

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Artwork courtesy of Ainsworth Cubs
From top left clockwise – Oliver, Jacob W, Oscar and Zach

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

April 2022

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

Sundays

- 8am 2nd & 4th Sundays in church for COVID-secure BCP Communion
- 10.30am in church for COVID-secure Communion
- 12 Noon for live-streamed midday worship on our Facebook Page
- 6.30pm 1st Sundays in church for COVID-secure BCP Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

- 6.30pm in church for Mid-Week Praise, recording posted later on Facebook

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>



Parish Diary April 2022

(Subject to any current covid restrictions)

Sun. 3 rd Apr		THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
	10:30am	COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
	12 Noon	Midday worship (Facebook page)
	6:30pm	COVID-secure BCP Evening Prayer (in Church)
Tue. 5 th	7.30pm	Lent Devotional (in Church)
Wed. 6 th	6:30pm	Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
Thu. 7 th	7.30pm	Lent Course (Zoom)
Sun. 10 th		PALM SUNDAY
	8:00am	COVID-secure BCP Communion (in Church)
	10-45am	Palm Sunday Procession (with donkeys!).
		<i>Joint service with Ainsworth Methodists at Ainsworth Methodist Chapel, assembling on the path at Christ Church</i>
	12 Noon	Midday worship (Facebook page)
Mon. 11 th	7.30pm	Holy Week Devotional (in Church)
Tue. 12 th	7.30pm	Holy Week Devotional (in Church)
		<i>Followed by Hot Cross Buns</i>
Wed. 13 th	6:30pm	Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
Thu. 14 th		MAUNDY THURSDAY
	7-30pm	Holy Communion with stripping of the Sanctuary (in Church)
Fri. 15 th		GOOD FRIDAY
	10-30am	The Way of the Cross (in Church)
		<i>A Good Friday journey with Jesus</i>
	12 Noon	Virtual Stations of the Cross (Facebook Page)
	2-00pm	The Seven Sayings of Jesus from the Cross' (in Church) <i>A quiet reflective service</i>

Sun. 17th **EASTER DAY**
5-45am Dawn Service (Church Lychgate)
10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Wed. 20th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

Sun. 24th **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8:00am COVID-secure BCP Communion (in Church)
10-30am Family Communion
Followed by refreshments in Church
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Wed. 30th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

Sun. 1st May **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**
10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Planning to attend our church building for worship?

The following COVID-19 Secure restrictions apply:

We are moving from a pandemic to endemic situation where restrictions will no longer be required. Although most people now have a degree of immunity to COVID-19, levels of immunity vary, and some people continue to be significantly vulnerable to the virus and its long-term effects. Personal risk assessments also vary. Mindful that everyone has a right to attend worship and not wishing to place barriers in anyone's way, we will continue to operate three zones, offering different levels of security. The Zone you choose to sit in depends upon YOUR assessment of personal risk. For example, if you have few concerns and are not bothered about being pinged by NHS Test & Trace app, then sit in Zone 1. **If you are clinically extremely vulnerable, you might prefer Zone 3.**

Zone 1 (right hand side of the aisle and first 4 rows at the front on the left): There is no requirement to remain socially distant and no expectation that you will wear a mask.

Zone 2 (remaining pews on left hand side of the aisle – 1m⁺ social distance): Please use the designated pews, sitting in the space indicated by arrows, and, for the protection of others, please wear a mask unless medically exempt.

Zone 3 (upstairs left & centre pews, rear of left-hand choir pews - 2m⁺ social distance): Please sit in the designated pews, sitting in the

space indicated by arrows. If you choose to sit in this area, please wear a mask unless medically exempt.

NB ZONES 2 & 3 DO NOT OPERATE DURING CHURCH PARADE.

Singing: There is no need to join in and, if you wish, you may wear a mask when singing

Communion:

- Clergy will continue to preside in a COVID Secure manner.
- For now, we will not be sharing the Common Cup. Instead, after gelling their hands, clergy will carefully dip your wafer in the wine before safely dropping it in your hands (this is known as Simultaneous Communion).
- Clergy will mask and distribute to you from the Sanctuary Steps. Please line up as directed, if wearing one, temporarily removing your mask to consume the wafer.
- Zones 2 & 3 – If you wish, you may remain seated, and clergy will come to you.

General:

- We will leave the doors open to enhance air circulation.
- Please gel your hands as you enter and leave the building.
- There is a collection plate on the font, but this will not be passed around.
- Although we shall now stand at various points in the service (e.g., for the Gospel), you are at liberty to remain seated throughout if you wish.
- If you are in Zone 1, please allow those in Zones 2 and 3 to exit first as they wish to maintain social distance.

