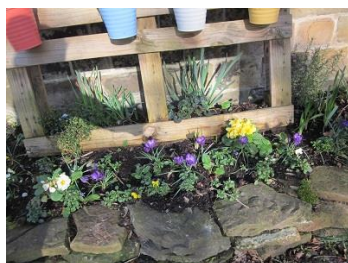


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March 2025

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Parish Diary March 2025

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT



Sun 2nd 10.30am View From The Pew

6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer

ASH WEDNESDAY

Weds 5th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun 9th 8.00am BCP Communion

10.30am Church Parade

Tues 11th 10.30am Coffee & Conversation (*Ainsworth Church & Community Hall*)

7.00pm Lent Reflection

Weds 12th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun 16th 10.30am Holy Communion

12.15pm Relight The Candle

6.30pm Be Still

Tues 18th 7.00pm Lent Reflection

Weds 19th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun 23rd 8.00am BCP Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

12.15pm Baptism of Elizabeth & Elsie Cropper

Tues 25th 7.00pm Lent Reflection

Weds 26th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

Sun 30th **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

10.30am Holy Communion (*followed by refreshments & drawing of the March Lucky Lotto*)

APRIL

Tues 1st 7.00pm Lent Reflection

Weds 2nd 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun 6th 10.30am Holy Communion

12.15pm Baptism Of Scarlett Richardson

6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer

Interregnum Update

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1; v9.

Life can be full of challenges, sorrows and hardships, but this verse from Joshua encourages us to be strong and courageous in spite of whatever is going on around us.

To put this verse into context, the children of Israel had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and it was up to Joshua to lead them into the promised land. He’d have to claim the land from its current inhabitants, fight and lead battles, and provide spiritual leadership for a large group of people. As Joshua was feeling the overwhelming weight of the task before him, the Lord offered him these words of encouragement:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Whilst we sincerely hope that this time of interregnum doesn’t last for 40 years (!!!) the fact that, once again, there were no applicants for the Incumbent’s post, means that it is certainly going to continue for the foreseeable future; but maybe we, like Joshua, can find strength and comfort in these words.

Part of being strong and of a good courage means trusting in God as our true source of strength. In Joshua’s case, he didn’t have all the answers for the challenges before him. But he was counselled to go forward anyway, acting in faith. Like Joshua, we seldom have all the answers to our personal challenges, and we certainly don’t have the answers to the challenges that we face with regards to the recruitment of a new Incumbent, but God promises that when we turn to Him for guidance, things will be okay, and we will succeed.

Unlike us, God is all-powerful and all-knowing. He has the answers and the strength that we need to face any challenge before us. He was with Joshua as he led the people of Israel, and He will be with us. The vacancy at Christ Church Ainsworth may not yet have been filled, but let’s not give up hope; let’s remember how far we have come on our interregnum journey thus far; let’s keep looking ahead and building on the many achievements and positives.

Like Joshua, let’s be strong and courageous, let’s not be discouraged, let’s remember that God is with us on this journey, wherever it may lead us.

Alison Hartley – Churchwarden (on behalf of the PCC)

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the March 2025 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine; it seems no time at all since Christmas and New Year, and yet here we are - moving swiftly on our way towards Lent; make sure that you keep an eye on the Parish Diary & Pew Sheets to keep up to date with the Lent initiatives that are available at Christ Church Ainsworth, and also throughout our wider Mission Community, and please do your best to support these things if you are able to.

Look out also for info about our Lent Challenge '40 Days of Kindness'; perhaps you would also like to take part in this.

As you read through the various articles and reports this month, you might notice that the advertisements have now been distributed throughout the Magazine to try to increase the amount of 'footfall' for those who support us by placing an advert; please do your best to support or recommend our advertisers when you can.

Many thanks, as always, to those who put finger to keyboard each month to keep us up to date and informed. 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

Alison

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From The Registers

We welcome to the family of God:

2nd February 2025 Maisie Ava Dickinson
 Olivia Mae Dickinson

We commend to God's keeping:

4th February 2025 Sadie Westhead

Flower Rota

2nd March – Guiding Sections
No flowers during Lent

EcoChurch



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 - March:

Waste – *At Church we already compost garden waste, we recycle waste paper / cardboard / plastic & glass and do our best to limit waste generally. We also partner with other churches in the Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community to recycle unwanted keys, coins, stamps, spectacles, hearing aids & bras!*

Do you do your best to 'reduce, re-use & recycle'? Are there any areas in which you could reduce the amount of waste that your household produces? Could you commit to recycling 1 extra type of waste / unwanted item throughout Lent?

