

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Easter Sunday Morning
(Photo courtesy of Jane Holden)

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May 2025

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Parish Diary May 2025



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sun 4 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.15pm	Baptism Of Millie Commins
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Weds 7 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sun 11 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	VE Day Celebration & Church Parade Service
	12.15pm	Baptism Of Beau George Fairclough
Tues 13 th	10.30am	Coffee & Conversation (<i>Ainsworth Church & Community Hall</i>)
Weds 14 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Sat 17 th	11.00am	Church Spring Fair (<i>Ainsworth Church & Community Hall</i>)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sun 18 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Be Still
Weds 21 st	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sun 25 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion (<i>followed by refreshments & drawing of the May Lucky Lotto</i>)
	12.15pm	Baptism Of Emily Armstrong
	1.30pm	Baptism Of Thaon & Lakelan Smith

ASCENSION DAY

Thurs 29 th	10.00am	Mission Community Prayer Journey (<i>begins at Christ Church Walshaw</i>)
	11.00am	Mission Community Prayers at Ainsworth
	7.30pm	Ascension Day Communion Service

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

JUNE

Sun 1 st	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer

Parish Report From APCM

Despite being in interregnum since March 2023, our Church continues to be active and positive, seeking to nurture and encourage our existing worshipping community on their journey of faith, and also working hard to engage with our local community, with Christ Church Ainsworth Primary School, and with families who connect with our Church for occasional offices such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and interment of ashes.

Throughout 2024 we have worked hard to draw our congregations together, to encourage members of our worshipping communities to take an active role in the life of our Church, and to be an active and proactive part of our wider Mission Community.

Members of our PCC have met regularly to ensure that the business of the Parish is conducted in an appropriate and timely manner in line with the Diocesan guidelines; members of our Standing Committee have met on 3 separate occasions to discuss or work on specific agenda items; whilst Clergy and Churchwardens meet on a regular basis, both formally and informally to plan and also to ensure the smooth day to day running of our Church.

Despite still having no Incumbent in post, we have managed to maintain all of our regular Church Services, including Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Interments of Ashes. In addition to our regular pattern of worship, we also now hold a monthly Reflective / Contemplative Prayer Service and have held weekly Prayer Services in Church throughout Lent and Advent. We are hugely grateful for the hard work and support of our own Clergy - Revd Debra Johnstone and Revd Elaine Larkin, and also for the support and input of visiting members of Clergy from our own Mission Community and the wider Diocese, without whom this would not have been possible.

To complement our regular Services, we have been pleased to welcome to our Church, representatives from a number of charities and organisations, to give some insights into their work within our local and wider community; as a follow on from this our Church and members of our congregations have been able to financially support the work of Christian Aid, The Children's Society, Urban Outreach and The Royal British Legion. In addition, a number of members of our congregation have themselves engaged with the different organisations, either to access the services offered or to provide financial support. We have also provided practical support for Porch

Boxes and The Bury Homeless Project and engaged with a Mission Community-wide initiative to support various other charities through recycling.

Throughout the course of 2024 we have held a number of 'special services' and community events; we joined together with members of Ainsworth Methodist Church to celebrate Palm Sunday; our Whit Gathering in June was held on 'The Delph' and brought together our worshipping Community, members of our Uniformed Organisations and also our wider community for outdoor worship, supported by members of Farnworth & Walkden Brass Band. We joined with Farnworth & Walkden Brass Band again early in July when we held a very successful 'Summer Prom Concert', and also in December for our annual 'Candlelit Christmas Concert' – both of these events were raising money for Church funds. In addition, in July we held an 'Open Church' event to support Ainsworth Village Day, held a number of Services during the Season Of Remembrance; and joined once again with our friends from Ainsworth Methodist Church in December for a joint Community Carol Service.

In line with the Diocesan 'Growing Younger Strategy', our work with children and families has continued through our weekly MidWeek Praise family service. Throughout the course of 2024 we were also excited to be able to hold a number of additional family friendly initiatives; 'I-Spy Nature', during the May half term break, was followed by a Family Gardening Group and Outdoor Worship – both of which were held weekly throughout the Summer holidays, and an Autumn Leaves Trail and craft event during the October half term break.

In addition, our long-standing links with the staff and children at Christ Church Ainsworth Primary School have been further strengthened following the appointment in September 2024 of Mrs. McGreavy, as the new Head Teacher. In November the School Worship Team, along with members of staff, attended our Armistice Day Service in Church; the children from Nursery & Reception joined us in Church for an afternoon of Christmas Craft activities based on the Christmas Story early in December; we also invited school to partner with us in a '40 Days of Kindness Theme' during Lent. Revd Debra has led a number of assemblies in school throughout the year, and following our long-standing tradition, the whole school has joined us in Church for a Service at the end of each term. We have a number of new shared

initiatives on the horizon, including a joint monthly litter-picking group and a trial of Forest Church.