Whether you attend worship in church with others, or join with us at home online, is entirely your decision. Our responsibility is to ensure you have the choice. However, if you are ill with something that might be infectious, whether COVID-19 or something else, please stay at home and join us for worship at 12 noon on our Facebook Page or YouTube channel.

A few words from the Vicar

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the war in Ukraine will be over. I appreciate the word 'hopefully' is doing a great deal heavy lifting here because, absent a crystal ball, and despite what all those instant military 'experts' on social media might think, I doubt whether anybody

can predict with certainty when and how the war will end. By 'hopefully' I also mean without further escalation.

As I watch and read the news reports, I am shocked by the scenes of devastation and the violence meted out to the civilian population. One scene, etched on my mind, is that of ordinary Ukrainians digging a communal grave in the grassed area in front of their block of flats, a communal grave for their neighbours killed in the bombing.

So, what can we do? Well, we pray. We continue to hold in our prayers those affected by the war. We pray for a just peace and support those who suffer as best we can, doing what we can to alleviate their suffering. In that regard, the Church of England is signposting those who wish to help towards a variety of initiatives, such as the Government's *'Homes for Ukraine'* scheme and two emergency appeals, the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, and the USPG-Diocese in Europe Emergency Appeal.¹ Please do what you can.

Incidentally, our Scouts were overwhelmed by the generosity of local people who supported their appeal for donations of emergency supplies for Ukraine. Our group acted as a collection point for a Ukrainian Scout group from Manchester. Your contributions formed part of a lorry load of supplies sent to help those in need. Well done!

At this time of year, I would much rather be writing about the joys of Spring, Hot Cross Buns, Easter Eggs, Easter Bonnets, and suchlike. But, against the background of an all-out war raging at the far end of Europe, this year my gaze more readily falls upon Jesus' Passion, his suffering.

Towards its ending, our Maundy Thursday service suddenly changes from the joy of the Last Supper to the darkness of Jesus' betrayal by Judas and his arrest. The desolation of this moment is reinforced by stripping the Communion Table and Sanctuary of all ornaments and coverings. We depart in silence with the lights switched off.

Then, on Good Friday, we listen to John's Passion, which is read to us in its entirety. We hear once more of Jesus' betrayal, his arrest, how his friends (especially Peter) denied him, his interrogation, the show trial, his torture, then finally the horror of being nailed to a cross

¹ <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>
<https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/>

to die slowly. John does not dwell upon the detail, but the intensity of Jesus' suffering is obvious, even to the casual reader.

Why did Jesus suffer? Well, the clue is in the name 'Jesus', which in the original Hebrew means 'God Saves'. Jesus loves us and was prepared to suffer so that we might come to know the power of God's love in our lives. Jesus died to rescue us from the consequences of our sin.

But the horror of Jesus' suffering soon passes as the darkness of Good Friday and Easter Saturday give way to the light of the Easter dawn. Then, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, as we recall that death could not hold him, and thank God that, because Jesus rose again, we have new life in him.

Full details of our Easter services can be found in the parish diary.

Happy Easter!

Dave

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the April 2022 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is, as always, packed with useful information and interesting articles.

It seems quite shocking that we are already a quarter of the way through 2022 – where does the time go? Another sobering thought was that 23rd March 2022 marked 2 years from the first full Covid-19 lockdown; whilst the global pandemic has brought changes to almost all aspects of life 'as we knew it', it's strange to think that for the youngest generations, many will have no memory of life 'pre-Covid'.

One of the big positives that the pandemic brought us was a huge surge in Community Spirit – people pulling together and looking out for each other; as the restrictions continue to ease, it's great to see a number of community initiatives returning and new ones emerging. In the coming months we can look forwards to Ainsworth Village Fun Dog Show and Friends of the Delph Fundraiser, a Community Picnic to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and the welcome return of Ainsworth Village Day – hoorah for all of the volunteers who roll up their sleeves to make these things happen, and please, if you want to see them continuing, do your best to support them.

As we continue through Lent, it's not too late to tap into the various initiatives available to help us all to focus on the real 'reason for the season'; Lenten Devotional Services continue in Church, with various

additional services throughout Holy Week; if you prefer 'Zoom' why not join in with daily prayers in conjunction with other members of our Mission Community.