Sharing Eco-Tips – When it comes to 'Eco', many of us will have our own ways of 'making a difference'. If you have an 'Eco-Tip' that others might be able to try, why not jot it down and add it to our Eco-Tips board in Church.



Don't forget ...

The clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on Sunday 30th March.

Lent



Lent is the period of time in the Church calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and finishes at Easter; Lent lasts for 40 days.

To help us to understand what Lent means to Christians today, we need to think about what happened when Jesus was alive.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, and following his baptism, he was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then led Jesus into the wilderness, where He spent 40 days and nights fasting and praying.

Whilst Jesus was in the wilderness, the devil approached him and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, why don't you command these stones to become loaves of bread?"

But Jesus turned away and said in reply, "It is written: man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

The devil was determined not to be beaten. Taking Jesus to the holy city, he made him stand on the very highest part of the temple and said to him, "If you really are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you lest you dash your foot against a stone."

But once again Jesus turned away and answered him, "It is written, you shall not put the Lord, your God to the test."

Finally, the devil took Jesus up a very high mountain and looking down, he showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and he said to him, "All of these I shall give to you if you will worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Get away Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Then the devil knew that he could never win and so he left.

In modern times, millions of Christians give things up during Lent as a sign of sacrifice and to test their self-discipline. Christians believe that this is to represent Jesus Christ's sacrifice when he went into the desert to pray and fast for 40 days before later dying on the cross.

Lent At Christ Church Ainsworth

In recent years there's been a drive to 'take up something positive or fulfilling' rather than giving something unwholesome or negative up. Our 2024 Lent activities included our 'Green Lent Challenge', where

we encouraged folk to engage with a different Eco-challenge for each week of Lent.

Our 2025 Lent Challenge is '40 Days Of Kindness' ... The children from our MidWeek Praise Service and also from Christ Church Ainsworth School will all be keeping a Kindness Diary throughout Lent, and aiming to record at least 1 act of kindness that they have been involved with each day; this could be a kind deed or action at home, at school, in the wider community, or a kindness to nature / the environment.

If you would like to join in with our 40 Days Of Kindness Challenge, pick up 1 of our Kindness Diaries, these will be available in church from Weds 5th March.

Lent Services – our observation of Lent will begin with a Service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes, in Church on Weds 5th March at 7.30pm – all are welcome to attend this Service.

A short Lent Reflection Service will be held in Church at 7pm each Tuesday throughout Lent, starting on Tuesday 11th March – everyone is welcome to join us for these times of quiet prayer & reflection.

Mission Community Lent Services – As in previous years, each Church within our Mission Community will be hosting a short Lent Service, to which members of all Churches within our Mission Community are welcome. These will be held at various different times of day, and will follow a variety of different formats; for full list of times and dates see page 23.

Lent Publications - a small number of 'Living Hope' Lent publications are available at the back of Church, for those who wish to follow a course of Lent Bible Readings & Reflections in their own time.

Prayer Changes Things



"When I pray, coincidences happen. When I don't, they don't."

Archbishop William Temple

Prayer is an integral part of Christianity; it isn't a magical formula for getting what we want, and it isn't reserved for 'holy' people, or for special times or places. Prayer is talking to God.

Christians believe that God created everyone to be in relationship with him, and that he loves to hear from each one of us as often as possible.

There are many reasons why we might pray; thanking God for what he has given us, praising God for who he is, asking God for help, or

telling him that we're sorry and asking for forgiveness. Or we might simply want to tell God what's on our hearts.

Prayer Opportunities At Christ Church Ainsworth:

Prayer Tree – feel free to write a short prayer on 1 of the paper leaves you'll find in church, then hang your leaf on our Prayer Tree.



Praying With Purpose – on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm, members of Christ Church Ainsworth School Worship Group will join us in Church for a time of purposeful prayer, during which we will also offer up the prayers from our Prayer Tree; anyone is welcome to join us at this time.

Transforming Prayer Community – a diocese-wide community that seeks to connect and reconnect us with this simple vocation to pray. For more info or to sign up, visit www.manchesteranglican.org

Quiet Prayer Time – our Church is open most Wednesday afternoons between 2.30 – 4pm for quiet prayer & reflection.

Jesus Prayer Hour – via Zoom on the 4th Tuesday of each month

Candlelight Prayer – via Zoom each Friday at 8pm

For more info email ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

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Persona

The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto!

The January Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 23rd February, with the lucky winner walking away with £21-50!

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

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

Church Electoral Roll 2025

In accordance with Church Representations Rules, a new Electoral Roll must be prepared every six years. As this process was last carried out in 2019 a new Roll must therefore be prepared this year, 2025.