The Quinquennial Inspection carried out at Christ Church Ainsworth in January 2023 identified a number of areas where work was required, or would be required in the near future, to maintain the structure and fabric of our Church. Our Church Architect has produced a schedule of work detailing areas of priority, and we have worked hard to try to secure grant funding to ensure that these projects can be completed in a timely manner. Following a significant reduction to our Parish Share, agreed by the Diocese in August 2024, the fact that we have been able to pay this in full also means that we are now eligible to apply for some of the grants which are available from the Diocese for building repair and maintenance.

In spite of these challenges, the reduction in Parish Share, coupled with a slight increase in giving following our Generosity & Thankfulness Campaign, an increase in the number of fundraising initiatives held throughout the year, and better use of social media to promote these initiatives, has helped us to begin to improve our financial position. Thanks to the hard work and commitment of members of our Social Committee, both the Spring Fair and Christmas Fair were also well supported and successful events.

In other news, our Church took up the A Rocha EcoChurch challenge in the Spring of 2023; this is a national initiative which encourages Churches and their worshipping communities to assess and improve their 'green credentials'. Building on the work previously done to achieve our Bronze Award and the hard work that our Churchyard Team put in to maintaining our grounds throughout the year, the implementation of a number of new initiatives throughout the summer months meant that we were pleased and proud to become the first Church in our Mission Community to be awarded the EcoChurch 'Silver Award' in November 2024.

Our Church continues to engage with the work of the Radcliffe and Whitefield Mission Community; we are active participants within the 'growing, nurturing and serving task groups' and have participated in a number of joint prayer initiatives around Thy Kingdom Come, Advent and Lent. Members of our congregation also took part in the annual Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Ascension Day Prayer Walk and joined in with the two Mission Community-wide Litter Picking events which were held during the summer months. The Churches of our Mission Community also share information about

Services and special events, we have a monthly Mission Community Prayer Diary, a weekly 'praying together' theme which all Churches within the Mission Community are encouraged to share with their Clergy teams, PCCs and members of their congregation, and also a number of online Prayer Groups that meet regularly. Throughout the course of the past 12 months, the Mission Community concept has grown and evolved, with the need for sharing and support between Parishes becoming more relevant and necessary during a time of mass interregnums. Going forward, the number of Stipendiary Clergy allocated to our Mission Community will be reduced; ultimately the plan is that there will be 4 full time equivalent Stipendiary posts to service the 8 Churches within our Mission Community.

During the course of 2024, we have been saddened by the loss of a number of long standing and faithful members of our Church Community; Bill White was Churchwarden at Christ Church Ainsworth for a number of years and was also a Sidesman, a Lay Assistant, and an active member of the original Churchyard Team; Bryan Shaw was a valued member of the current Churchyard Team and also our 'Church Calligrapher'; Brian Flowers, another member of the Original Churchyard Team had also been the Sexton at Christ Church Ainsworth for a number of years; whilst Jane Lord led the Pew Polishing Team and was our BRF Ministries co-ordinator. All of these people have contributed massively to the life and workings of our Church and will be very much missed.

As previously mentioned, during this ongoing interregnum, we are hugely grateful to Revd Debra Johnstone and Revd Elaine Larkin, for taking on so many extra duties within the Parish, to ensure that mission and ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth is able to continue. We are also grateful to the many, many people who have come on board and taken on new or additional tasks at this time; we have struggled for a number of years to find people who are willing to take on the 'official PCC roles', but we are truly blessed with the number of people within our Church and wider community who are willing to 'roll up their sleeves' and help out.

We have no way of knowing how much longer our Church will remain in interregnum, or what the future may look like, however, as a team, we will continue to do our best to work together, to reach out to and engage with our local community and our wider Mission Community, and to be a Church that thrives during interregnum.

Alison Hartley – on behalf of Christ Church Ainsworth PCC

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the May 2025 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is a truly 'bumper edition'! Whilst many of us regret the passing of the traditional paper magazine – there is no way we could have included such a wealth of information and bright colours were we still having the Parish Magazine printed each month.

There are so many things going on in our Church and the wider community in the coming months; alongside all of our regular Services, in May we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day, plus holding the Church Spring Fair, taking part in the Mission Community Ascension Day Prayer Journey, Litter Picking with families from Christ Church Ainsworth School, and preparing for our Whit Sunday Celebration and also our Summer Concert – keep an eye on the Parish Diary and also the Pew Sheet to keep up to date with all of these fabulous activities

Enjoy this month's magazine; if your group or organisation has something to report, or you'd like to include an article in a future edition, please get in touch at ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Alison

From The Registers

We welcome to the family of God:

6th April 2025

Scarlett Elizabeth Margaret Richardson

Flower Rota

4th May

Alison Hartley

18th May

Jean Story

Holy Week & Easter Services

One of the joys of interregnum is having the opportunity to experience different types & styles of worship when we are joined by visiting Clergy. Whilst the number of people attending our Holy Week Services weren't huge, those who were able to join us were treated to a series of excellent Services, led by our own Clergy and visiting Clergy; Holy Week Reflections; a Service of Wholeness & Healing; Maundy Thursday Communion Service with hand washing & stripping of the Altar; Good Friday Reflection & finally our Easter Dawn Service and main Easter Sunday Communion Service – a huge thank you to everyone who led or attended these Services.

