

# Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Celebrating Easter at Christ Church Ainsworth  
(Photo courtesy of Kat Sowden)

**Serving the Community**

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

April 2021

Price 50p

## **In This Issue ...**

- Front cover ... Photo courtesy of Kat Sowden
- Page 2 ..... In This Issue
- Page 3 ..... Worship With Us
- Page 4 .... Holy Week And Easter Worship  
Planning To Attend Our Church Building For Worship?
- Page 6 ..... A Few Words From The Vicar ...
- Page 7 ..... Editor's Spot
- Page 8 .... From The Registers  
Acknowledgement  
Church Electoral Roll  
Mission Communities Update
- Page 9 .... PCC News – Annual Report; Vicar's Report 2020
- Page 12 ... Treasurer's Report
- Page 14 ... News From The Diocese – Full Time Area Deans
- Page 15 ... Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements
- Page 16 .... Around The Organisations – Cubs  
12<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Brownies
- Page 17 ... Just A Thought
- Page 18 ... Mothers' Union
- Page 19 ... From The Archives
- Page 20 ... Why Do We Say That Then?  
Your Feedback Is Important To Us ...
- Page 21 ... Five Steps To Wellbeing
- Page 23 ... Through The Seasons - Ainsworth In March
- Page 25 ... Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...) Space To
- Page 27 ... Share A Prayer  
Strap Lines
- Page 28 ... Olde Worlde Weather Lore  
Did You Know ... April Facts
- Page 29 ... Time For A Smile
- Page 30 ... The Extended Parish Puzzler
- Page 32 ... Who's Who
- Page 33 ... Who's Who For Church Organisations
- Page 34 - 38 ... Little Fishes
- Page 39 - 43 ... Advertisements



Our church building is COVID-secure, so you can either attend worship physically or worship with us on Facebook:

### **Sundays**

- 10.30am in church for COVID-secure Communion
- 12 Noon for live-streamed midday worship on our Facebook Page

### **Wednesdays**

- 6.30pm Mid-Week Praise posted on Facebook only throughout lockdown 3.0

To join us on Facebook, follow this link:

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

*NB: If you are not on Facebook, you can still watch the service – when it says “Log in” “Create New Account” simply click “Not Now” (which is below these two options)*

If you missed any of our livestreamed services, some of them can be found on our website <https://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk/online-worship.html> or our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1kRCPBlymPoDSyhH9CZYrw>

The Prayer Book Society also lists some churches livestreaming BCP services: <https://www.pbs.org.uk/churches-and-services/-1>



## *Join Us For Worship*

### **Week Commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March:**

<b>Monday</b>	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross (Facebook)
<b>Tuesday</b>	7.30pm	Holy Week Reflection (Facebook)
<b>Weds.</b>	6.30pm	Mid-Week Praise (Facebook)
	7.30pm	Lent Study Course (Zoom)
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7.30pm	Communion (in church)
	7.30pm	Reflection (Facebook)
<b>Good Friday</b>	10.30am	The Way of the Cross (in church)
	12 noon	Seven Sayings (Facebook)
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	10.30am	Easter Communion (in church)
	12 noon	Easter Celebration (Facebook)

### **Planning to attend our church building for worship?**

#### **The following COVID-19 Secure restrictions apply:**

- **Unless you are legally exempt, you must wear a facemask**
- Our seating capacity is normally limited to 28 downstairs but can be increased slightly when members of the same household / bubble attend together. There is also limited capacity upstairs.
- Services are basic and short.
- Everyone must gel their hands as they enter the building.
- There is a collection plate on the font, but this will not be passed around.
- Worshippers are expected to remain 2m socially distant from each other, unless from the same household / bubble. This means sitting down promptly (where the paper is on the pew)

and no gathering in the aisle or immediately outside the main door for a chat. **NB. School bubbles do not apply in church.**

- **When worshippers enter, they must sit in the next available pew, filling from the front and from the wall, taking care not to touch any part of the pew as you move along. There must be no heading for that favourite pew!**
- **Everyone (except the presiding priest) will remain seated throughout each service. Unfortunately, this means any children attending must also remain seated throughout the service.**
  - There is no singing.
  - A PowerPoint version of the order of service is projected in church. A version is available to download (Sunday only), but is not available to collect on the way in.
  - A Test & Trace QR Code is displayed at the entrance for those worshippers who have downloaded the NHS T&T app. Others are asked to complete a registration form each week. The forms will be destroyed after three weeks. A GDPR compliant privacy notice is posted inside church.
  - We leave from the rear pew first.
  - The toilet is for emergencies only, and anyone using it is expected to spray disinfectant on all surfaces they have touched.

Churches are allowed to remain open for worship during lockdown 3.0, provided they can do so safely, however some people will feel that it is currently better not to attend in person. Indeed, the Church of England advises that certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Whether you attend worship in church with others, or prefer to join with us on Facebook, is entirely your decision. Our responsibility is to ensure you have the choice.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not join us at 10.30am due to the risk that they pose to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of their household.

## **A few words from the Vicar ....**

I must admit, last year, when we first went into lockdown, I thought we would return to normality swiftly. Naturally, my thoughts drifted to how we might celebrate the end of the pandemic; a special thanksgiving service with lots of singing, followed by a bun fight in the Church Hall. A good old-fashioned parish bash where the wine would flow freely. Perfect!

A year later, I am left wondering whether a post-pandemic shindig is even remotely on the cards. Even when all the restrictions are finally lifted, I suspect normality will return gradually. Sure, most adults will have had two jobs by then, but how many of us will still be wary of gathering in large groups? How many will be prepared to risk attending a party?

It is a pleasant thought though. I certainly hope we can have a parish knees up sometime this Summer, but who knows?

I certainly miss the social side of parish life. The after-service chats over tea and coffee; 'coffee and conversation'; sneaking into ABC for a chat just as they serve coffee; pasty and peas social events; bumping into people in the pub. I miss it all.

Still, as we journey through Holy Week and Easter, we are reminded that we have much to be grateful to God for. It is an intense spiritual journey during which we remind ourselves that we are often less than perfect; that there are times when we say, think and do wrong things and times when we fail to do good. (The theological name for this is 'sin'.)

But we also remind ourselves that, on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and, because he did this, there is no need for us to carry around a burden of guilt and shame in life. So, Holy Week culminating in Good Friday, is a combination of sadness, penitence and, yes, joy.

And then there is the overwhelming joy of Easter! We celebrate Jesus' resurrection and, because he conquered death, we know that, if we follow him, we too can look forward to sharing in his resurrection. We know that the final enemy, death, will have no hold on us either.

This is what we have planned for you this year as we travel through Holy Week, through Good Friday, to the joy of Easter:

<b>Monday</b>	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross (Facebook)
<b>Tuesday</b>	7.30pm	Holy Week Reflection (Facebook)
<b>Weds.</b>	6.30pm	Mid-Week Praise (Facebook)
	7.30pm	Lent Study Course (Zoom)
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7.30pm	Communion (in church)
	7.30pm	Reflection (Facebook)
<b>Good Friday</b>	10.30am	The Way of the Cross (in church)
	12 noon	Seven Sayings (Facebook)
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	10.30am	Easter Communion (in church)
	12 noon	Easter Celebration (Facebook)

Come and join us!

God Bless

*Dave*

### **Editor's Spot ...**

Welcome to the April 2021 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine. I know I comment every month on the incredible number of reports and articles on offer, but this month our contributors really have surpassed themselves!