The date which governs preparation of the new Roll is that of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), the date for which is Sunday 27th April.

Those wishing to have their name entered on the Roll should apply by completing and returning the electoral roll application form to the Electoral Roll Officer.

The Church of England has published guidance regarding GDPR and the Electoral Roll. A Privacy Notice will therefore be issued with all Electoral Roll Application forms.

The forms will be available in church as from Sunday 23rd February and must be returned by Sunday 23rd March. Eligible forms received after this date will be entered on the Roll after the APCM.

Eligibility to be entered on the Electoral Roll is set out in the Church Representative Rules and is as follows:

1. Are baptised and aged 16 or over:
2. Have signed a form of application for enrolment:
and either
3. Are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or not being resident in the parish, having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment:
or
4. Are members in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves to be also members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

All members of the Parochial Church Council, Sidesmen, anyone who wishes to speak at the Annual Parochial Council Meeting or hold any office in Church, must be on the Electoral Roll of the Church.

Mrs Jill Ainsworth
Electoral Roll Officer



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Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Vestry Meeting

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting will be held in Church on Sunday 27th of April following on from the 10.30 morning Service.

At this meeting we will elect our Churchwardens for the coming year, plus appoint / reappoint PCC members, but we will also report on the activities of our Church and the various groups, organisations and committees that operate in conjunction with our Church.

All Parishioners are encouraged to attend this meeting, but please note that you must be on our Church Electoral Roll if you wish to vote or hold any office within our Church.

Bible Reading Fellowship Ministries

Lent and Easter are important seasons in the life of the Church, and an opportunity for us to slow down and consider where God is at work in our lives. BRF Ministries offers a wide variety of books and resources to enrich your spiritual journey, and also a great range of Easter cards. For more information visit brfonline.org.uk

BRF Ministries also produce a range of daily Bible Study notes & reflections which are suitable for all; these booklets are produced 3 times a year & typically cost around £5-00. If you would like to know more or would be interested in receiving a set of notes, please contact Alison on 07952-709041.

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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



One of the best ways to raise a free donation through EasyFundraising is when you're booking holidays or travel. On average you can raise a **£30 donation** for us when you book a holiday through this free fundraising portal! Plus, if you tell easyfundraising what type of holiday you are planning to book this year, we will get an entry to win a massive £1,000 donation! Please sign up to support us on easyfundraising today:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/ainsworthpc/ivcmuo/c2s/FzJmq30s/CE014/facebook/>

We currently only have 27 people who have registered to support our cause through Easyfundraising, although there must be many others who shop / order goods online. Anyone who shops online can support us in this way; it's a really simple way of raising much needed funds for our Church.

Our current Easyfundraising total is £928-46; with more supporters, could you help us to get this total to £1,000 by the end of 2025?

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

Raising Awareness - Earth Hour 22nd March 2025 8.30 – 9.30pm



Since 2007, 'Earth Hour' has been known for the “lights off” moment, with people all around the world switching off their lights for 1 hour, to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it can be easy to overlook the climate and nature crises we are facing - Earth Hour aims to be an unmissable global reminder of the importance of our planet, the need to protect it, and how little time we have to do so.

Now more than ever, we need our world to come together to take urgent action for our one shared home. We need everyone and anyone to play a part, no matter how small. Most importantly, we must continue to shine a beacon of hope for a brighter future, harnessing and celebrating the power of the people.

In 2025, people all around the world will be encouraged to not only switch off their lights for an hour, but also to spend 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet. Find out more at www.earthhour.org

Mission Community News – Lent Services

Once again, the Churches of our Mission Community will be coming together for shared prayer and worship throughout Lent. Each Church will be hosting a short Lenten Service, to which we are all invited.

This is a great opportunity to meet with people from other Churches and to experience different styles of worship; please do your best to support these Services if you can. If you haven't taken part in these Services previously, perhaps it could be your Lent challenge to get involved this year. The full list of times and dates can be found on page 23.

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.*



Arthur Lane Nurseries,
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Breakfasts, paninis, toasties &
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sandwiches, plated salads and
plenty of light bites.

Also serving seasonal specials.
Pop in to see what's new!



@thegardenshed.arthurlane

News From The Diocese - General Lay Training Courses

Applications for the 2025 General Lay Training courses are now open! Each course on the Authorised Lay Ministry pathway is now available as a standalone option. These courses are ideal for anyone looking to deepen their calling and enhance their gifts for Christian ministry and service.

You can view the courses and find application guidance by clicking the following link: [General Lay Courses](#).