Enjoy this month's magazine and as always, please keep your reports and articles coming in by the second Sunday in the month, to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com. *Alison*

Front Cover Artwork

In recent weeks, the younger members of our uniformed organisations have been hard at work producing some fabulous artwork for the front covers of our Parish Magazine. Group members were provided with a basic outline and challenged to design a stained glass window.

A big thank you must go to Baloo and Ainsworth Cubs for this month's front cover artwork – all of which are of a very high standard. Oliver, Jacob Walker, Oscar and Zach are this month's cover artists.

From The Registers

HOLY BAPTISM	We welcome into the family of God
February 6 th	Beau Potter
February 27 th	Theo & Remi-Rose Haslam

FUNERALS	We commend to God's keeping
February 10 th	Nicola Crossan
February 16 th	Joyce Crankshaw

Building Officer

We still urgently need a volunteer to take on the role of Building Officer; this role is crucial to the mission of our Church. The Building Officer's role is more about overseeing projects, organising work and liaising with other members of the team, rather than physically undertaking jobs. If you think that you may be able to help with this role, please contact Revd Dave to discuss.

Bible Reading Fellowship

We are already a quarter of the way through the Bible Reading Fellowship's centenary year, which has grown from small beginnings in 1922 when the vicar of St Matthew's, Brixton started to produce a

monthly leaflet of Bible readings and lead a discussion group to help his congregation "get a move on spiritually". Before long, other parishes were asking for copies of the leaflets for their own congregations and gradually, BRF became the international organisation it is now.

Today, we thank God for the timeless inspiration, support and comfort that comes from his word and for a hundred years of the Bible Reading Fellowship, which has helped the Bible become accessible to so many people.

Join the online service at 3pm on Sunday 24 April 2022 as we celebrate this occasion.

To register for the service and see the videos, go to brf.org.uk/centenary.

Coffee And Conversation

The next Ainsworth Community Coffee and Conversation will be held on Tuesday 12th of April. Coffee and Conversation is held in Ainsworth Church and Community Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10.30 – 12 noon; "A cup of coffee shared with others is happiness tasted and time well spent" – why not come along and join us.

Mission Community News

On Zoom at 6pm each weekday evening during Lent, for about 10 to 15 minutes, our Mission Community are coming together for Lenten prayer. This is a joint venture for our Mission Community, which will be led by various people from each of the churches within our group. Here's the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFoZz09>

Fundraising Coach Trip To Scarborough

2023 is the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. One of our Scouts, Dylan, has been successful going through a rigorous selection process to be chosen to attend, representing our Group, District, County and the UK. As part of his journey Dylan needs to raise £4,000, therefore, as a group, we are planning several events to help him along his way. Among these events is one our much loved "Coach Trips" - we are having a day out to Scarborough! We will be

leaving from the bus turnaround in Ainsworth at 0800 on Saturday 2nd July, returning to the same place around 1830. The cost for tickets for the trip are: Adult ticket (aged 14 and over) £25.00; Child ticket (aged 13 and under) £15.00; Family ticket (2 Adults and 2 children) £65.00. We always have a great day out - to book your seats and join us simply follow the link below:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/AinsworthScoutGroup1/FundraisingCoachTripScarboroughSaturday2ndJuly2022>

Easyfundraising

Don't forget to use easyfundraising to raise much needed funds every time you shop on line, purchase tickets on line, book travel, hotels or holidays on line. Thanks to our regular supporters, our current fundraising total is £830-22!

If you haven't already signed up, please do consider it – it's quick and easy and doesn't cost you anything. Our cause is registered as Ainsworth Parish Church - Bolton on #easyfundraising. Not only can you raise free donations each time you shop on line, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! to sign up visit https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=ivcmuo&char=36470&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox

News From The Diocese

The music of Ukraine: a fundraising lecture for the Disasters Emergency Committee

In response to the current humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, Dr. Steven Robinson (founder and principal lecturer of the Verdun Allen Music Foundation) will present a special 1 hour lecture on the music of Ukraine - from early Kyivan Orthodox Chant to the folk-inspired Dumka compositions of the 19th and 20th centuries.

11.30 am on Monday 11th April at Luther King House, Brighton Grove, Fallowfield, M14 5JP

7pm on Tuesday 12th April on Zoom.

To book your place, please email stevenrobinson1970@msn.com



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 12th April

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





Ainsworth Friends Of The Delph Fundraiser & Dog Show

Sunday 1st May from 11.30am on the Delph

- *Cake Stall*
- *Refreshments*
- *Crafts*
- *Raffle*
- *Face Painting*
- *And much, much more!*

Why not come along and enjoy a great day of family fun - all proceeds towards the maintenance and improvement of the Delph.