Alongside the regular reports and updates from our various groups and organisations, this month you will also find the Vicar's Report and the Treasurer's Report taken from the Annual Reports and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2020; considering the journey that we have all been on over the past 12 months and the impact that Covid-19 has had on our usual routine of worship, both reports are incredibly positive and encouraging and well worth a read!

On the subject of positivity, this month there's also an interesting article on 'the Five Steps To Wellbeing'; many of us have found lockdown 3 incredibly challenging – as we approach a time when we will hopefully have a little more freedom again, perhaps it's a good time to take a 'wellbeing check' to give ourselves the best possible chance of keeping on track.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, we may still be in lockdown, but there are a wide variety of online and in church worship opportunities available at this important time – check out the dates and times to be sure you don't miss out; and if you haven't yet joined us for online worship, maybe Easter Sunday would be a good time to give it a try.

Enjoy this month's magazine, do your best to keep safe and well and as always, please keep your reports and articles coming in by the second Sunday in the month, to [ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com).

*Alison*

## **From The Registers**

HOLY BAPTISM      We welcome into the family of God  
January 24<sup>th</sup>      Leanne Forth

## **Acknowledgement**

My sincere thanks to my many friends for prayers, cards and loving messages, during my latest catastrophe.  
God Bless you all. Sincerely, Barbara Aspin.

## **Church Electoral Roll**

In preparation for our annual meeting on 4th May, it is necessary to give notice that the Electoral Roll will be closed to additions from 19th April until 5th May. If you were on the Electoral Roll last year, you will still be on it but, if you would like to be certain, or if you want to join the roll, email [vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk) . Please note, you need to be on the roll to vote or stand for election.

To join the Electoral Roll you must be baptised and aged 16 or over then either a) live within our parish or, b) if non-resident, have habitually worshipped with us during the last 6 months.

## **Mission Communities Update**

In recent months, PCCs and deanery synods have been discussing a proposal for groups of parishes to collaborate in mission by forming Mission Communities. In March, the Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod will consider the feedback received so far, with a view to Bishop's Council firming up the proposal in May. Subject to the mission community proposals being agreed, further consultation on the practical arrangements for implementing mission communities,

including the mission community boundaries, will take place in the second half of this year. Visit:

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5fbd76bf103bd/content/pages/documents/1601907221884358987.pdf> to read the discussion paper.

Our PCC has discussed the proposals; you can find our response here:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aurx6pWvMgOaiYg8lsCIOjmBlbrsdA?e=GJajbC>

## **PCC News - Annual Report**

A full copy of The Annual Reports and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2020 is available in church or by e-mailing [vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk) For your information, the Vicar's Report and Treasurer's Report are included below.

## **Vicar's Report 2020**

None of us will forget 2020 in a hurry! The pandemic has affected us all, although not all have been affected equally. Some have managed but others have struggled to cope. Some have lost jobs or businesses and struggle financially, whereas others have found new opportunities and increased their savings pot. Then there has been the impact upon children's education, mental health, loneliness and so on.

So, as we emerge from the pandemic and the restrictions imposed to control it, the mission field we survey will be different from that in 2019 and, as we come to understand our changed reality better, this will have implications for how we serve our local community in the years to come.

What about Christ Church. How has the pandemic affected us? Well, the year began normally enough. But, from March, as the pandemic became more serious, Government restrictions and COVID-19 guidance issued by the Church of England changed rapidly and required implementing urgently. It was hard work trying to keep up with all the changes, but we did. Then, as the first lockdown progressed, the pressure eased as we reached a steady state, until lockdown was lifted, and rapid adaptations were required once more so that we could reopen our church building for what is now known as 'in building' worship. And, in retrospect, that has what the pandemic has been like for those of us in Christian leadership; a cycle of rapid change and adaptation, followed by steady state for a time, followed

by a further burst of rapid change until things calmed down once more.

But we managed and at no time did our Church close or go into hibernation. For example:

- We opened for 'in building' COVID-secure worship whenever it was legal to do so.
- Throughout the pandemic, from the first Sunday of the first lockdown, your clergy have led (here is another piece of new jargon) 'at home' worship to serve the spiritual needs of those stuck at home. We have done this by livestreaming or posting pre-recorded videos on social media. It was a steep learning curve, but worth it!
- Informal telephone networks sprung up as congregation members phoned each other for a chat.
- Congregation members continued to care for friends, family, and neighbours as best they could in difficult circumstances. For example, we continued to support Porch Boxes, a local charity that helps those suffering from food poverty.
- Although there were no weddings during the year and baptisms were seriously curtailed, clergy continued to cover funerals both for our own parish and for those parishes without a vicar or where clergy were shielding.
- We invested in a Zoom contract, which allowed our PCC and clergy to continue meeting safely. We also discovered that Zoom is a good platform for study groups, and even held a 'Scratch Nativity'!
- The Parish Magazine swiftly adapted to electronic distribution rather than hand delivery of paper copies and continues to thrive.
- The churchyard continues to be a pleasant place of tranquillity for those who visit.
- Financially, we managed to keep our heads above water. It was not possible to hold our annual fund-raising events and casual loose plate giving was down but, thanks to the efforts of our regular congregation, planned giving was sustained. Although we dipped into our reserves, we managed to pay our annual contribution to the Diocese in full.

Although we lost much, with groups such as ABC and Coffee and Conversation suspended for the duration, and 'in building worship

seriously curtailed (no singing, for example), I plan to bank some unexpected gains that have arisen from our pandemic experience so far. Here are a few:

- 'At home' worship will continue. This will allow us to better serve the spiritual needs of those who work on Sundays (medics for example) or those who are simply unable to attend 'in building' worship owing to age or disability. Also, it is easier for those exploring faith to dip their toes in the water via livestreamed worship than it is for them to cross the threshold of our church building.
- I have been greatly encouraged by the number of 'at home' worshippers who post prayers online. Once things return to something like normal, we will find a way to facilitate a similar sharing of prayers during 'in building' worship.
- There will continue to be a place for Zoom meetings, such as Christian enquirers courses or short-term study groups. There is no travel time involved and, for those with children, no need to arrange childcare. Zoom is also a more inclusive option for those with disabilities or unable to travel.

So, what else can we look forward to in 2021?

Well, Bishop David has decided to combine existing deaneries into new super deaneries, each led by a full time Area Dean. From 1st June we will be part of the new Bury and Rossendale Deanery and the new Area Dean has been appointed already. The implications for day-to-day ministry in Ainsworth are unclear currently.

Consultation is underway regarding the possibility of bringing together parishes into 'Mission Communities'. Working together with neighbouring parishes in mission is sensible and, indeed, in this regard, prior to the pandemic, we had begun to dip our toes in the water with St Andrew's Radcliffe and Christ Church Walshaw. So far so good. Unfortunately, the consultation paper issued by the Diocese is seriously light on detail which creates a risk; our understanding of the proposals could vary significantly from what is intended by those leading this project. We could believe ourselves to be agreeing to one thing only to find something else entirely is implemented. In the words of one of our PCC members:

*"With so little clarity on so many issues, whilst the overall concept of Mission Communities seems like a positive move, at the moment it feels to me a bit like being asked to sign a contract without first being privy to 'the small print'."*

On behalf of the PCC, I have asked for clarification and am waiting for a response.