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 - May:

Helping Pollinators – *In our Churchyard we have a variety of native plants & flowers which attract bees & butterflies. We've also planted Lavender & Nasturtiums to further encourage these pollinators.*

Could you plant or grow a few insect / pollinator friendly plants in your garden, in a hanging basket or even a window box?

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.

Children's Society Housebox Collection 2025

As I write this article, I have collected, counted and banked the donations from everyone who holds a Children's Society housebox from our Parish. March is a busy month, so I am very grateful to all twenty households who continue to support The Children's Society this way, by making a donation once a year. **The grand total for 2025 is £429.16.**

This is a brilliant amount for the charity and will be much valued to help fund their work with children and young people. Right now, thousands of teenagers across the country are struggling with their mental health, growing up in poverty, facing huge challenges like child exploitation or abuse. All of them are waiting desperately for help, as we must remember that teenagers are children too. Every penny raised in donations will help teenagers tackle the challenges and fears they face and support them to move forward knowing they are not alone.

Every year, the charity helps more and more young people, from 12,000 five years ago to more than 72,000 last year. The charity campaigns for change too, improving thousands of children's lives.

That's all down to wonderful people like the supporters here in our Parish who, through their donations, are making sure that children have practical help at the time they need it most.

Every child or teenager should have the right to a future of hope and happiness, and thanks to supporters, the charity is working hard to make this happen.

Susan Campbell - Local Secretary for The Children's Society

CCA Litter Pickers



Thursday 3rd of April was the date set for our inaugural joint litter picking session with Christ Church Ainsworth School. On a glorious sunny afternoon, 25 children and 12 grown-ups, all armed with litter pickers, bags and gloves, set off around our village.

Our team had a great time and collected 11 bags of rubbish!

The most unusual items collected included socks and a pair of slippers, whilst broken glass, cans and sweet papers were the top scorers on quantity.

Many thanks to "Radcliffe Litter Pickers" for providing us with a supply of litter picking equipment.

Our next litter pick will take place on Thursday 1st May from 3.15 – 4pm; why not join us and help to keep our village tidy.

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VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration



On 8th May 2025, we mark the historic 80th anniversary of VE Day, with the people, families and communities of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe.

VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today, but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.

Why not join us on Thursday 8th May at 6.30pm as we take part in a 'national ringing of Church bells', please also bring a handbell if you have one. Then on Sunday 11th May we'll be holding a special Service in Church at 10.30am, to mark this historic occasion.

Everyone welcome.



Whit Sunday Community Celebration

For many years the folk from Christ Church Ainsworth & Ainsworth Methodist Church came together for a shared Walk Of Witness on Whit Sunday, however the restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that many of our congregation are less able than they once were, means that this tradition has lapsed in recent years.

Sunday 8th June 2025, the Day of Pentecost, will see our Churches coming together once more to mark this occasion. We'll be meeting at Christ Church Ainsworth for shared worship at 10.30am, then walking down to Ainsworth Methodist Church for food, fun & fellowship.

Everyone is welcome to join us for what promises to be a great day of celebration. For those who are less mobile, please feel free to drive down to the Methodist Church or even head straight there & meet us as we arrive at around 11.30am.

Summer Concert



Join us for an evening of musical entertainment by local Choral Ensemble, "Notability". Saturday 28th June, 7.30pm in Church. Tickets available in Church, or by emailing

ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

adults £7-50, children £5; refreshments included.

Christian Aid Week; 11-17th May 2025

As in previous years, we will be holding a bucket collection in Church to support this worthy cause; please give as you are able.

Ascension Day

You might be forgiven for thinking that Easter finishes after Bank Holiday Monday, or maybe once the schools go back, but in fact Eastertide lasts a lot longer; 40 days in fact!

On that first Easter morning, Jesus's friends were filled with joy that he had come back to them, but Jesus knew that he wouldn't be able to stay with them forever.

Jesus, as a person, could only be with some people, in some places, at some times, but by going to be with his Father in heaven, he would send the Holy Spirit so that God could be with anyone, anywhere, at any time.

During the 40 days after Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared to many different people and did many amazing things; He also spent a lot of time with his friends, teaching them and praying with them. He told them, "Soon, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit and receive the power of God. You must tell my story to the people in Jerusalem and to people all over the Earth; tell the people to believe in me even if they can't see me."

On the 40th day after Easter Sunday, Jesus and his friends went to The Mount of Olives to talk and pray. Whilst they were there a bright light shone from the sky and a large cloud came down. The cloud wrapped itself around Jesus and he was taken up to the heavens. This is what we now call the Ascension.

Although Jesus's friends probably didn't really understand what was happening, they remembered what he had told them, and returned to Jerusalem to wait for his promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

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 27th April, with the lucky winner walking away with £17-00!

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

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

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

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

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



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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!

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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 £931-04; 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 – World Bee Day; 20th May

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities.



Pollination is, however, a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity.

To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20th May as World Bee Day; the goal is to highlight the role bees play in ecosystems, food production, and sustainable development, and also to strengthen measures aimed at protecting bees and other pollinators, which would significantly contribute to solving problems related to the global food supply and eliminate hunger in developing countries.

We all depend on pollinators, and it is, therefore, crucial to monitor their decline and halt the loss of biodiversity.