AINSWORTH VILLAGE FUN DOG SHOW

SUNDAY 1ST MAY 2022

On The Delph

Registration on the day

from 11.30am

Showtime 1pm

Refreshments
will be available

- 
- CLASS 1 - PEDIGREE POOCH
 - CLASS 2 - HEINZ 57 POOCH
 - CLASS 3 - RESCUE POOCH
 - CLASS 4 - NEW DOG ON THE BLOCK (PUPPY)
 - CLASS 5 - GOLDEN OLDIES (VETERAN'S 7+)
 - CLASS 6 - WAGGIEST TAIL
 - CLASS 7 - BEST TREAT CATCHER OR TRICK
 - CLASS 8 - MOST LIKE ITS OWNER
 - CLASS 9 - BEST BEHAVED POOCH
 - CLASS 10 - BEST JUNIOR HANDLER

BEST IN SHOW

£2 PER DOG / PER CLASS

OR 3 CLASSES PER DOG £5

Find us on Facebook @ Ainsworth Village Day

Proceeds will be donated to

Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary and Ainsworth Delph Gardeners

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Ainsworth History Society Meeting

Tuesday 12th April

7.30pm, Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Everyone welcome.

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 12th April

10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome

Ainsworth Social Club

Tuesday 5th April & Tuesday 19th April

7.30 – 9pm, Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

We are an independent social club for the over 50's, our motto is 'Challenge yourself'. Want to know more? Check out our facebook page 'Ainsworth

Social Club', or e-mail ainsworthsc@outlook.com

Mothers' Union

Tuesday 19th April

7.30pm, Ainsworth Church & Community Hall (New Room)

Why not join us for an evening with Christine Sharp and find out more about 'Current projects of MU in Manchester Prisons'. Everyone welcome.

Bible Reading Fellowship Centenary Celebration

3pm, Sunday 24th April via 'Zoom'

To register for the service and see the videos, go to brf.org.uk/centenary.

Fun Dog Show

Sunday 1st May - The Delph, Church Street, Ainsworth

Fun Dog Show to be held in conjunction with the Delph Gardening Team. Join in the fun classes whilst enjoying refreshments provided by Friends of The Delph. Registration from 12pm. Further details to follow.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Ainsworth Community Picnic

Sunday 5th June – The Delph, Church Street, Ainsworth

Watch this space for more info.

Ainsworth Village Day

Saturday 16th July – Ainsworth Recreation Ground

Ainsworth Village Day is back for 2022, bigger and better than ever!! Watch this space for more info.

Around The Organisations ...

Ainsworth Scout Group

A very big thankyou for 2 things during the last month – firstly to all those who donated clothing, first aid etc for the problems in Ukraine – the car was loaded to the roof when Stacey took it to the Scout Group in Prestwich – a full container is now on its way.

Secondly to all those who voted for the group in Bury's bids for charities to get money for specific things. We have been allocated the full bid of £4,190 towards new camping equipment so that will go some way to all new tents, dining shelters etc ready for our big group camp in September! We still need a further £3,000 for the rest of the equipment needed to ensure everyone can attend the event.

Thanks everyone

Bill White - GSL

Beavers

This month the Beavers became 'Mini Medics' when they completed their Emergency Aid badge and then the following week, they all passed their Safety Badge. The Beavers designed their own machine for making Easter Eggs and also made and coloured snakes gaining their Skills badge.

At Church Parade, Bobby carried the Flag and Evie, Giovanna and Max said the prayers. Also at Church Parade, congratulations to Rabbit and Badger who received 'Length of Service' certificates for their dedication and work with the Beavers.

Rikki

Cubs

Another busy month, with the Cubs completing their Local Knowledge badge. Finding out about someone who is / was both local and famous, designing maps of the area showing local facilities and listening to how the village looked 70+ years ago when I was a pupil at Ainsworth school!

They found it hard to accept outside toilets at school and where I lived on Hulmes Terrace, no housing on Broomfield or Newquay estate areas and tales about "Johnny Green Teeth" living in the boggy area behind the Wood Mill – never a place for youngsters to gather.

Cubs have also been designing stained glass windows to front the church magazine along with those done by Brownies and Beavers – hope everyone likes them as they are all displayed in the coming months.

We are hoping to do more outside activities once the weather is better and the light nights are with us.