Finally, thank you to all those unsung heroes who work in the background to keep the show on the road. I could bang on about our difficulties we have in finding volunteers to take on some of the official roles in Church life, but a moment's reflection reminds me that many roll their sleeves up unasked and get things done. Carefully read my thoughts on Church life during the pandemic again and you will realise that Christ Church is not a one-man band. Church is a collective noun and I learn all the time about how congregation members share the love of Jesus with others in practical ways, often without themselves realising they are doing so. I could provide examples, but there is insufficient space to mention everyone and that would be unfair on those I leave out. So, thank you everyone!

I have said it before and will say it again, being the Vicar of Ainsworth is the best job ever!

Dave Thomson – Vicar

## **Treasurer's Report**

All funds available to the Parish are shown in the accounts, including funds from legacies, gifts and donations whose use is restricted, and funds which have been designated for specific purposes by the PCC. Current accounts are held at the Co-operative and Barclays banks and interest bearing deposit accounts in the Church of England Deposit Fund managed by CCLA. Money held as 'restricted' or 'designated' is not available for regular Church running costs, including payments to the Diocese.

The Insurers for the Parish are Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. The church buildings are insured by way of the Diocesan Group Insurance Scheme, and the Church Hall is insured directly with EIG. No claims were made in 2020.

The Gift Aid Secretary, Mrs Carole Butler, oversees the Envelope Scheme and the administration of Gift Aid within the Parish. This requires a great deal of her time for which the PCC are grateful as they are for the dedication that she brings to this role. The On-line Gift Aid scheme run by the Diocese continues to operate well. Gift Aid Income Tax Refund claims are submitted via the Diocesan Stewardship Office and the tax refund amount for 2020 was £9,808 (2019 £10,847) including £921 from the Gift Aid Small Donations scheme.

2020 has been an awful year for everyone and it will come as no surprise that our income has been affected. Planned giving has held up well and members of the congregation who have continued to use the envelope scheme or give by standing order are due our sincere thanks. Unfortunately, income from other sources, open plate collections, magazine sales and advertising, fund raising events, weddings, the lottery, have been severely depleted.

As a result, in 2020 our income was not sufficient to cover our allocated Parish Share of £48,000 (2019 £44,000, 100%). However, the PCC took the view that there was a moral obligation to pay our Parish Share in full if reserves permitted us to do so. We therefore paid our Parish Share in full leading to a deficit of just over £12,000 on our general funds in 2020. Our allocated Parish Share for 2021 remains unchanged at £48,000. Our forecast for 2021 suggests that it is highly unlikely that we can achieve this figure without delving further into existing reserves. Difficult decisions lie ahead.

The PCC financial accounts are drawn up annually to 31 December. A copy of the accounts for the year to 31 December 2020 is attached, Appendix 1, showing all funds. Detailed figures for the Parish Magazine are shown at Appendix 2. The proposed relaunch of the monthly Parish Lottery did not take place in April and it did not operate in 2020. The Lottery provides a valuable source of income particularly in difficult times and it remains the wish of the PCC for it to restart in a cashless format.

Our support for charities with collections and fund raising was much curtailed in 2020. It was not possible to carry out the Christian Aid Week Parish collection (normally undertaken jointly by the PCC and Ainsworth Methodist Church). It was not possible this year to take a collection in church on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Royal British Legion. It was also not possible to take a collection in church at the Christingle Service on behalf of Children's Society although donations for Christingle were made online and house boxes were collected (pre lockdown) providing a total of £492.79. Donations of food at Harvest Sunday were sent to the local charity 'Porch Boxes'.

The accounts attached to this Annual Report have been reviewed by Mrs J Brooks, appointed as independent examiner by the PCC and we are grateful that she volunteered her time once more. She has confirmed that the PCC accounting records are up to date and accurate and that the Annual Accounts are prepared on the correct

basis. A copy of her work schedule and statement may be inspected at the Annual Church Meeting.

The Parish owns the Church and Community Hall, which is run independently by a Management Committee on a self-financing basis. Normally 650 people or more from the local community as well as Church groups use the Hall each week but unfortunately the Hall has been closed for most of the year. A copy of the Church and Community Hall annual report and accounts is included with this report at Appendix 3.

Geoffrey Whittle

PCC Treasurer

## **News From The Diocese – Full Time Area Deans Appointed**

Seven full-time Area Deans have been appointed by Manchester Diocese to enable it to achieve its inspiring vision for 2030 of being ‘a worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community’.

Working closely with the Lay Chairs and other ordained and lay leaders in each deanery, this new cohort of Area Deans will lead the delivery of the diocese’s transformation programme at local level. They will be responsible for carefully targeted interventions on the ground to achieve the diocese’s ambitious targets for increased church attendance, particularly in the most deprived areas; greater opportunities for people to explore their faith, especially children and young people and their families; and for the Church to be able to lead the way in every local community, supporting those who are deprived and excluded.

The new Area Deans will enable parishes across the diocese to flourish by supporting them with mission and growth, as well as new ways of working together.

The new Area Deans represent the breadth of traditions and spirituality in the Church of England. Four men and three women, they also reflect the diversity of the communities they will serve.

The new Area Dean for the Bury and Rossendale Deanery, of which Ainsworth will be a part, will be Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mann; Currently Area Dean of Withington, Incumbent of St Nicholas Burnage and Curate of St Chad Ladybarn (Manchester Diocese)

## Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

### The Great Ainsworth Easter Chick Hunt

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April

Visit the Ainsworth Village Day Facebook page for more info.

### Lent Discussion Group via 'Zoom'

Final session, Wednesday 31st March, 7.30pm.

For more info e-mail [vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk)

### Vestry Meeting & AGM

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm via 'Zoom'

For more info or joining link e-mail [vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk)

### Holy Week & Easter Services

29<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April

There are lots of different worship opportunities available throughout Holy Week & over the Easter weekend, both online and in church; for more info check out the Parish diary or visit [ainsworthparish.org.uk](http://ainsworthparish.org.uk)

### Porch Boxes

During lockdown it is not possible to receive donations for Porch Boxes in Church. However, if you shop at any of the following, they have somewhere to receive donations: ASDA (Radcliffe; Pilsworth & Bury); MORRISONS (Whitefield & Ramsbottom); TESCO (Bury & Ramsbottom) OR we can still support Porch Boxes through a donation: A cheque made payable to "The Porch" sent to Michael Perrin, 14 Kenmore Avenue Bury BL8 2DY or Bank transfer to Account number 81643089 sort code 09-0155 account name The Porch or Online <https://porchboxes.wordpress.com/>

### Daily Hope

This is a free phone initiative which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



The line is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 and has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

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

### **Cubs**

Good news for everyone – hopefully by mid-April we will be able to meet face to face on a Friday, but in a vastly different way. We will be limited to a maximum of 15 Cubs along with a limited number of Young Leaders and Leaders, there will be a one way in and out system from the front gate that must be followed, and meeting times will be shorter, but more of them. Once we know the exact numbers of cubs, parents will be informed of which session their child we be in.

All current members have had a letter for parents to sign and return – non-compliance of this will mean the child will not automatically be back in the group.

If you think your child is on the waiting list and due to start after Easter, but you have not been contacted by Baloo then please contact us asap, as we cannot guarantee automatic places. The number to ring is 01204 595378. If they are already in the Beaver Colony, there transfer will be automatic.

Our Friday night Zoom meetings have continued, and many badges have been achieved and will be presented when we are face to face. Personal Safety, World Challenge and Road Safety have been successfully studied and the Cubs are looking forward to completing more work and games without breaking any rules.