We need to act now

Bees are under threat. Present species extinction rates are 100 to 1,000 times higher than normal due to human impacts. Close to 35 percent of invertebrate pollinators, particularly bees and butterflies, and about 17 percent of vertebrate pollinators, such as bats, face extinction globally.

If this trend continues, nutritious crops, such as fruits, nuts and many vegetable crops will be substituted increasingly by staple crops like rice, corn and potatoes, eventually resulting in an imbalanced diet. Intensive farming practices, land-use change, mono-cropping, pesticides and higher temperatures associated with climate change all pose problems for bee populations and, by extension, the quality of food we grow.

How can we do more as individuals?

- Plant a diverse set of native plants, which flower at different times of the year.
- Buy raw honey from local farmers.
- Buy products from sustainable agricultural practices.
- Avoid using pesticides, fungicides or herbicides in our gardens.
- Protect wild bee colonies when possible.
- Sponsor a hive.
- Make a bee water fountain by leaving a water bowl outside.
- Help to sustain forest ecosystems.
- Raise awareness around us by sharing this information within our communities and networks; the decline of bees affects us all!

For more info about Bee's & Awareness Day visit [World Bee Day](#)

Just A Thought

“Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground.”

News From The Diocese – Bishop David Pays Tribute To Pope Francis

“It was with great sorrow that we heard the news of the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters around the world at this time. Bishop David has expressed his condolences and paid tribute to Pope Francis, saying:

"Throughout his years as Pope, Francis radiated both the love of God and the joy of knowing that love. I know from my own meeting with him two years ago, that his closeness to God meant that to be in his presence was to feel God nearby. At a time when amoral and authoritarian leaders are coming to dominate power in so many parts of the world, Pope Francis has shown us a better, humbler, more compassionate way. I pray that his legacy will live long, both in the Church he led and in the world he cared for."

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.” (Manchester Diocese E-News)

Mission Community News – Prayer Journey 2025

This year's Mission Community Prayer Journey will be held on Ascension Day, Thursday 29th May; with walkers once again moving from Church to Church, ultimately arriving at St. Thomas's, Radcliffe for lunch and a Service of Holy Communion to be led by Bishop Matthew.

We appreciate that many of our congregation won't be able to walk the entire route, but it would actually be really helpful to have a few 'drivers' on the route to make the return journey a bit easier! Please feel free to join us at any stage of the Prayer Journey either on foot or by car, everyone is welcome.

The Prayer Journey

10am – Meet for Celtic Morning Prayer at Christ Church Walshaw

11am – Prayer & refreshments at Christ Church Ainsworth

12.15pm – Prayer at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe

1.15pm – Lunch followed by Holy Communion at St. Thomas's, Radcliffe.

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.*



SILLETTS


Established 1875

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Persona

Time For A Smile

The minister visited the Jones family in their new home. "Do you like it?" he asked one of the three children. She replied, "It's great, I have my own room, Bobby has his own room, and my sister has her own room, but I'm afraid mum and dad still have to share."

A little girl asked her mum where she came from; she told her that God made Adam and Eve and they had children, so that was the start of how we were made. Later, the girl asked her dad the same question. He explained that many years ago we all developed from monkeys. The poor girl was confused and said to her mum, "How is it that you told me we all came from Adam and Eve, but dad told me we came from monkeys?" Her mum replied "Oh, that's quite simple; you see I was talking about my side of the family."

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Diary



May 2025

1 st	We give thanks for those who will be part of the Task Group meeting this evening; we pray that there will be someone from each Church who feels called to be a part of this group.
2 nd	We pray for the couples getting married, and also those renewing their vows, at All Saints this month and over the summer.
3 rd	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
4 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
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 those Churches that remain in vacancy, & for the people who are leading them.
7 th	We pray for the children from Christ Church Ainsworth School who will be visiting Church this afternoon. We give thanks for our links & work with all schools, children & families.
8 th	We pray for all who will be holding Services & celebrations to commemorate the 80 th anniversary of VE Day. We remember with thanks all those who served our country during World War II.
9 th	We pray for Helen & Janet; the new Churchwardens at Christ Church Walshaw.
10 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
11 th	We pray for all of the Churches that have begun their EcoChurch journey; that their congregations & wider communities would be inspired & supportive of new initiatives.
12 th	We pray for all young people who will be taking exams this month.
13 th	We pray for the PCC at All Saints, Stand, as it plans for the future.
14 th	We pray for & give thanks for all who provide Funeral Ministry throughout our Mission Community.
15 th	At the start of Christian Aid Week, we give thanks for the work that is done by this charity. We give thanks for our local volunteers & pray for the individuals & communities which are in need of aid.
16 th	We pray for & give thanks for all who provide Pastoral Care; members of Clergy, Pastoral Visiting Teams, Anna Chaplains & Anna Friends.
17 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
18 th	We pray those who will be involved with the APCM to be held at St Andrew's, Radcliffe today. We pray for Churchwardens, PCC members, and all who volunteer or hold Office within our Churches.
19 th	We give thanks for & pray for our Church Officers, Lay Leaders & Volunteers.
20 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
21 st	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints Stand.
22 nd	We pray those who will be involved with the APCM to be held at St Andrew's, Hillock today. We give thanks for all who have volunteered or held office at St. Andrew's during the past year.
23 rd	We pray for & give thanks for Adele, the Associate Priest at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe. We pray also for the congregation at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
24 th	We pray for the Baptism Team at All Saints, Stand, and for the families that they will be involved with in the coming months.
25 th	We pray for the parents & Godparents of the children who will be baptised at Christ Church Ainsworth today; may they know God's presence & grow in faith.
26 th	We pray for those who lead & participate in the prayer groups & Bible study groups which are run by our Churches; may they be inspired & enriched by these gatherings.
27 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
28 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
29 th	We pray for all those who will be part of our Mission Community Prayer Journey today.
30 th	We give thanks for the congregation, volunteers & community at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
31 st	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.