Time For A Smile

In preparation for a visit by an education inspector to her school, an RE teacher developed a fool-proof system to ensure that the children in her class displayed an impressive level of religious knowledge. When the inspector asked a question, every child would raise a hand – the left one if they knew the answer and the right one if they had no idea. In many years of teaching, she never failed to select a pupil who would supply the correct answer.



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Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Prayer Diary



March 2025

1 st	We pray for those who will be part of the Bury & Rossendale 'Lay Leaders' Conference today; praying that they will be encouraged & inspired in their ministry.
2 nd	We pray for those who will be part of the Prayer & Spirituality meeting tomorrow evening; praying also that someone from each of our churches will feel called to be part of this group.
3 rd	On World Wildlife Day, we give thanks for & celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora & pray for better awareness of the benefits that conservation provides to people.
4 th	We give thanks & pray for all those who serve as our Parish Safeguarding Officers; we pray for those who will be attending the Service of Reflection at Manchester Cathedral this evening.
5 th	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 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
7 th	We pray for those throughout the world who will be participating in World Day of Prayer Services; we pray especially for those who will be part of the Service being held at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
8 th	We give thanks for the green spaces within our parishes & pray that we would be good guardians of this world. We give thanks for all who work for environmental sustainability & climate justice.
9 th	We give thanks for the new initiatives which are being developed between Christ Church Ainsworth & Christ Church Ainsworth Primary School; we pray that the seeds of faith would be planted and that the children & staff taking part would be inspired.
10 th	We pray for those who will be leading or taking part in Lent courses in the coming weeks; praying especially today for those beginning at St. Andrew's, Hillock & St. George's, Unsworth.
11 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
12 th	We give thanks for the congregation, volunteers & community at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
13 th	We give thanks & pray for all those who are involved with ministry for children & families.
14 th	We pray for those who will be leading & taking part in the Lent Prayer Service at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe today.
15 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.
16 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
17 th	We pray for those who will be leading & taking part in the Lent Prayer Service at St. George's, Unsworth today.
18 th	On Global Recycling Day, we recognise and celebrate the importance recycling plays in preserving precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet.
19 th	We pray for those who will be leading & taking part in the Celtic Lent Service at St. Mary, Radcliffe today.
20 th	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints Stand.
21 st	On International Day Of Forests, we celebrate the importance of all types of forests. We give thanks for those who educate & support us, ensuring trees are planted at the right time of year for each species.
22 nd	We pray for & give thanks for all who provide Funeral Ministry throughout our Mission Community.
23 rd	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
24 th	We pray for those who will be leading & taking part in the Lent Taize Service at Christ Church Walshaw this evening.
25 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
26 th	We pray for those who will be leading & taking part in the Lent Compline Service at St. Andrew's, Hillock this evening.
27 th	We pray for our ordained ministers as they continue to support the Churches of our Mission Community and other local Churches in vacancy.
28 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
29 th	We give thanks for & pray for our Church Officers, Lay Leaders & Volunteers.
30 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
31 st	We give thanks & pray for all those who are part of the Whitefield Anna Chaplaincy Team.

"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
- All proceeds to Church funds

The next Lucky Lotto draw will take place on Sunday 30th March.

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



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 11th March

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





Craft & Makers Market

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

**Sunday 23rd March
11am - 3pm**

**Arts, Crafts, Handmade, Knits, Scents and More with
over 30 local small business attending
Cafe Open
Evergreen Events**



Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Lent 2025

- ✦ **Friday 14th March, 12 noon – Lent Prayer**
St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe. M26 2UD
(Please feel free to bring a packed lunch to enjoy after this Service)
- ✦ **Monday 17th March, 10am – Morning Prayer**
St. George's, Unsworth. BL9 8JJ
- ✦ **Wednesday 19th March, 10am – Celtic Lent Service**
St. Mary, Radcliffe. M26 2QA
- ✦ **Monday 24th March, 7.30pm - Taize**
Christ Church Walshaw. BL8 3FS
- ✦ **Wednesday 26th March, 7.30pm – Compline**
St. Andrew's, Hillock. M45 8NA
- ✦ **Thursday 3rd April, 2.30pm**
All Saints, Stand. M45 7NF
- ✦ **Tuesday 8th April, 7.30pm – Night Prayer**
St. Andrew's, Radcliffe. M26 4HU
- ✦ **Wednesday 9th April, 2.30pm – Lent Reflection**
Christ Church Ainsworth. BL2 5RU

*Please come and join us at any, or all, of the above
Services.*

40



DO YOU LOVE TO SING?

HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED A CANCER DIAGNOSIS?