Baloo

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

Once again, the Brownies have been busy, with Scarlett gaining her Painting Interest Badge, Lily May her Painting and her Performing Interest badges and Isabelle and Harriet their Collecting Interest badge. Some of our Brownies joined in with the County Zoom Thinking Day meeting, with a World Guiding badge to celebrate this.

In these uncertain times, we have been looking at ways of keeping our bodies and minds healthy and stress free. Having already made a worry monster to eat away our concerns, we made a glitter jar to hold our happy thoughts, learned a relaxing beathing technique and did some yoga poses.



We also prepared for going on walks outside by considering things that are good and bad for the environment and making a list of things we could look out for. And in thinking of others as well, we made a bookmark for our mothers and decorated a window to cheer up those passing by.

It is 12 months since our last meeting in the Church Hall and, whilst we are glad for Zoom which allows us to continue Guiding, we can't wait until the time we can meet in person again!

Polly, Brown Owl

### **Just A Thought ...**

Look up with wonder; look back with gratitude; look around with love; look within with honesty; and look ahead with anticipation.

## Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

I start this month by sending love and best wishes on your behalf to Barbara Aspin. Following a fall, surgery and a stay in hospital, we are glad to know that Barbara is back home to complete her recovery. Barbara, please be assured that you are being upheld in prayer.

There isn't much to report as we patiently wait until the time that is safe for us to meet again.

Thank you to all the members who have now paid their subscription for this year. If you haven't managed to pay yet and still wish to retain your membership, please get in touch with Barbara Standing. ASAP.

In the Manchester Diocese MU Newsletter, Christine Sharp, our President, comments on our theme of Rebuilding Hope and Confidence;

**'I said, "I am falling"; but your constant love, O Lord, held me up. Whenever I am anxious and worried, you comfort me and make me glad. 'Psalm 94: 18-19**

*"I have started practising the piano again, having a go at playing jazz, a style that takes me out of my comfort zone but is a challenge and helps me switch off and relax. Life, certainly at present, can be a bit like a piano, sometimes it's out of tune or the keys stick through lack of use, or the out of practice pianist plays wrong notes, like me. However, all these things can be fixed, and everything can be in tune again and work together well. When we feel we are falling and things aren't happening in the way we would like or are used to, we can adjust and mend knowing we are being held warmly in the hand of Our Lord who loves us. We can be made whole."*

She goes on to tell us that MU Manchester have supported 1750 people during the last three months, whether through the 'Just Up Your Street' (JUYS) or our individual branches. Amazing work!

In February Mothers' Union Manchester supported 'Visit from the Stork' with £180 to help with nappies, wipes and baby wash for the families they support throughout Greater Manchester. They have had many more referrals due to Covid and job loss.

MU Manchester provided each of the residents at HMP Forest Bank with a gift of chocolate. The Christmas wrapped cups of chocolate were left on each of the pad doors on Christmas Eve.

We have been able to support Christ Church Walmersley with funds from JUYS to provide 101 small gifts for residents at a local care home, where local charity, the 'Attic Project' arranged for lots of goodies and the presents to be delivered by Santa (last year's Mayor) and his elf (a local Councillor).

Just a few examples of Mothers' Union at work.

Jennifer White  
(Hon Sec)

## **From the Archives – April 1996**

April 1996 appears to have been a busy month at Ainsworth Parish Church; a number of additional services were planned for Holy Week and Easter, and Parishioners were also encouraged to join a silent procession of witness to be held in Radcliffe on Good Friday. The Easter Vestry and AGM were imminent and the PCC Secretary thanked all those who had submitted their reports in readiness.

Fundraising news took up a fair amount of space in the April 1996 Parish Magazine – the Treasurer "...acknowledged with thanks an anonymous donation of £8,000 towards the refurbishment of the Church Hall ..." Wow, what a generous gift!! Lots of other fundraising activities were planned, including the Church Hall Committee reported a successful table top sale; the PTA had held a jumble sale and quiz; Ainsworth Scholars were planning a coffee morning; Young Families were preparing for a sponsored sing song AND the Spring Fair was just around the corner – busy times indeed!

Still loosely on the subject of fundraising, a request was made by Mrs. M Jones, for 'memories from old Scholars of Ainsworth School', the plan was to compile a booklet of reminiscences which could then be sold to raise funds.

A new column launched in this edition of the Parish Magazine – 'Face To Face' was a series of interviews with various Parishioners – Phillip Hinchliffe, one of the Churchwardens at that time, bravely took the first spot.

Elsewhere the various uniformed organisations were as busy as ever; Cubs and Scouts were getting ready for the annual 'Job Week' with Parishioners encouraged to get in touch if they required any jobs doing; Beavers had been busy making daffodils for St. David's Day; 12<sup>th</sup> Brownies were preparing for their Pack Holiday and 16<sup>th</sup> Brownies were still working hard on the various silver challenges.

In April 1996 there were 3 Baptisms recorded from the previous month and 2 funerals, but no weddings. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 524 and the collections totalled £1699.

## **Why Do We Say That Then ... ?**

Have you ever wondered where some of the more diverse phrases we use in general conversation come from?

“You can't have your cake and eat” ... this phrase highlights how there are sometimes two desirable things that someone wants, but they can't have both of those things because they contradict each other. It literally means "you cannot simultaneously retain your cake and eat it". Once the cake is eaten, it is gone. It can be used to say that one cannot have two incompatible things, or that one should not try to have more than is reasonable. The proverb's meaning is similar to the phrases "you can't have it both ways" and "you can't have the best of both worlds."

## **Your Feedback Is Important To Us ...**

One day, a large group of frogs were travelling through the woods, when two of them fell into a deep pit. The other frogs crowded around the pit and saw with dismay how deep it was, they called down to the two frogs telling them that there was no hope left for them.

However, the two frogs decided to ignore what the others were saying and they proceeded to try and jump out of the pit.

The frogs jumped and jumped, but despite their efforts, the group of frogs at the top of the pit were still saying that they should just give up because they would never manage to get out.

Eventually, one of the frogs took heed of what the others were saying and he gave up, falling down to his death. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to give up and accept his fate.

The frog jumped even harder and finally he made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, “Did you not hear us?”

The frog explained to them that he was deaf. The whole time the other frogs were shouting to him to give up, he thought they were cheering him on and encouraging him.

Think carefully before you speak - what we say and the feedback we give to others can have a profound effect on them.

## Five Steps To Wellbeing



According to the Oxford English Dictionary, wellbeing is defined as ‘the state of being comfortable, healthy or happy’, but as people we are all very different, and what one person sees as their perfect state of wellbeing may be completely different from another person.

The Five Ways to Wellbeing were researched and developed by the New Economics Foundation; their research showed that there are 5 simple things you can do as part of your daily life to build resilience, boost your wellbeing and lower your risk of developing mental health problems. These five simple actions are known as the five steps to wellbeing, they are:

- Connect
- Be active
- Take notice
- Learn
- Give

The general principal of the five steps to wellbeing approach is that all of the five elements are essential to achieving and maintaining a sense of wellbeing, however, the focus / intensity of need for the different elements may vary from one person to another and also from one situation to another. It may be that for some people ‘being connected’ is an absolute necessity, for others ‘being active’ could feel far more important. The five steps to wellbeing approach acknowledges these differences and encourages each of us to 1) consider each aspect of wellbeing on a daily basis, a bit like having

your 5 a day; 2) revisit and check the balance between the different aspects if your sense of wellbeing isn't as good as it could be; and 3) make a conscious decision to review your wellbeing on a regular basis to ensure you maintain a good balance.