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



CHRIST CHURCH AINSWORTH

SPRING FAIR



SATURDAY 17 TH MAY
11am - 2pm

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Cafe Serving Lunch

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Journey

Thursday 29th May 2025

- 10am - Christ Church Walshaw
Celtic Morning Prayer
- 11am - Christ Church Ainsworth
Refreshments & Prayer
- 12.15pm - St. Andrew's, Radcliffe
Prayer
- 1.15pm - St Thomas & St. John,
Radcliffe
Refreshments & Holy Communion, led by
Bishop Matthew

*Please join us as we come together to pray
throughout our Mission Community.*

*If you don't feel able to walk, join us for
prayer at any of the Churches on our route.*



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 25th May.

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



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 13th May

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





CCA Litter Pickers



First Thursday of the month
3.15 - 4pm

Meet outside school, finish
at Church for a drink & a
biscuit.

Equipment provided.

Children must be accompanied
by a responsible adult.

Next date Thurs 1st May.



Victory in Europe!



**Come along to our celebration service
at Christ Church, Ainsworth,
on Sunday 11th May
at 10.30am
(feel free to wear red, white and blue!)**

Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall, Greenside

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Only
£2



1st Thursday of every month 2 till 3.30

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

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CHRIST CHURCH AINSWORTH

Presents

A Summer Concert with

NOTABILITY
CHORAL ENSEMBLE

Saturday June 28th
7.30pm

Church Street, Ainsworth BL2 5RU

Adults £7.50 Children £5.00
Including Refreshments

Tickets available in Church
To book tickets or for more information
Email ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com
Or telephone 07952 709041



COME & JOIN THE WHITSUNDAY CELEBRATION!!

Sunday 8th June from 10.30am

- *Meet at Christ Church
Ainsworth for shared worship*
- *Process to Ainsworth
Methodist Church for food,
fun & fellowship.*

**Why not join us as we come
together to celebrate -
everyone welcome!**

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 13th May

10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome.

Christ Church Ainsworth Summer Concert

Saturday 28th June

7.30pm Christ Church Ainsworth

Join us for an evening of musical entertainment with local choral ensemble

“Notability”. Tickets available in church, or by emailing

ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

Adults £7.50, children £5 (inc. refreshments)

Cuppa, Cakes & Company

Thursday 1st May

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.

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Journey 2025

Thursday 29th May

See flyer on page 22 for more details; everyone welcome

Christ Church Ainsworth Spring Fair

Saturday 17th May 11 – 2pm

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Stalls, Games, Craft, Café – everyone welcome.

!! Picnic On The Delph !!

Date To Be Confirmed, Dependent On Weather Forecast

Teddy bear theme for children; bring your own food, blanket, chairs; make up a team for outdoor games; come along and join in the fun!

Date to be confirmed nearer the time, but likely to be 17th / 18th May or 28th / 29th June, dependent on the weather forecast.

CCA Litter Pickers

Thursday 1st May 3.15- 4pm

Meet outside school, finish at Church for a drink & a biscuit. All equipment provided; children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Around The Organisations ...

12th Radcliffe Guides

Once again it has been a busy half term, with special occasions to celebrate and badgework. Through role play, the Guides have developed their acting skills, considering how to stand up to bullies; and have completed team challenges. This meant that they completed the Reflect skills builder and we were able to award badges to sixteen Guides.

The Guides showed how imaginative they could be, making teddies from socks and elastic bands, and making paper flowers.



The Guides made tortilla pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and dragons for St David's Day; sand filled heart key rings for Mother's Day and finished the term pinning the tail on the bunny(!) and with an Easter Egg.

And at the end of term, we were pleased to be able to enrol Lilly, Gracie, Georgia, Esmi and Elise.

12th Radcliffe Guide Leaders

Join Us & Join In!

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

What a wonderful meeting we had when Grace from Fortalice came to tell us about the work in which they are involved. From 3 women

taking up refuge on opening day in 1977, through 200 women and 287 children being resident before April 1979 to now when Fortalice has supported thousands of victims.

They deliver 20 different refuge and community-based projects working with the highest risk victims, to delivering early intervention programmes and healthy relationships education programmes in schools, in order to help break the cycle of abuse.