Founded in June 2012 **Bolton Cancer Voices** is an inspirational, welcoming Choir open to anyone who has received a cancer diagnosis of any type at any time.

The Choir provides a positive, motivational and diversionary environment where members have fun, enjoy the challenges and exhilaration of performing and have a focus aside from their illness.

It offers an informal forum to meet with others in a similar situation and benefit from mutual support and understanding.

Though cancer brings the Choir together it is not allowed to define or restrict us: we are a community Choir like any other with a full programme of appearances and activities together with many dreams and aspirations!

Membership is FREE: there is no requirement to read music and no auditions to worry about.

We have no geographical restrictions on membership, as long as you can travel to Bolton for rehearsals.

**Rehearsals take place on Mondays 7.30pm - 9.00pm
at The Friends Meeting House, Silverwell Street, Bolton BL1 1PP**

Enquiries to Karen Elliott - Chair
01204 595562 / 07773 164235
www.boltoncancervoices.org.uk
E-mail: boltoncancervoices@yahoo.com

 **@BoltonCancervoices**

We are waiting to hear from YOU!

HEALTHY BODY ... HEALTHY MIND

Exercise Isn't Just For The Gym!

Doing something active is a form of exercise.



Being active with others is good for social and mental health.

There are many local opportunities to get active through volunteer work;
Ainsworth Churchyard

is one opportunity.

Every Wednesday, volunteers come together to help tidy the churchyard – clearing leaves, mowing grass, tidying the graves. There are jobs for any age or capacity.



Tea, cake and a chat split the session into two halves. All are welcome.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

COME RAIN OR SHINE!

9:30 – 11.45 A.M.

Events At Ainsworth Methodist Church

Ainsworth Methodist Church Presents

2nd Rossendale Scout

Brass Band

Saturday
22nd March 2025

7.30pm



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

Info: 07533 696 776 fionajbelli@hotmail.co.uk

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 11th March

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 4th March

2.30pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Tuesday 18th March – 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 6th March

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.

Lent Reflections

Christ Church Ainsworth

Starts Tuesday 11th March at 7pm, then each Tuesday evening throughout Lent. Everyone welcome.

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>

2nd Rossendale Scout Brass Band Concert

Saturday 22nd March 7.30pm

Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall

For further info / tickets contact mail@ainsworthmethodist.org.uk

Artisan Market!!

Sunday 23rd March

11-3pm, Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Everyone welcome!

Around The Organisations ...

12th Radcliffe Guides

It was quite a busy start to the year as we enrolled Alice; made Erin a new patrol leader and others as patrol seconds; and we welcomed 5 new guides - Elise, Esmi, Georgia, Gracie and Lilly. We have also been able to award Grace her Investigating Interest badge and have enrolled Keeley and Lilly

Chinese New Year gave us an excuse to try different dips, as well as making a stained-glass snake! And Valentine's Day was another excuse for food – this time baking cupcakes and decorating with hearts.



To mark Thinking Day, an important part of the Guiding Year, we lit tea lights to remember Guides all over the world. We also made paper mâché (battery) tea light holders so that, when lit, it can remind us of all in Girlguiding.

As part of our skills builder badge, we have found out more about each other, decorated a notebook for another Guide which was then given to the intended recipient; used pictures to give and use feedback and have considered positive and negative reactions to

certain statements – and there were certainly some very interesting and amusing ideas from the Guides.

At the January Church Parade, Rubi carried our flag and in February Lucy carried the Union flag and Grace the Guide flag with Rubi and Esmi escorting; and Rubi and Grace did the reading.

12th Radcliffe Guide Leaders

Join Us & Join In!



On February 4th we had an almost 'full house' of members for our AGM. Thank you all for your loyalty and willingness to be involved. The committee remained the same and our 'All Members Meetings' will continue twice a year which keeps members informed and involved.

The accounts were presented by Andrew in the absence of a permanent Treasurer. It was agreed that the subscription would remain the same as last year. Thank you, Andrew for keeping control of our finances.

Thank you also to Jean who very promptly sends out information from Mary Sumner House, our Head Office in London, Manchester Diocese and our Deanery.

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation which is rooted in prayer. Following some valuable discussions at our AGM, we have decided to use the themes from the annual Prayer Diary as a 'starting point' at our first Tuesday meetings.

This month, the theme is 'The Power of Love Through Christ'. We'll be thinking about what Christian love looks like and how we demonstrate that love to each other – and to ourselves! We'll use the 'wedding reading' – 1 Corinthians 13 – to inform our discussions.

If you have a favourite Bible verse, poem or hymn about love, feel free to bring that along and share it with us.