The past 12 months has brought us all many challenges and has undoubtedly had a profound impact on the wellbeing of many people; our ability to connect with people and the ways in which we are able to connect have changed dramatically; during lockdowns our options on being active may have been severely limited; many of the things that we do on a daily basis that form a part of our daily wellbeing balance have been curtailed – small wonder then that so many people have found themselves floundering.

### **Five steps to wellbeing checklist:**

1. Connect – there is strong evidence to suggest that feeling close to, and valued by, other people is a fundamental human need and important to functioning well on a daily basis. Make sure that you: talk to people and really listen to what they're saying, if you can't physically meet people, make a conscious decision to ring at least 1 person each day for a proper chat.
2. Be active – Regular physical activity improves physical health and can improve mood and wellbeing and reduce stress, anxiety and depression. Being active is associated with lower rates of depression and anxiety across all age groups. Being active doesn't have to mean running marathons or hitting the gym, it could be gentle gardening or indoor activity; the important thing is to *do what you can and enjoy what you do*.
3. Take notice – studies have shown that being aware of what is taking place in the present directly enhances your wellbeing, and that savouring the moment can help to reaffirm your life priorities. Taking notice is also about being aware of your own thoughts and feelings and allowing yourself space to do this. Make sure that you *remember the simple things that give you pleasure*.
4. Learn – Continued learning through life enhances self esteem and encourages social interaction; being curious and seeking out new experiences positively stimulates the brain. But you don't have to sign up for a college course - rediscover an old interest, *look for opportunities and embrace new experiences*.

5. Give - Individuals who are interested in helping others are more likely to rate themselves as happy; research has shown that performing an act of kindness once a week over a 6 week period is associated with an increase in wellbeing. Carrying out acts of kindness no matter how large or small can increase happiness, life satisfaction and general sense of wellbeing. Giving doesn't have to be a grand gesture or a huge commitment; it could be as simple as doing something nice or thanking someone.

In the next few articles there will be lots of ideas and suggestions of things you could do or get involved with as part of your wellbeing balance / review. You can also find lots more at [www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/mental-wellbeing](http://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/mental-wellbeing) or [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

## **Through The Seasons – Ainsworth In March**

There is a saying that if March comes in like a lion, it leaves like a lamb. Well, after the big freeze and storms of February, March got off to a relatively quiet start. There is another saying that when the gulls come inland, the storms will follow them; a few days into March and the gulls did indeed come inland – lots of them – and within 24 hours the March winds were upon us. Our ancestors may not have had access to the technology that we increasingly take for granted, but their understanding of nature and weather lore was pretty impressive.

A short walk around our village reminds us that, even though Winter hasn't quite breathed it's last, Spring is definitely making a determined stand. A few of the early flowering blossom trees are now in bloom, Pussy Willow can be seen in the fields near Whitehead Lodges and off Bradley Fold Road, and there are leaf buds on many of the hedges and trees.

It always surprises me how quickly these changes take place once the temperature starts to lift; walking along the lane that leads to George's Wood one morning in early March, there was a chilly mist and a definite hint of drizzle in the air. The hedges and grass were damp and dull, and it looked like a grey day ahead. But, by mid-morning the mist had cleared, the sun came out and it actually felt warm enough to take a layer off!!

Walking back down the same lane in the early afternoon brought to mind a song that the Infant School children used to sing at Ainsworth CE Primary School (back in the day);

“All the flowers are waking,  
Spring has come again,  
God has sent the sunshine,  
God has sent the rain.”

In the course of 4 hours the flowers had indeed ‘woken up’. Celandines, Daisies, Coltsfoot, Dandelions and Speedwell were all soaking up the sunshine.



It's not just the landscape that changes as the seasons roll on, there is a surprising amount of change to our local wildlife and bird population. Many people will have seen or heard the Canada Geese making their rather noisy journeys to and from the Lodges, but a few other birds that haven't been around since the Autumn have also been spotted or heard round and about; Curlews with their distinctive call, Oyster Catchers, the noisy Jays; others that have been spotted are Wrens, Gold Finches, and a Nut Hatch. In the evenings the Owls are becoming rather more vocal and there are even a few Bats about.

It won't be too much longer before we can expect to see the Swallows returning - I wonder who will be the first to report a sighting?

The next verse of Sara Coleman's poem, "The Garden Year", reads,  
*"April brings the primrose sweet,  
Scatters daisies at our feet"*

Watch this space for an Ainsworth in April update, and please keep e-mailing your own nature discoveries to [ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com)

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

*“How did you first come to hear Jesus’s story?” That was just one of the things that was discussed during a recent series of Lent Bible study sessions. A number of participants had fond memories of learning about Jesus at Sunday School – I wonder how many readers can relate to the following verse?*

### **Ainsworth Sunday School**

Each Sunday, at a five to two,  
We’d set off up our street;  
All turned out in our Sunday best,  
Shoes shiny and hair neat.

We’d walk along the pavement,  
Not allowed to rush or race,  
I’d have ten pence in my pocket,  
And a hanky ‘just in case’.

We’d file into the old school hall,  
Sit down on wooden chairs;  
Mrs. Lord would play piano,  
Mr. Hampson read the prayers.

We’d pass a plate along each row  
And drop our pennies in,  
Then clatter off upstairs  
So that our lessons could begin.

Sometimes we’d colour pictures in;  
Sometimes a Bible tale;  
We loved David and Goliath  
And old Jonah and his whale.

And Zaccheus the tax man,  
Who climbed up into a tree;  
And how the good Samaritan  
Was helpful as could be.

There were tales of shepherds and their sheep,  
Of gardeners and their seeds,  
And tales of gentle Jesus  
Tending everybody’s needs.

We had a little choir back then  
Which Mrs. Lord would train;  
She had us practise hymns for Sermons  
Time and time again ...

And then, on Sermons Sunday,  
All dressed up in gleaming white,  
With little veils upon our heads  
We made a splendid sight,

As in a line we'd walk to Church –  
Three times we had to go!  
We had to sit right at the front,  
Like Angels in a row.

Perhaps we weren't that tuneful,  
But we all sang really loud,  
So Mum and Dad and Mrs. Lord  
Would hear us and be proud.

Back then we had a Rose Queen,  
They would choose one every year;  
One lucky girl would wear that crown  
And all that fancy gear.

To make sure everything was fair  
And nobody could doubt,  
The names went in the Vicar's hat –  
And then he pulled one out.

Then when it came to Whit Walks Day,  
The whole Church gathered round,  
All turned out in their Sunday best  
To see the Rose Queen crowned.

Each year, the 'grand finale'  
Came before the summer break;  
Mrs. Lord and Mr. Hampson  
One last register would take;

Then on the final Sunday,  
Off to Church we'd go again;  
After every prayer the Vicar said,  
We'd all shout out 'AMEN'!

Every one of us was waiting,  
All exchanging nervous looks,  
As Mrs. Lord and Mr. Hampson  
Brought a pile of shiny books;

And placed them on the table,  
Just beside the Vicar's Stall;  
And then the Vicar, from his list,  
Our names began to call.

Every one of us was nervous,  
You could see it in our eyes;  
Had we been to Sunday School enough  
To earn ourselves a prize?