Some of these projects are funded but many are not and rely on the general public to continue. We asked Grace what they needed at the moment. **SINGLE** bed linen and towels are always in demand. We may be able to spend some of your donated money to purchase those. Maybe you have an impulse buy at home that you've never used. Let us take it off your hands! Children like bright (happy) colours so keep your eyes open for bargains when you are shopping.

Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Spring Council is on Saturday, May 3rd from 10.00am to 2.00pm at St John's House in Bury. If anyone would like to come with me, member or not, you will be very welcome and it's an easy way to find out about new projects and progress of old ones.

The following Tuesday, 6th May at 2.30pm, we will meet in the Church Hall for an All Members Meeting, our catch up and future planning time. It's never too soon to start talking about the Christmas meal!

The Prayer Diary Theme for May is 'Thy Kingdom Come'. To pray the words 'Thy Kingdom come' is to express a desire and a hope for the world to be a better place. A world where lives, relationships and communities can have life, and live to the full, through Jesus.

Monday, 12th May is the date of our Deanery Festival which, this year will be held at St Stephen's Church, Bury, starting at 7.00pm.

The venue for our meeting on the 20th May will have been decided at our third Tuesday meeting in April, unfortunately not in time for this article. We will make sure that everyone knows where we will be.

Following this article, you will see a letter from Kathleen Snow, our new Worldwide President. We look forward to hearing from her on many occasions throughout her 3/6year term in office.

Jennifer White

****STOP PRESS****

On Maundy Thursday, Durham Cathedral plays host to a historic event - the Royal Maundy Service, a centuries-old tradition that brings national recognition to those who dedicate their lives to service, compassion, and community.

In this special service, His Majesty The King honours individuals who have shown exceptional dedication to Christian service and community support. Among those honoured this year were four individuals from the Diocese of Manchester, (including Mrs Christine Sharp, the Immediate Past President of Mothers' Union in Manchester and present York Provincial President), whose tireless service and faithful dedication have left a lasting impact on their communities.

"To: Mothers' Union Members around the world. 22 March 2025

Dear Mothers' Union Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you in this season of Lent and Easter. I mention both Lent and Easter, as we cannot experience the hope in the Risen Lord without experiencing the wilderness of the bright-sad season of Lent.

Our Mothers' Union theme for Lent has been 'Living Hope' and this theme, as noted from our website invites us to 'reflect deeply on the hope we have in Christ, even as we walk through the challenges and complexities of life'.

For many of our members, we are experiencing challenging situations, whether living in war-torn countries of conflict, or displaced due to these conflicts, recovering from the effects of climate change and severe weather conditions, dealing with difficult family/personal relationships, worried about the unstable political climate, and at times just living with the challenges of daily life.

We know that Jesus walked a difficult journey. It was a journey in which he followed His Father as He led him through the wilderness. We must remember that Jesus walks this journey with us. He is always beside us and waiting for us to reach out to Him. We need only to open our hands and our hearts to pray.

This journey ends in the magnificent joy of Easter. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! We are a people called to live in hope, in the hope of meeting our Master and continuing to walk with Him.

As Mothers' Union members we are strong, united, and living in hope. I hear this when speaking with members around the world. The deep and abiding faith that we have is an encouragement to others.

We are a witness to others in this bright-sad season of Lent, and we are witnesses when we share our joy on Easter morn. We know that He is risen and that He has made a place for us in heaven.

So let us walk this way together. Let us support one another in prayer, in worship and in service. Let us be a force to end poverty, injustice and violence. We can and are making a difference in our walk with Him and with each other.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

With my love and blessings - Kathleen Snow, Worldwide President"

From the Archives – May 2000

The sketch on the inside cover of the May 2000 Parish Magazine depicted a woman in traditional African robes crouched near to a fire & stirring a cooking pot; below the sketch were the dates for Christian Aid Week 2000 plus the caption, "A date doesn't change anything, but you can."

The Parish Diary for May 2000 included the date for the Church Spring Fair; not surprisingly the reports from many of the organisations included requests for goods to be sold on the various stalls – cakes, home produce, books, bottles, plants; you name it there was stall for it!

Other news from the parish included a reminder that all Sidespeople, Churchwardens & PCC members should attend the forthcoming Archdeacon's Visitation to be sworn into Office; news of a Coffee Evening to be held in aid of Christian Aid, and a Coffee Morning to raise funds to buy books in readiness for the Sunday School Prize Giving.

The Uniformed Organisations had been hard at work making cards and gifts for Mothering Sunday; Beavers had also made chocolate nests for Easter and swords and shields for St. George's Day, whilst 16th Brownies had been constructing Robin Nesting Boxes as part of a nature challenge badge.

In May 2000, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Stuart O'Hara, age 11yrs "one of our recently appointed Servers". In May 2000 there were 3 Baptisms, and 3 Funerals recorded from the previous month, but no Weddings. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 347, collections were listed as £1584.

Popular Traditions – Ascension Day

There are many folk lore type traditions around Ascension Day, but little that is specifically related to Churches and worshipping communities, other than the celebration of a special Ascension Day Eucharist.

Outside of the Church, traditionally, work of any sort was thought to be unlucky on Ascension Day. In particular, the washing of clothes was discouraged – some even said that if you did the laundry on Ascension Day, someone in the family would die!