We are expecting that by the time you read this, we will have had a lovely afternoon at Falshaw's, and will have chosen the venue for our next afternoon 'rendezvous' in March.

The end of March is particularly busy with dates which are important to Mothers' Union members. We celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March, commonly referred to as Lady Day, which celebrates when the birth of Jesus was foretold to his mother Mary. We are going to be

observing this important feast day individually, looking ahead to Mothering Sunday on 30th March when, once again, we have been invited to take part in the 10.30am Service. We look forward to this special day.

You may remember that we had a retiring collection at two services in November and December to buy special gifts/essentials for the mothers and children at a local Refuge. We have been in touch with Fortalice in Bolton and decided to divide the money over the year as needs arose. Sometimes a simple gift will lift a family from anxiety into hope. We have been asked to donate some small to medium Easter eggs for a start.

Thank you to all members of the congregation for your amazing generosity. You gave us just under £100 to spend.

Jennifer White.

From the Archives – March 2000

The sketch on the inside cover of the March 2000 Parish Magazine depicted a family awaiting their pancakes, whilst mum expertly flipped one at the stove; Shrove Tuesday clearly fell in March that year also.

In addition to the regular Services, the Parish Diary for March 2000 included details of Lenten Devotional Services to be held at Christ Church Ainsworth. Other news from the parish included thanks for the Webb Ivory orders placed by parishioners, which had raised £225 for the Scouting sections; a thankyou for cards and good wishes received on the occasion of a Diamond Wedding anniversary; a request for volunteers to join the Churchyard Team; and a plea for additional Choir members.

The Uniformed Organisations had been hard at work with many badges awarded across the various sections; Guides and Brownies had held a joint Thinking Day event, and Guides were planning a Jumble Sale; all sections had enjoyed a visit to see “Carrots”, which was a production staged at Ainsworth Methodist Church by a local drama group. 16th Radcliffe Brownies were pleased to welcome Sue Campbell and Barbara Leigh who had offered to ‘help out on some Thursday evenings ...’ (it’s worth noting that these 2 ladies are still ‘helping out’ on Thursday evenings!!), and Anne Rule had been appointed District Commissioner of Radcliffe North.

Elsewhere, Beavers had celebrated Chinese New Year, whilst the Cubs and Scouts had taken up the ‘Millenium Chase Challenge’;

members of the Church Women's Fellowship were selling tickets for a concert featuring 'New Life Singing Fellowship', and the Day School were planning an Easter Egg Bingo evening – busy times!

In March 2000, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Judith Bonnar, "regular writer for the parish magazine and secretary of the PTA". In March 2000 there was 1 Baptism and 3 Funerals recorded from the previous month, but no weddings. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 371, collections were listed as £1900.

Church Seasons & Traditions – March; Shrovetide

Shrovetide consists of the three days before the start of Lent; each day has significance; Shrove Sunday involves the confession of sins, on Collop Monday people would finish up any leftover meat (collops of bacon) and on Shrove Tuesday (colloquially known as Pancake Day) people would use up all their eggs and other restricted foods before the start of Lent.

The origins of Shrovetide go back to the Middle Ages. In medieval times, Shrovetide marked the end of the chain of cold season celebrations, which started with the Twelve Days of Christmas and continued until Candlemas on the 2nd of February.

Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to have fun before the recreational restrictions of Lent. As well as using up food stocks (which would have often been low by this point anyway) festivities would have included: jousting, plays, music and masques as well as games such as football.

Space To Share A Prayer - Lent

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship.

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us to reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and to hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond.

May Lent be a time of inward searching that makes us more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. Amen

A Hymn For Lent

Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.



Sunbeams scorching all the day;
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
Prowling beasts about Thy way;
Stones Thy pillow; earth Thy bed.

Should not we Thy sorrow share
And from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Strong with Thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press,
Jesus, Savior, hear our call!
Victor in the wilderness,
Grant we may not faint nor fall!

So shall we have peace divine:
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to Thee.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
Ever constant by Thy side;
That with Thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.

(George H Smyttan – 1856)

Things To Look Out For In March – Long Tailed Tits



Long-tailed tits are very small birds, typically less than half the weight of a robin. They have a fluffy pale-pinkish breast, dark wings, a short beak and a long tail. Despite their name, long-tailed tits are not closely related to the tit family

These little birds feed on insects and invertebrates. The eggs of moths and butterflies are commonly taken, as are caterpillars; the birds pluck their prey from tree branches and other vegetation. Seeds

may be eaten in winter when food is scarce, and they will often visit bird feeders.

Long-tailed tits can be found throughout the UK, with the exception of the most mountainous parts of Scotland. The species is at home in woodland, but can also be found in farmland, parks and gardens, provided there is plenty of tree cover.