The Vicar read each name in turn,  
His voice was clear and loud;  
The parents clapped, the teachers smiled,  
We all felt really proud.

Then, with our shiny books held tight,  
We'd say one last 'AMEN',  
After the hols, we'd all be back,  
At Sunday School again.

*A Hartley*

## **Space To Share A Prayer**

God of Love,

As we think about all that has changed this year,  
Help us to trust that you are always with us.

As we remember those who have died,  
Help us to trust they are at peace with you.

As we reach out to others with kindness and care,  
May hope shine out in every heart and home.

Amen

## **Strap Lines**

Age doesn't always bring wisdom; sometimes age comes along on its own.

There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.

## **Olde Worlde Weather Lore – April**

(A precursor to the modern day ‘weather app’ maybe??)

April showers brings May flowers.

## **Did You Know ... April Facts**

1<sup>st</sup> April – On this day in 1918, the Royal Airforce was created from the Royal Naval Airforce and the Royal Flying Corps.

2<sup>nd</sup> April- on this day in 1877, the first Easter Egg Roll was held on the lawn of the Whitehouse.

3<sup>rd</sup> April – On this day in 1043, Edward the Confessor was crowned King of England.

4<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1949, Zebra crossings were introduced in England.

5<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1964, the first driverless trains ran on the London Underground.

6<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1874, the famous magician, Houdini, was born in Hungary.

7<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1739, Highwayman Dick Turpin, was hanged at Tyburn.

8<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1093, the new Winchester Cathedral was dedicated by Bishop Walkelin.

9<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1747, 80-year-old Lord Simon Fraser of Lovat was the last person to be executed at Tower Hill after he was sentenced for his part in Bonnie Prince Charlie's rising.

10<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1970, Paul McCartney announced the end of the band known as the Beatles. The band officially split on 31 December 1970.

11<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1970, Apollo 13, the third lunar landing mission, is successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

12<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1606, the National Flags of Scotland and England were united for use at sea, thus making the first Union Jack.

13<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1668, John Dryden was appointed first English poet laureate by Charles II.

14<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1865, Abraham Lincoln was shot in a crowded playhouse in Washington, USA.

15<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1912, RMS Titanic sank.

16<sup>th</sup> April – On this day in 1889, famous British comedian, Charlie Chaplin was born in London.

17th April – On this day in 1956, Premium Savings Bonds were introduced in Great Britain.

18th April – On this day in 1881, the Natural History Museum opened in Kensington, South London.

19th April – On this day in 1770, British Explorer, James Cook, first sights Australia.

20th April – On this day in 1611, the first known performance of Shakespeare's tragedy, Macbeth, was held at the Globe Theatre, London,

21st April – On this day in 1857, Alexander Douglas patented the bustle.

22nd April – On this day in 1823 R. J. Tyers patented roller skates.

23rd April – St. George's Day is celebrated in England.

24th April – On this day in 1953, Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

25th April – On this day in 1682, a patent was granted for the thimble.

26th April – On this day in 1982, Argentina surrendered to Great Britain on South Georgia Island, near the Falkland Islands.

27th April – On this day in 1828, the Zoological Gardens at Regent's Park in London opened.

28th April – On this day in 1770, British Captain James Cook, aboard the Endeavour, landed at Botany Bay in Australia.

29th April – On this day in 1852, the first edition of Peter Roget's Thesaurus was published.

30th April – On this day in 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States of America.

## **Time For A Smile**

A couple in the church received a lovely vase to celebrate 50 years of both of them being involved in a variety of church activities and holding a number of important positions. Unfortunately, the wording on the card suffered from a lack of punctuation and on looking at it when they returned home, they discovered it read,

“With our thanks to you both and may the Lord bless you and keep you from the Vicar and members of the Parochial Church Council.”

A little girl saying her bedtime prayers was heard to say,  
“Dear God, it must be so hard for you to love everyone; there are only 4 people in my house and I can never do it!”

## **The Extended Parish Puzzler**

### **Old Testament Who's Who**

1. Who was thrown into the lion's den?
2. Who received the 10 Commandments from God?
3. Who was given a coat of many colours by his father?
4. Who was turned into a pillar of salt whilst fleeing from Sodom?
5. Who were Esau and Jacob?
6. Who was Joseph's younger brother?
7. Who were Cain and Abel?
8. Who was Isaac's mother?
9. Who was Potiphar?
10. Who killed his brother?
11. Who was known as the patriarch of the Hebrew people?
12. Who was Israel's first King?
13. To whom did God grant immense powers of knowledge and discernment?
14. Who was the brother of Moses?
15. Which of Israel's Judges had superhuman strength?

(Answers on page 32)

### **How Well Do You Know Our Village?**

Last month's inscription can be found carved into the stone above the doorway of 'hooks Cottage', on Knowsley Road. An interesting one this month – do you know where the following inscription can be found? And a bonus question – do you know why it is there??  
Answer in next month's mag.

## **BOYS**

## Easter Anagrams

Can you unscramble the following letters to discover 10 things related to Easter?

1. Airy odd fog                   - - - - -
2. Rags see get                 - - - - -
3. Latman spud                 - - - - -
4. Coin uric fix                - - - - -
5. Brunch so toss              - - - - -
6. Apples rust                 - - - - -
7. Acid air just so            - - - - -
8. Torch frowns on            - - - - -
9. Stay dry u hum dan         - - - - -
10. Hen irises                 - - - - -

(Answers on page 33)

## Riddle-Me-Ree

Can you solve the riddle?

This is greater than God;  
This is more evil than the devil;  
The poor have this;  
The rich need this;  
If you eat this you will die;  
What is this?

(Answer on page 32)

## Who's Who

Vicar	Revd Dave Thomson Christ Church Vicarage Ainsworth Hall Road. Ainsworth BL2 5RY <a href="mailto:vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk">vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk</a> Twitter @Vicar_Dave	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Elaine Larkin 1 Greenside. Ainsworth. BL2 5SE <a href="mailto:elaine.larkin.el@gmail.com">elaine.larkin.el@gmail.com</a> Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 388762 01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Church Treasurer	Geoff Whittle	07976 443165
Secretary of the PCC	Vacancy	
Organist	Jenny Johnson	07734976978
Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary	Carole Butler	07982 316388
Parish Child Protection	Peter Holden	01204 596938
Church Hall Booking	Geoff Hampson	07910817577
Church Lottery	Judith White	07812074776
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	<a href="mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com">ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com</a>
Magazine Secretary	S Varnom	0161 761 5686
Magazine Adverts	June Brooks	01204 527244
Primary School Head	D Gerrard BA(Hons)PGCE	01204 527484

### Services

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.30am	Family Service 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Family & Parade Service
	12.00pm	Baptisms (Except 2 <sup>nd</sup> and last Sunday)
	6.30pm	Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion (Book of Common Pray)
		Healing Service (see Parish Diary)
Weds	6.15pm	Mid-Week Praise

Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty  
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage and Funerals Contact Revd Dave Thomson

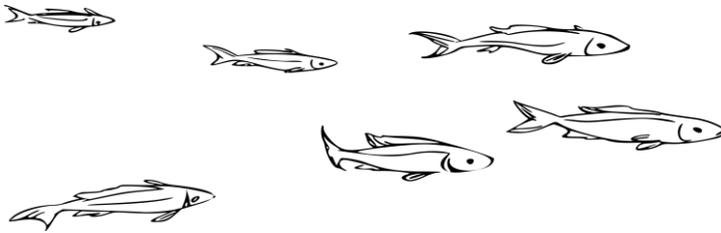
(Answer to Who's Who In The Old Testament: 1) Daniel; 2) Moses; 3) Joseph; 4) Lot's wife; 5) The sons of Isaac & Rebekah; 6) Benjamin; 7) The 1<sup>st</sup> 2 sons of Adam & Eve; 8) Sarah; 9) One of Pharaoh's officials; 10) Cain killed Abel, 11) Abraham, 12) Saul, 13) Solomon, 14) Aaron, 15) Samson.