Clouds were said to form images of lambs, or even Biblical scenes on Ascension Day. Eggs laid on this day were said to never rot or go bad, and good fortune could be brought to a house by placing an Ascension Day egg upon the roof.

Finally, the eating of fowl or poultry was a widespread custom in many parts of Europe during the Middle Ages, because Christ “flew” to Heaven. Pigeons, pheasants, partridges, and even crows, graced the dinner tables in acknowledgement of this special day.

Space To Share A Prayer – Ascension Day

Risen, ascended Lord, you came down to lift us up
You descended to earth that earth might ascend to heaven
You descended to the dead that the dead might rise to life
In our struggles lift us up
In our tiredness lift us up
Lift us Lord out of darkness into light,
out of despair into hope
Lift us Lord out of sadness into joy,
out of failure into trust
Lift us Lord out of anger into forgiveness
out of pride into humility
Lift us Lord out of doubt into faith
out of loneliness into community
Lift us Lord out of death into life.
Lift us into your heart to be with you for all eternity. Amen.

A Hymn For Ascension Day

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now:
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty victor's brow.



The highest place that heav'n affords
Is surely his by right:
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heav'n's eternal light.

The joy he is of all above,
The joy to all below:
To ev'ryone he shows his love,
And grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is giv'n:
Their name an everlasting name.
Their joy the joy of heav'n.

The cross he bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to him;
His people's hope, his people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

(Thomas Kelly 1769-1854)

Things To Look Out For In May – Swifts

A screeching Swift overhead marks the beginning of summer for many. These short-stayed visitors arrive on our shores in May after making one of the longest migration journeys of any of our species. Swifts migrate roughly 3,400 miles each way, after spending the rest of the year in skies over sub-Saharan Africa. Despite the long journey, their time here is brief, and they leave the UK by the end of July.



Swifts and swallows can be distinguished by their wing shape, tail structure, and flight patterns. Swifts have long, pointed wings that sweep smoothly back like a boomerang, while swallows have shorter, more triangular wings with a deeply forked tail. Swifts are generally dark brown all over, while swallows are dark above but have a pale belly.

Even though their stay is short, their breeding territories are the only place that Swifts touchdown. Once a Swift leaves its nest, the next time it's thought to land again is when it lays its own clutch of eggs at either age two or three.

Along with eating on the wing, it's thought that Swifts even sleep in the sky. Studies have shown that some bird species can press snooze on one half of their brain at a time while in flight!

Despite all the adaptations which make Swifts successful, their populations are in steep decline. Insect numbers are plummeting, meaning a lack of feeding opportunities for this special species. Their nesting sites are also at risk, due to a lack of nooks and crevices in modern buildings.

Red Campion



The red campion is an attractive, medium to tall perennial or biennial plant with a downy stem. It has hairy leaves that grow in opposite pairs; its flowers are a distinctive pink-red in colour with five petals that are fused at their base to form a tube surrounded by a purple-brown calyx (protective sheath). Red campion is dioecious, meaning the male and female flowers grow on separate plants.

Look for red champions in lightly shaded areas in woodland, along hedgerows, in fields and ditches and on roadside verges. This species is an ancient woodland indicator, so may give a clue to the age of a wood. The flowers of red campion are important for various pollinating insects, including bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

Folklore tells that red campion flowers guard bees' honey stores, as well as protecting fairies from being discovered. In the Anglican Church, red campion is associated with Saint James as it flowers around his feast day.

Just a final fascination fact ... Traditional medicines used red campion seeds to treat snakebites!

Straplines

The older I get, the more I realise how easy it is to stop to think and then forget to start again.

Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up.

Silent company is often more healing than words of advice.



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Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

A Sonnet For Ascension Day

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed .

(From "Sounding The Seasons", by Malcom Guite



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



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The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

A S C E N S I O N D A Y

Ascension Quiz

The answers to all of these questions contain the word RISE ...

1. Something which is unexpected
2. A shade of pink
3. To force something open or apart
4. Yellow or purple flowers, often found near water
5. To remove an unpleasant smell
6. To make a note of a time & date
7. To turn something from a liquid or solid into a gas
8. To divide something up into 3 parts
9. To commit something to memory
10. To equip something with a mechanical means of propulsion
11. To go technical eg change from a paper-based system
12. To consist of or be made up of
13. A religious leader, especially in Bible times
14. To change the consistency or feel of a surface
15. To speculate about the reason for something
16. To draw things together or conclude
17. To mash something into a pulp
18. To entrance or transfix someone or something
19. To treat milk using heat to destroy bacteria
20. To burn body tissue to prevent bleeding

(Answers on page 44)

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
4 th May 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Mags Gillman	Barbara Clarkson	Jenny Johnson
11 th May 4 th Sunday of Easter	Barbara Clarkson Guiding Group	N/A	Guiding Group
18 th May 5 th Sunday of Easter	Sue Campbell Barbara Leigh	David Holden	David Holden
25 th May 6 th Sunday of Easter	Jean Elis Christine Shaw	Jan Burrow	Andrew Lowe
29 th May 7.30pm Ascension Day	Churchwardens	Churchwardens	N/A

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
4 th May 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Enid Horrocks	Acts 9.1-6 Rev 5.11-14 John 21.1-19
11 th May 4 th Sunday of Easter	Guiding Sections	Church Parade
18 th May 5 th Sunday of Easter	David Holden	Acts 11.1-18 Rev 21 1-6 John 13.31-35
25 th May 6 th Sunday of Easter	Gwen White	Acts 16.9-15 Rev 21.10, 22-22.5 John 14.23-29

Just For Fun ...

