567.

Answers to Green Quiz: 1) Green Hill, 2) Green Gables, 3) Green Mile, 4) Green Man, 5) Green Light, 6) Greenpeace, 7) Greensleeves, 8) Greenland, 9) Green Giant, 10) Green, Green Grass Of Home

Answers to Bible Creatures Quiz: 1) Raven, 2) Serpent, 3) Camel, 4) Ram, 5) Donkey, 6) Fish, 7) Frogs, 8) Lions, 9) Donkey, 10) Rooster.

Who's Who For Church Organisations

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



Little Fishes

Deborah



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.

Deborah

Time and time again throughout the Old Testament, God set the people of Israel on the right path; he sent leaders to help them and to solve their problems. Every time this happened, the people were very grateful and promised to follow the one true God and live and behave as God wanted them to. But after a while, the people forgot about the promises they had made, and they started to behave badly once again; until eventually God would lose patience with them and some great disaster would befall them - at which point, guess what! The people once again promised to follow the one true God and live and behave as God wanted them to ... So, then God would forgive them and appoint another leader to help them to get back onto the right path. And so, it continued!

Before Israel had a king, it had a series of tribal leaders called Judges. The Judges were chosen by God, who used these men and women to save the Israelites from their enemies and to lead them back to him. You can read about all of Israel's Judges in the part of the Bible which is called 'The Book of Judges'.

A Prophetess, is a girl or a woman who is a kind of spokesperson for God; a prophetess can receive messages or instructions from God which she is then able to pass on to other people, to help them or to guide them.

Deborah was both a prophetess and Judge. Her name means "honey bee," and she was also the wife of a man named Lappidoth. Deborah was the only female Judge.

Before Deborah became a Judge, the people of Israel had been behaving particularly badly, and so God had handed them over to Jabin, king of Canaan. With his commander, General Sisera, King Jabin had oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, until they finally cried to the Lord for help.

Deborah was leading the Israelites at that time, she was a well respected and fair Judge; she used to sit under a Palm Tree and



the people would come to her for advice and to ask for help to resolve their arguments. Deborah was so wise and good, that people came from all parts of the land with their difficulties and the questions that arose

between them. She ruled over the land, not by the force of any army, but because everyone could see that God's Spirit was upon her.

Deborah heard of the troubles of the people in the north under the hard rule of King Jabin. God told her that a brave man was living in the land of Naphtali, a man named Barak, God told her to send Barak this message:

"Barak, call out the tribes of Israel who live near you; raise an army, and lead the men who gather about you to Mount Tabor. The Lord has told me that he will give Sisera and all of his armies into your hands."



When Barak received this message, he felt afraid; he couldn't believe that he would really be able to set the people free. And so he sent his answer back to Deborah:

"If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

Deborah replied, "I will go with you, but because you did not trust God, and did not go when God called you, the honour of this war will not be yours, for God will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman."

Deborah left her seat under the palm-tree and went to the village where Barak lived, then together Deborah and Barak sent out a call for the men of the north to gather and form an army. Ten thousand men met together, bringing with them whatever weapons they could find. This little army, with a woman for its chief, set up their camp on the top of Mount Tabor, where they could look down



on the great armies of King Jabin, with their many tents, their horses and their chariots, and their General, Sisera.

But Deborah was not afraid. She said to Barak, "March down the mountain with all your men and fight King Jabin's army. The Lord will go before you, and he will give General Sisera and his host into your hand."

Then Barak blew a trumpet and called out to his men, and they all ran down the side of Mount Tabor and rushed upon their enemies. King Jabin's army was taken by surprise and had no time to draw out their weapons. They had no idea who the people were that were attacking them; they were frightened and many of them ran away, trampling each other underfoot, chariots and horses and men all panicking and crashing into each other in the muddle.

Near to King Jabin's camp was a river, many of his men fell into the river and drowned when they were trying to escape.

When General Sisera, saw that the battle had gone against him and that all was lost. He leaped from his chariot and ran away. A little way off, he found a tent standing alone, and he ran to it intending to hide.

The tent belonged to a man named Heber, and Heber's wife, Jael, was standing outside of the tent. She recognised General Sisera, and said to him, "Come in, my lord; come into the tent; do not be afraid."



General Sisera entered the tent, and Jael covered him with a rug, so that he was hidden. General Sisera said to her, "I am very thirsty; can you give me a little water to drink?"

Instead of water, Jael brought milk and gave him some: and then

General Sisera lay down to sleep, because he was very tired from the battle and from running. While he was in a deep sleep, Jael crept back into the tent quietly with a tent-peg and a hammer in



her hand, she struck General Sisera hard on the head and killed him.

A little while later, Jael saw Barak, the chief of the Israelite army, coming toward the tent. She went out to meet him, and said, "Come with me, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking."

She lifted the curtain of the tent and led Barak inside; and there he saw lying dead upon the ground the mighty General Sisera.

And so, both of Deborah's prophecies came true; Barak was the man who led the people of Israel to victory, but because he did not trust God completely, God delivered General Sisera into the hands of a woman.

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

God often helps ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Deborah's courage is legendary, but her confidence did not come from her abilities or Israel's army. General Sisera trusted in the might of his army, but Deborah trusted in God's power and provision. Knowing that God was 'on her side' was all the strength she needed to take action, get the job done, and inspire others to step out in faith as well.

God might not be asking us to gather an army and lead an attack, but maybe there are other things that He is asking us to do. Will you be brave and confident like Deborah, and trust that if God has asked you to do it, God will get you through it?

Prayer Time ...

Dear God, thank you for always loving us and forgiving us when we make mistakes or mess things up. Please help us to trust you, to love each other, to be kind to each other, and to forgive other people. Amen

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