Gwen - Baloo

Scouts

Over the past month the Scouts have completed their Electronics Badge; they have learned about circuits, resistors, and gates, or gates and not gates (if you don't understand, don't ask me - ask George (tee hee)!) They also built a circuit to get a light bulb to illuminate.

We have also had a games night.

We invested 9 new Scouts into the troop and awarded over 80 activity badges.

Over the next month we will be going to camp again at Great Tower Scout Campsite where we will be having an Easter Camp - I will report back later.

Stacey, Mollie, George, Ben and Aled

Dylan Farnworth - Jamboree Fundraising

Dylan had been making and selling bird boxes to raise money for his visit to South Korea next year. He is selling them either painted £12 or natural £10 (see below pictures) If you would like to purchase a bird box please email either scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk or rachael.bailey@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk

Thank you for your support.



12th Radcliffe Brownies

We finally managed to get away with the Brownies, after our original camp in September 2020 was cancelled due to Covid. So, on a bright, but cold March weekend, we went to Waddow for “A taste of Adventure” – and it certainly was! While we were there, we climbed and abseiled; learned how to shoot a bow and arrow (and even the Owls tried their hand at archery – and enjoyed it!). We explored a cave; played games in the dark and then, in bushcraft, we practiced our survival skills by making a shelter and trying to light a fire – with varying degrees of success! And, despite a significant lack of sleep, we all enjoyed ourselves and look forward to being able to do another camp in the future



Polly, Brown Owl

Transformation - Now!

At the beginning of March, we all enjoyed a few fun filled games before having our traditional pancake treats. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the afternoon a success.

At the time of writing this article we are looking forward to being welcomed at the Rose and Crown for morning coffee and we plan to meet there again at 10.30am on the 5th April. Anyone is welcome to come along and join us.

After Easter we will be returning to our evening time slots until late Autumn.

On 19th April at 7.30pm in the Church Hall, our Diocesan President, Christine Sharp will tell us about current projects in Manchester with particular emphasis on our work in the Greater Manchester prisons. A lot of work has taken place at HM Prison Forest Bank since she last came to talk to us.

It is really good that we are now in a position to invite outside speakers once more.

Thank you to all who contributed to the 'Make a Mother's Day' Appeal. I'll let you know next month how much we were able to send to London. This will be used on projects empowering women both in the UK and Ireland and worldwide.

Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer for Manchester Diocese is from Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th April. This year, we aren't having a formal service in Church, but the Service leaflets will be available to everyone to use in their own home. During the Sunday morning service, there will be mention of the Wave of Prayer, a time we pray especially for our link Dioceses in Sunyani (Ghana), Awka (Nigeria), Kagera (Tanzania), Popondota (Papua New Guinea), Kisangani (DR Congo) and ourselves in Manchester.

On behalf of all MU members, I would like to wish all readers and members of the congregation a Joyous and Peaceful Easter.

Jennifer White (Hon. Secretary)

Ainsworth History Society www.ainsworthhistorysociety.org

We again meet on the Second Tuesday of each month from 7:30pm in the upstairs room of Ainsworth Church and Community Hall (on the corner of Bury Old Road and Ainsworth Hall Road). The next meeting is Tuesday 12th April - all are welcome.

March Meeting: We met in our new venue, which seemed to suit those present. We did a virtual walk along Bury Old Road and Church Street, from one end of the village to the other, interspersed with photos of what some of the places used to look like.



For those who, like me, are struggling to identify the location, I'm reliably informed that this photo was taken around 1905 on the recreation ground; the children are from the day school – Ed.

Ainsworth Social Club

Ainsworth Social Club is an independent social club for the over 50's, where older people can get together on a regular basis to keep fit in mind and body as well as enjoy each other's company.

Our motto is "Challenge Yourself". We offer members various games and activities (table tennis, carpet bowls, pool, board games and jigsaws) as well as visiting speakers and demonstrations. We organise trips out - for meals, the theatre and walks – why not have a look at our Facebook page to see the sort of things we get up to – 'Ainsworth Social Club'

The Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at Ainsworth Church and Community Hall from 7.30 to 9.00pm.

All are welcome; we ask for a minimum donation of £2, which includes refreshments.

For more information e-mail: ainsworthsc@outlook.com

From the Archives – April 1997

Easter fell right at the end of March in 1997, and the sketch inside the front cover of the April magazine focused on the resurrection – so too ‘The Vicar’s Letter’.

The Spring Fair was, however, just around the corner, with a theme of ‘Daffodil Time’; there were many requests for support from the various groups and organisations - for items to sell on the stalls, people to help out on the day etc. The Social Committee also had a few other fundraising events in the pipeline – a ‘Parish Quiz’ to which all were invited, American Breakfast – ring for more info / tickets, and a ‘Save The Date’ for the Harvest Supper.