Never tell secrets in the garden; the potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears and the beanstalk!!

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

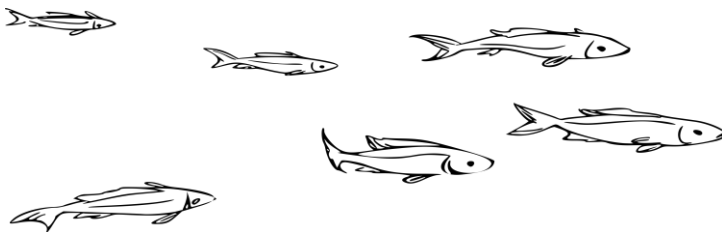
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage, and Funerals
Contact 01204-398567.

Answers to Ascension Quiz: 1) Surprise, 2) Cerise, 3) Prise, 4) Irises, 5)
Deodorise, 6) Diarise, 7) Vaporise, 8) Trisect, 9) Memorise, 10) Motorise, 11)
Computerise, 12) Comprise, 13) Pharisee, 14) Texturise, 15) Theorise, 16)
Summarise, 17) Pulverise, 18) Mesmerise, 19) Pasteurise, 20) Cauterise.

Who's Who For Church Organisations

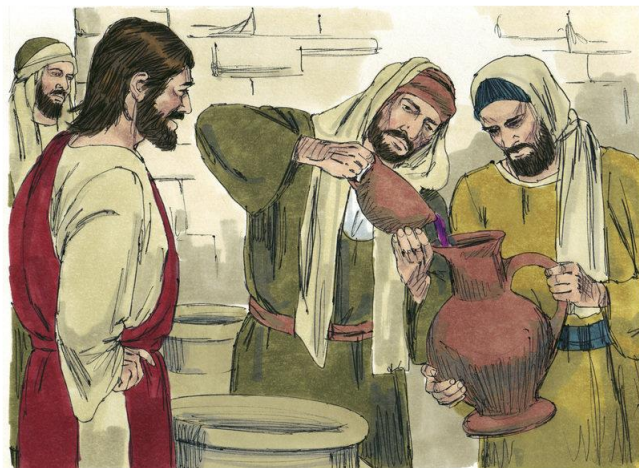
Mothers Union	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Altar Flowers	Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
ABC First Steps Toddler Group	Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Jennifer White	07964 587694
Group Leader	group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 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





Little Fishes

The Wedding In Cana



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 Wedding In Cana

The Gospel of John, Chapter 2 tells us the story of the wedding in Cana, a little town in Galilee. Not long after Jesus was Baptised



and began to preach the good news of God, He and some of his friends were invited to a wedding in the town of Cana; there were many people at the wedding, including Mary, Jesus' mother. After the wedding ceremony the Groom's family had laid on a great feast with all kinds of food to eat and lots of wine to drink.

The guests were having a really good time and all enjoying themselves, but some of them were maybe enjoying themselves a bit too much - they drank so much wine that there wasn't enough left for all of the guests to have some!



Mary knew that it would look really bad for the Groom and his family if people realised that they had run out of wine, so she found Jesus and asked him to help.

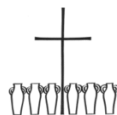
"They have no wine", she told Jesus.

Jesus replied "... What concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." When He said this, He was reminding Mary that it wasn't yet time for Him to start performing miracles; He wasn't quite ready for everyone to know that He was the Son of God.



Mary listened, but she knew that Jesus would do something to help, so she spoke to the servants at the wedding and said to them, "Do whatever He tells you."

In every Jewish home there were large vessels, called water-pots, which the people kept filled with water to use for washing their hands and their feet. The Jews were very careful to keep themselves clean from dust and dirt, and because they walked about everywhere with only sandals on their feet they needed to wash often. In this home where the wedding-feast was being held, six large water-pots of stone were kept for this purpose.



Jesus told the servants to take the six large stone pots and fill them with water; once all the pots were full, He told them to fill a glass from one of the pots and take it to the man who was in charge of the wedding feast. The servants did exactly as Jesus had told them; they filled the six stone pots with water and then filled a glass from one of the pots and took it to the man who was in charge of the feast.

The man took a taste, and he couldn't believe how delicious it was;



it was the best wine he had ever tasted! Usually at a wedding feast the best wine is served first, but this time the best wine - the wine that Jesus had made from the water - was served last.

Turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana was the first miracle that Jesus performed, and when His friends saw what He had done they began to realise how truly special Jesus was and put their faith in Him. However, Jesus was not yet ready to show everyone that He was the Son of God, so he told His friends to keep what he had done a secret.





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