Answer to Riddle-Me-Ree: Nothing

## Who's Who For Church Organisations

Mothers Union	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Sunday School	Sunday at 10.25am in the Church Hall  Jan Burrow Vicky Howcroft Swift	0161 761 1958 07789 432103
Altar Flowers	Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
ABC First Steps Toddler Group	Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Anne Flowers Or Jennifer White	01204 382214 07964 587694
Group Leader	Bill White group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.00pm in the Church Hall Leader Valerie Watts	01204 398634
Cub Scouts	Friday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Sean Butler	07843 233056
Scouts 14 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Wednesdays 7.30pm in the Church Hall John Turner	01204 381590
Rainbows 12 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 5.45pm to 7.00pm in the Church Hall Rainbow Guider	
Rainbows 16 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 4.30pm to 6.00pm in the Church Hall                      Rainbow Guider Janet Kay	01204 525739
Brownies 12 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly The church's one foundation; Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Captain Emma Lee	0161 764 2243

Answers to Easter anagrams: 1) Good Friday; 2) Easter Eggs; 3) Palm Sunday; 4) Crucifixion; 5) Hot Cross Buns; 6) Last Supper; 7) Judas Iscariot; 8) Crown Of Thorns; 9) Maundy Thursday; 10) He Is Risen.



# Little Fishes

The Stories Of Jesus



# The Bible

Lots of people have a Bible; you might have one in your house, but if not, you may have seen a Bible at School or at Sunday School.

## Did You Know ...

The Bible is so popular that more copies of the Bible have been printed and sold than of any other book ever! The Guinness Book Of World Records estimates that over 5 billion copies of the Bible have been printed worldwide - that's an awful lot of Bibles! AND according to the United Bible Societies, the Bible has been translated into over 3.000 different languages, including sign language - wow!!

Did you know that the word 'bible' comes from a Greek word meaning 'the books'? That's because the different parts of the bible are called 'books' - the book of Genesis and the book of kings are just 2 examples, but there are a total of 66 books in the bible - it's almost like a library all by itself!

## So What Is The Bible?

The Bible is a collection of stories and poems, written at different times over many years and by lots of different people - each one of those people was under the guidance and inspiration of God. The Bible brings all of these stories together, to tell the story of God's dealings with people, starting right at the beginning with the creation of the world.



The first part of the Bible is called the Old Testament. In the Old Testament you'll find the story of the beginning of the

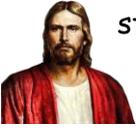


Universe and the creation of man; there are stories about God's chosen people, the children of Israel; stories about brave men like Noah, David, Daniel and Moses and about brave women like

Ruth, Esther and Sarah. All the way through the Old Testament, God asks His people to obey His laws, but over and over again they

disobey him. But God still loved them and promised to make a way for everything to be right again.

The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament. The New Testament is all about Jesus - about His birth in the stable in Bethlehem, about how He grew up and began to share the good news about God, about the things He did and the people He met. In the New Testament we learn about what Jesus taught and what happened in His life.



For the next few months, Little Fishes is going to be all about the stories of Jesus, the stories about Jesus from the New Testament.

### **How It All Began ...**

In the Christmas story, we learned how Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem; because it was so busy there was no room at any of the Inns, so they ended up having to spend the night in an Inn Keeper's stable. Jesus was born in the stable and the Shepherds and Wise Men came to visit him and worship him, but King Herod heard about Jesus being born and that the Wise Men thought Jesus was a very special baby, and King Herod was jealous and angry and made a plan to get rid of Jesus. Just in time, an angel warned Joseph about King Herod's plans and that it wasn't safe for them to stay in Bethlehem, so Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus and escaped to Egypt.



Mary, Joseph and Jesus stayed in Egypt for a while, but when King Herod died, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that he should now return to the land of Israel. So, Mary and Joseph gathered their things together and left Egypt; they settled in Nazareth which is a town in Galilee, and this is where Jesus grew up.



When Jesus was a boy, he was pretty much like any other child at that time - he would have played out with his friends, helped

around the house and gone to the synagogue to study and to worship. But right from the start it seemed that Jesus was just a bit different; he would go off and spend lots of time listening to



the teachers and preachers and talking to them, but it was as if Jesus already knew lots of things - often he would end up explaining things to the

teachers instead! Jesus was gentle and kind, and everywhere he went people wanted to talk to him and listen to what he had to say.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that when Jesus was a bit older, maybe about 30 years old, he was baptized 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, and it was after this that things really began to take off.



Jesus began to preach and spread the word about God's eternal



kingdom. One day he was walking by the Sea of Galilee when he saw two fishermen, Simon and Andrew, casting their nets into the sea; Jesus got into Simon's boat and asked him to row a little way from the shore,

then Jesus sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he told Simon to row out to deeper water and cast his nets once more; Simon told

Jesus that they had been fishing all night and had hardly caught a single fish, but he agreed to try again as Jesus asked.

This time when they cast their nets out, they caught so many fish that the nets were in danger of bursting and they had to shout for another



group of fishermen to come and help them. There were so many fish that they filled both of the boats!!

When Simon saw this, he was astonished and he knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O lord." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and I will make you

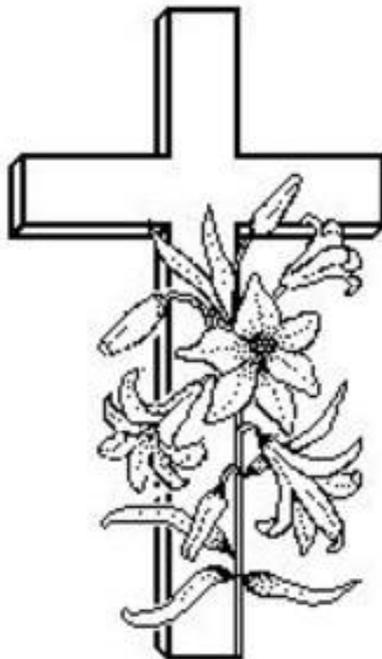
fishers of men." And immediately Simon and Andrew laid down their nets and followed Jesus, and their friends James and John also laid down their nets and followed Jesus.



Next month we'll be learning about miracles, and how Jesus turned water into wine!

### **Easter Craft Idea**

This year Palm Sunday is on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, but we won't be able to have a Palm Sunday parade because of lockdown. Instead, why not print or copy the picture below, colour it in or decorate it and then stick it up in your window for Palm Sunday and Easter.