The PCC had met and reported that the Church accounts were all in order and had been approved subject to auditing, PCC members also offered their congratulations to the 13 members of the congregation who had been confirmed by the Rt. Rev David Bonser, Bishop of Bolton, the previous month.

A mammoth painting of the interior of the Church and Community Hall had begun, with a reminder that the Hall would be completely closed during Whit Week for further work to be done. The Church Hall Committee were planning to hold a fundraising stall at ‘The Kiosk’ in Radcliffe Market – volunteers required please!

An article entitled “Staff Changes On The Magazine”, explained that Mrs. Foster was to retire after 34 years as Magazine Secretary, and that, going forwards, the role would be split between 3 people – Mrs. Leigh to deal with advertising, Mrs. Varnom to deal with bookwork and co-ordinate distribution and distributors, and Mr. Maudsley to produce and edit the magazine. Mrs. Foster added a note of thanks to all who had been involved in the production and distribution of the magazines throughout her time in office.

In other news, it seems that the various groups and uniformed organisations had been as busy as ever – the Women’s Institute had been learning Country Dancing; Beavers had been on a Village Hike, and were excited about a forthcoming meeting with the Mayor of Bury, Cubs were gearing up for their annual ‘Job Week’; Scouts were preparing to head off to camp; Brownies and Guides had undertaken a number of joint initiatives to celebrate ‘Thinking Day’ – a number of these tasks seemed to involve making and then eating things!

In April 1997, the ‘Face To Face’ interview was with Harold Foster, who was Church Warden Emeritus for many years at Ainsworth; the

Holiday Church featured was St. Mary's Church, Masham, North Yorkshire – the information for this piece had been provided by Bernard and Marjorie Sharples.

In April 1997 there was 1 Baptism and 3 Funerals, but no Weddings recorded from the previous month. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 322 and the collections totalled £1261-53.

Words Of Comfort

Many of us have a 'go to' passage or verse from the bible that gives us particular comfort in times of difficulty or need. According to the website www.christianitytoday.com since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, online Bible searches have soared, and a record number of people have turned to online scripture for passages addressing fear, healing and justice.

At number 8 in the 'Top 10 most searched for bible quotes' in 2021:

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12: 2

Some Thoughts ... To put this passage into context, Paul was in the midst of urging Christians to respond to God's mercy and His forgiveness of our sins, he then went on to encourage his fellow Christians to think about the lives they were living and ask themselves "Am I living my best life, or am I simply doing the things that everyone around me is doing?"

Paul's suggestion is that we should move away from society's obsession with the pursuit of pleasure, possessions and status, and instead ask ourselves; what does God want from me? What is a good and acceptable use of my life for God's purposes and not just for my own?

Shifting our thought patterns and focus can change our lives; by changing the way that we think, our minds will be 'renewed' and we will be better able to understand God's will for our lives and better able to live our lives in a way that honours God – to live our best lives.

If you have a favourite Bible verse which others may also find helpful, why not get in touch: ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Hidden Gems

Skipton Castle

Situated in the historic market town of Skipton, North Yorkshire, Skipton Castle is over 900 years old and one of the most complete and well preserved mediaeval castles in England.

Soon after 1090 Robert de Romille, a Norman baron, built a primitive fort on the existing site, but its timber ramparts did little to stop rampaging Scots during their frequent raids into Northern England. Ultimately it was replaced with a more formidable stone castle which stood on top of a rocky slope; with rising ground to the front and a sheer precipice falling to the Eller Beck behind, this provided the perfect site for maximum 'defensibility'.

In 1310, the Clifford family were granted the property by Edward II, with Robert Clifford also being appointed first Lord Clifford of Skipton and Guardian of Craven, the wide tract of countryside to the north and west of Skipton. Robert Clifford began heavily fortifying the castle, but he was killed at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, with his new stronghold barely completed.

During the Civil War, Skipton Castle was the last Royalist bastion in the North, yielding only after a three-year siege in 1645. Defaced under the orders of Cromwell, the castle was later skilfully restored by Lady Anne Clifford. Skipton Castle remained the Clifford family's principal seat until 1676. Today, the Clifford banner flies over the castle with the approval of the present Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.