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

Trees

The first leaves and flowers of native trees are one of the surest signs of the changing seasons. As winter turns to spring, the bare, frost-covered branches begin to develop new buds and shoots. In March, watch out for:

Buds on Ash, Beech, Rowan & Oak

Leaves emerging on Alder & Silver Birch

Blossom on Blackthorn & Crab Apple.

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Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)



I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth

Three Things ...

That never come back – Time; words; opportunities

That you should never lose – Calmness; honesty; hope

That are truly valuable – Love; respect; trust

That are uncertain – Success, power, wealth

That define a person – Work ethic; integrity; achievements

That are hardest to say – I love you; help me; forgive me.



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Email: Bookings@AinsworthChurchHall.co.uk

The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

S H R O V E T U E S D A Y

Lent Quiz

The answers to the following all contain the word lent ...

1. Sufficient
2. A type of pulse
3. Completely quiet
4. Yield to a request
5. Skill or ability
6. Lazy
7. Physically aggressive
8. Italian dish made from cornmeal
9. Short and rotund
10. Top notch!
11. A saint for February
12. Having contradictory feelings about something
13. Something which deters insects
14. Moist or juicy
15. Having strong or uneven currents (air or water)

(Answers on page 38)



Did you know it costs around £1,300 per week to run & maintain our Church?

That's around £186 per day!!

You can make a donation directly into our Church bank account: Christ Church Ainsworth PCC, Sort Code: 08-92-99
Account number: [65510959](#)

Or by scanning our QR code



Thank you for your support!

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
2 nd March 10.30am Sun Before Lent	Mags Gillman	N/A	Alison Hartley
5 th March 7.30pm Ash Weds	Churchwardens	Churchwardens	
9 th March 1 st in Lent Church Parade	Barbara Clarkson Scouting Sections	N/A	Scouting
16 th March 10.30am 2 nd Sun in Lent	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Jan Burrow	Jenny Johnson
23 rd March 10.30am 3 rd Sun in Lent	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	Lillian Haworth	David Holden
30 th March 10.30am Mothering Sunday	Mags Gillman	Jennifer White	Enid Horrocks

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
2 nd March Sun before Lent (Green)	Enid Horrocks	Exodus 34.29-35 2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2 Luke 9.28-36
9 th March 1 st Sun in Lent (Purple)	Scouting Sections	Church Parade
16 th March 2 nd Sun in Lent (Purple)	Jenny Johnson	Genesis 15.1-12,17-18 Philippians 3.17 - 4.1 Luke 13.31-35
23 rd March 3 rd Sun in Lent (Purple)	David Holden	Isaiah 55.1-9 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 Luke 13.1-9
30 th March Mothering Sun (Purple)	Jean Eddleston Sue Johnson	Exodus 2.1-10 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 Luke 2.33-35

Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk	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	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	Alison Hartley	ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com
Primary School Head	Mrs L McGreavy BA(Hons)	01204 527484

Services

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

Weds 6.30pm Mid-Week Praise

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

Answers to Lent Quiz: 1) Plenty, 2) Lentils, 3) Silent, 4) Relent, 5) Talent, 6) Indolent, 7) Violent, 8) Polenta, 9) Corpulent, 10) Excellent, 11) Valentine, 12) Ambivalent, 13) Repellent, 14) Succulent, 15) Turbulent.

Just A Thought

Sometimes you have to be the change that you want to see.

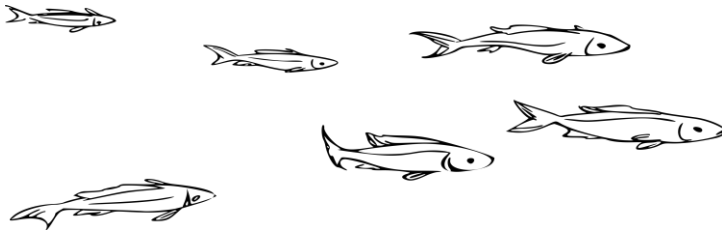
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Who's Who For Church Organisations

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.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 th 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 th Radcliffe	Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 th Radcliffe	Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045