## *Ainsworth Church & Community Hall*

Main hall, small hall and small meeting room, available for hire daytime, evenings and weekends at competitive rates

Ideal venue for Parties / Functions / Public meetings / Weddings / Birthdays / Funerals / Social events / Christenings

Disabled access. Projector and large screen

Toilet facilities including Disabled, Baby changing and cloakrooms

Newly equipped Catering kitchen

For bookings, please contact Geoff Hampson on 07910 817577  
e-mail: [bookings@ainsworthchurchandcommunityhall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@ainsworthchurchandcommunityhall.co.uk)

See full details on our new web site:  
[www.ainsworthchurchandcommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.ainsworthchurchandcommunityhall.co.uk)

## Your Local Veterinary Surgery and 24 Hour Emergency Clinic

**Bolton**  
(Opposite  
Canon Slade  
School)  
01204 59 54 53



**Fairfield**  
(Opposite  
the  
Hospital)  
0161 762 9782

**Bury**  
147 The Rock (OPEN 24hrs)  
0161 764 4618

**ICE CREAM PARLOUR**  
**& TEA SHOP**

Now open at  
ARTHUR LANE  
NURSERIES

1 Arthur Lane,  
Ainsworth, Bolton

Open Daily 10.00-5.00



Have a day out! Buy all your Summer Bedding plants, Hanging Baskets, Shrubs, Conifers, Roses, Alpines etc at Down-to-Earth Prices.

T- 01204 529929

**Now Serving FRESHLY made cold sandwiches.**  
*Serving Delicious Fredericks of Chorley Ice Cream*



facebook.com/thegardenshed.arthurlane

**Garage Door Repairs**

Excellent Service at a Low Price

All types of repairs from  
cable replacement to full re-fit  
All work is VAT free

01204 525922 or 07881 624710

www.budgetgaragedoorrepairs.co.uk

Glen Boardman,

Ainsworth Hall Road, Ainsworth

**J. RAWSON & SONS**  
**Monumental Masons**  
**& Sculptors**

Artistic Memorials in Marble,  
Granite and Stone

**250 Market Street, Bury**

**Tel: 0161 764 4391**

www.rawsons-memorials.co.uk

**HORSE BITS**

***Saddlery and Riding Wear***

18 Bridge Street, Ramsbottom,  
Lancashire, BL0 9QA

Tel: 01706 822322

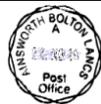
Open 10 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Weekdays

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays,

12 noon - 4 p.m. Sundays,

Closed Wednesdays

**AINSWORTH**  
**POST OFFICE**



Car Tax, Bureau de Change  
Lottery, Newspapers, Cards,  
Groceries, Cans Pasties  
Home Made Samosas and Curries  
Hot Beverages, Copying  
Fancy Goods + Gifts and Toys  
**Tel: 01204 523164**

## **Southlands**

### **Residential Home**

Withins Lane, Brightmet

27 bed home, set in spacious  
private grounds

Experienced staff providing 24 hour care.

Respite care available

Contact: Jane or Nicola

On: 01204 528369/397011

E-mail: 01204397011@uwclub.net

## **MILE LANE PHARMACY**

**66 Mile Lane, Bury**

Free Prescription Collection and Delivery  
Service. We will collect Prescriptions from your  
Doctor's Surgery and then deliver your  
dispensed medicine promptly.

For friendly helpful service

**Tel: 0161 764 5054**

**OPENING HOURS**

Mon. - Fri. 9.00-18.00; Sat. 9.00 -13.00

Electronic Prescriptions Dispensed



MOWING \* PLANTING \* WEEDING \* TIDY-UPS  
FENCE PAINTING \* CARAVAN WASHING \*  
ALL GENERAL JOBS CONSIDERED

Call for a free quote

BECKY on 01204 522968 or 07989 671248

JAN on 0161 761 1958 or 07950 960468

## **AMG Sewing**

**by Ann-Marie**

(Née Cunliffe)



Clothing and Curtains  
altered and repaired

Collections within 3 mile radius

93 Salisbury Road, Radcliffe

0161 280 0026 or 07817 848248

## **STARMOUNT VILLA**

*Residential Home*

Situated in a peaceful country  
setting at Bradley Fold

If you are interested in quality  
of life for a relative etc.,  
then telephone us on  
(01204) 525811

## **JACK HAMER & SON**

**(Tottington) LTD**

**Established 1930**

**Building & Roofing  
Contractors**

Tel: 01204 883867 Fax: 01204 888592

Mobile: 078663 69891

## **JACKSONS MOTOR REPAIRS**

M.O.T. Testing Class 4, 5 & 7  
Repairs and Servicing

**Tel: 01204 531595**

**Lever Bridge Garage,  
Radcliffe Road,  
Darcy Lever, Bolton**

## **SILLETTS**

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

*A Family business,  
established over 135 years*

Spring Lane, Radcliffe  
Manchester M26 2TQ

Tel: 0161 723 2383 or 01204  
861300

**Bolton & Bury Podiatry Group**  
Chiropody & Podiatry  
**Gwen Charnock & Associates**



661a Bury Road, Bolton, BL2 6HR  
**Telephone: 01204 481927**

**Ivythwaite Lodge**

Oustanding Lake District Guest House  
Your Hosts - Andrew & Abigail

Princes Road, Windermere  
Cumbria LA23 2DD  
Tel: 01539488914

Email: [enquiries@ivythwaitelodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ivythwaitelodge.co.uk)  
[www.ivythwaitelodge.co.uk](http://www.ivythwaitelodge.co.uk)

**ARTHUR LANE  
NURSERIES**

*Growers of quality garden plants  
All at down to earth prices*

1 ARTHUR LANE,  
AINSWORTH, BOLTON  
Telephone: 01204 529929

**To advertise here**

**please contact**

**June Brooks on**

**01204 527244**

**or e-mail**

**june1727@yahoo.com**

**SJ DESIGNS**

Plans draughted for domestic extensions  
Local Authority Approval submissions

S.T. Jackson ACIOB MBIAT  
203 Bury New Road  
Ainsworth. BL2 6QQ  
Tel: 01204 531883  
Mobile: 07790720491

**STUART FAIRCLOUGH  
and SONS**

For All Your Dairy Requirements  
**MILK, EGGS and CREAM**

Please Telephone  
0161 764 0298 or  
0161 723 2569

**Warwick Bedroom  
Design**

Custom made Furniture  
● Bedroom ● Office ● Lounge ●  
Free planning and estimating

**Tel: 0161 763 7137**  
**Mobile: 07833 748889**  
**[www.warwickbedrooms.co.uk](http://www.warwickbedrooms.co.uk)**

**Anglo American**

**ELECTRICAL COMPANY**  
*For All Your Electrical Needs*  
*Large or Small*

Electrical Wholesalers and  
Lighting Specialists

67 Bradley Lane, Bolton, BL2 6RA  
Tel: 01204 527251 Fax: 01204 527257

# **LORDS**

## **ROOFING CONTRACTORS (N.W.) Ltd**

(AN ESTABLISHED FATHER AND SON ROOFING BUSINESS)

FOR **ALL** YOUR ROOFING REQUIREMENTS  
(QUALITY THIS TIME • NEXT TIME • EVERY TIME)

**UNDERWRITTEN GUARANTEES WITH ALL CONTRACTS**  
**HAVING SERVED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR OVER 25**  
**YEARS**

### **ALL ROOFING WORK(S) UNDERTAKEN**

**LEAKS REPAIRED / SLATING / TILING / FACIAS & SOFFITTS**  
**FIRESTONE RUBBER FLAT ROOF INSTALLERS**  
**RE – ROOFING / LEAD WORKS / POINTING WORKS**  
**CHIMNEY WORKS & ALL ROOFING WORK(S)**

**0800 612 2483**