One of the best things about Skipton Castle is that visitors can explore every corner of this impressive building. From the Banqueting Hall, to the Privy, the Kitchen to the Bed Chambers, from the depths of the Dungeons to the Watch Tower, all areas are accessible. Information boards provide detailed history and points of interest, every visitor is provided with a Castle Guide, and the option of a Castle Treasure Hunt (don't think this is just for children, it was actually really interesting!).

In front of the Castle, the paved courtyard is a great place to enjoy a moment of peace, maybe a brew or an ice cream from the Courtyard Café, and the well-stocked gift shop is a great place to pick up a souvenir.

If you want to explore further, it's well worth taking a walk through Skipton Castle Woods; there are over 1.5 miles of surfaced trails

within the wood, although the path along the top of the wood is very steep and unsuitable for the less able.

For nearly a thousand years, Skipton Castle Woods provided fuel, building materials and food to the castle it surrounds, and the waterways that run through it not only provided fresh water and fish, but in later years also gave power to local wool, corn and sawmills

The Wood is dominated by Ash trees which were traditionally grown to full height for good quality timber, but lots of other native tree species flourish here too, including Oak, Hornbeam, Lime, Chestnut, Rowan and Sloe.

A huge range of wildflowers also thrive in the woodland; Bluebells, Garlic, Woundwort, Nightshade and Burdock are just a few of the better known ones.

Skipton itself is well worth a visit, but the Castle, grounds and woods are truly a 'hidden gem'.

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

Dawn Chorus

The songbirds wake up early
And prepare to greet the dawn,
To proclaim from roof and treetop
That another day is born.

Deftly preening ruffled feathers,
Stretching out each slender wing,
In the fading night, now waiting
For the grey light dawn will bring.

Nature pauses, all is silent,
Yet for how long, none can tell;
Then from the hedge, a Robin sings,
Sweet voice, clear as a bell.

Three silver notes, then all at once
There's bird song everywhere;
Dawn lifts her grey gloved hand
And nature's music fills the air.

A Hartley

If you are a secret poet and would like to share your work, why not get in touch at ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Hints And Tips From Yesteryear

These nuggets of information first appeared in the Parish Magazines of 1997:

- Custard powder is just as good as rooting powder for young cuttings, and much cheaper.

If you have any interesting 'hints or tips' that others may be able to benefit from please get in touch via ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Events Nearby



The Ribble Valley Music Festival is run by unpaid volunteers to raise funds for churches and charities, by organising concerts of all types of music throughout the year.

A concert on 28th May 2022 will bring The Queen's reign to life, with music performed by Championship Section Wingates Band, from each of the seven decades and with reference to key worldly events during that time.

This major regional celebration is an overture to national events the following week, featuring uniquely commissioned pieces, plus some special surprises to make this a truly momentous occasion.

All surplus money from ticket sales after costs will be donated to St Peter's Church Salisbury.

The event starts at 7.00pm. Tickets can be obtained by calling 01254 384893.

Don't forget to visit platinumjubilee.gov.uk for event listings in most areas, also, if you have fond memories (and / or pictures) of previous Jubilee celebrations, memories of the Queen's Coronation, or any other royal encounter or occasion, why not consider sharing it with others, simply e-mail your piece to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Just A Thought

You can't have a silver lining without a cloud.

Cook's Corner



Easter Egg Cheesecake

You will need:

200g shortbread biscuits

80g butter, melted

250g chocolate mini eggs or leftover Easter eggs

400g full-fat soft cheese

150g icing sugar

1 tsp vanilla essence

400g double cream

1) Oil a 20cm, deep springform cake tin and line with baking parchment. Tip the biscuits into a food bag or the bowl of a food processor and crush or blitz to a fine crumb. Mix with the melted butter, then press into the base of the prepared cake tin and chill for 30 mins.

2) Roughly chop half the chocolate / mini eggs. Beat the soft cheese with the icing sugar and vanilla until just combined.

3) Beat the double cream to stiff peaks in a separate bowl. Gently fold the whipped cream into the soft cheese mixture along with the chopped chocolate mini eggs.

4) Spoon the cheesecake mixture over the biscuit base, then smooth the surface with a palette knife or spatula. Chill overnight.

5) The next day, carefully run a blunt knife around the inside of the tin to loosen the cheesecake, then carefully release the cheesecake from the tin. Sprinkle with the remaining chocolate mini eggs to decorate.

6) Enjoy!

On Reflection

Reflection 11 – Lamentations by Elizabeth Spiers

The book of Lamentations is not an easy read and perhaps you've been tempted to skip it. It's about the aftermath of a national disaster that happened as the result of sin. Thought to be written by the prophet Jeremiah, it laments - gives passionate expression to sorrow or grief - the devastating results of God's judgement.