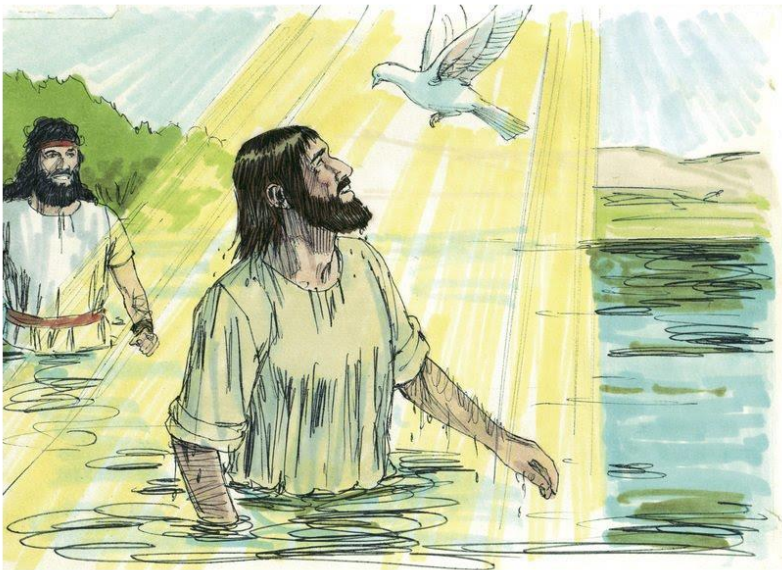


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Little Fishes

The Baptism Of Jesus



Stories Of Jesus

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 first part of the Bible is called the Old Testament; this part of the Bible was written before Jesus was born.

The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament; this part of the Bible tells us all about the life and death of Jesus, about the things that He did, and about the people that knew Him.

The Baptism Of Jesus

While Jesus was growing up in the town of Nazareth, in Galilee, his cousin John, the son of Zacharias, was also growing up in the nearby desert country of Judea. John spent much of his time alone in this desert country, thinking and praying and listening to God's voice. When he became a man, he began to teach other people about God.



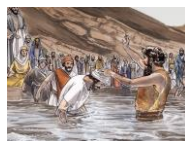
John did not go to the towns and cities to preach God's message, he stayed in the wilderness of Judea near the River Jordan. It was many, many years since anyone had claimed to be able to share God's word, and so everybody was eager to hear this strange preacher in the wilderness tell the words that God had spoken to him. They believed he was a prophet or teacher, sent from God, and they came in great numbers to hear his words.



John told the people that they should turn away from their sins and begin to do right, because God's kingdom was near at hand.

John said that the King for whom they had been looking would soon come among them.

John baptised people in the River Jordan, and for this reason he became known as "John the Baptist."



All kinds of people came to be baptised by John, and he taught the people who came to him that they should be unselfish, and

kind to the poor. He told those who were rich to share their food and their clothing with the needy. He told those who were soldiers to harm no one, and to be less angry and aggressive. He tried in this way to teach them to love other people and that God's kingdom would be a kingdom of love and peace.

News of the strange preacher in the wilderness spread to the farthest corners of the land, and everywhere people were talking about his message and wondering about who John was; he didn't dress like other men - he wore only a rough coat made of camel's hair, and he ate the simple food that he found in the wilderness, dried locusts and wild honey. He was bold, and not afraid to speak the truth - even to the wicked King Herod!



When John heard some of the things that the people were saying about him, he told them, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness and warning you to prepare for the coming King. After me there is coming one greater than I - so much greater that I am not worthy to unfasten his shoes. And though I baptise you with water, he shall baptise you with the Holy Spirit, sent down from heaven."

One day Jesus came from Nazareth to the River Jordan, where John was preaching and baptising the people, and Jesus asked to be baptised also. John recognised that Jesus was someone very special, even though nobody else had noticed anything different about him! He didn't believe that Jesus needed to be baptised; he said, "You are so much greater than me that I should be baptised by you. Why do you come to me?"

But Jesus answered, "It is necessary that I should be baptised by you, because this is God's plan."



So John took Jesus into the River Jordan and baptised him there.

When Jesus came up out of the water, suddenly the heavens opened above him and the Spirit of

God, in the form of a beautiful dove, came down and sat upon Jesus's head.

Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

And John knew by this sign who Jesus was; for God had told him that someday he would see the heavens open and the Spirit of God descend upon the coming King.

Quick Quiz

- 1 - Who was John's father?
- 2 - What relation was John the Baptist to Jesus?
- 3 - What did the people think that John was?
- 4 - Which river did John baptise people in?
- 5 - Where did John live?
- 6 - What did John eat?
- 7 - What was John's coat made from?
- 8 - Why did Jesus want to be baptised by John?
- 9 - What landed on Jesus's head after he had been baptised?
- 10 - Where did the voice come from?

Brave John The Baptist

Brave John the Baptist,
wearing camel hair,
lived in the wilderness,
eating locusts there.
Came to the people

To whom he had been sent
and announced to the people:
Repent! Repent! Repent!



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For More Information
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