In a series of five poems, Jeremiah tells of the complete and utter desolation of the once proud city of Jerusalem. This devastation didn't

come out of the blue. Our God isn't like that. He sent many prophets - including Jeremiah - with messages to warn the people that they needed to repent, but those warnings fell on deaf ears. Now that it had happened, the results of God's judgement were raw and desperate. It is shocking to read in Chapter 4:10 that mothers were so hungry they ate their own children.

The important message of this book is that we cannot keep going our own way, doing our own thing disobeying God and his word and think that God will ignore it. It is right to grieve over the sin that has wreaked havoc in our lives resulting in a broken home perhaps or a prison sentence. We don't do much lamenting these days, but this book shows us that we must take responsibility for the consequences we are now enduring.

We know that God is merciful and gracious. But we tend to overlook that he is also righteous and Holy, wanting obedience from his children and reserving the right to discipline us when we go astray. In the Bible, God calls himself a 'jealous' God (Ezekiel 34:14). He doesn't want us worshipping anyone or anything other than him. He knows it only brings damaging consequences.

Somehow, in the middle of his lamentations, Jeremiah finds the strength of hope in the Lord. He says:

"Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.' The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;"

(Lamentations 3:22–25).

Jeremiah tells us how to pray with hope in the midst of our self-induced suffering. He clings to the truth that regardless of the suffering he sees around him, God is still on his throne and that he still loves his people.

We always have hope in God. Every new morning brings a new opportunity to start afresh. We are in control of how we use the time and the decisions we make. We must learn to trust God while we still can't see the way forward. And God's mercies are new every morning. Great is his faithfulness toward those who cry out to him and seek him in their sorrows. He is the binder of broken hearts, and he will never turn away anyone who cries out to him.

High Days And Holidays

April – National Shakespeare Day; 23rd April 2022

National Shakespeare Day celebrates the life and works of the English playwright, poet and actor who is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's greatest dramatist. The exact date of William Shakespeare's birth is a little uncertain as birth dates were not generally recorded in his time, however records clearly identify that he was baptized on April 26th 1564; due to the high rate of infant mortality it was usual for babies to be baptised within a couple of days of birth, hence the popular belief that Shakespeare was born on 23rd April 1564 is not unreasonable.

Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford Upon Avon, the third of eight children and the eldest surviving son of John Shakespeare and Mary Arden. Although there are no official records, it's thought that William attended the King's New School in nearby Stratford. Little further is known of the great man's younger years other than that on the 27th November 1582, at the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway. Baby Susanna was baptised on the 26th May 1583, with twins Hamnet and Judith baptised on 2nd February 1585.

After the births of his children Shakespeare appeared to lead an unremarkable life, until his name reappeared as part of the London theatre scene in 1592. There are a number of suggestions as to how William Shakespeare spent the missing years – ranging from making a living as a country School Master in Lancashire, to poaching deer from the local Squire's estate!

It isn't known definitively when Shakespeare first started writing, but some of his works were definitely on the London stage by 1592. From 1594 onwards his works were performed exclusively by "The Lord Chamberlain's Men", a company owned by a group of performers (including Shakespeare) that soon became the leading playing company in London. In 1599, the group went on to build their own theatre, The Globe, on the banks of the River Thames, and later also took over the Blackfriars Indoor Theatre.

Throughout his career, Shakespeare continued to divide his time between London and Stratford, before retiring in 1613. Shakespeare died on 23rd April 1616, at the age of 52. There is no evidence to suggest that he had been unwell, and no official cause of death was recorded. He was survived by his wife and 2 daughters, his son Hamnet, having died of unknown causes at the age of 11.

Like so much of Shakespeare's life, records around his works are at best 'sketchy' so the exact order of composition of his plays is difficult to prove. The list below is based on the general consensus of when the plays were first performed and historical evidence relating to casting and costumes

1. Henry VI Part I (1589–1590)
2. Henry VI Part II (1590–1591)
3. Henry VI Part III (1590–1591)
4. Richard III (1592–1593)
5. The Comedy of Errors (1592–1593)
6. Titus Andronicus (1593–1594)
7. The Taming of the Shrew (1593–1594)
8. The Two Gentlemen of Verona (1594–1595)
9. Love's Labour's Lost (1594–1595)
10. Romeo and Juliet (1594–1595)
11. Richard II (1595–1596)
12. A Midsummer Night's Dream (1595–1596)
13. King John (1596–1597)
14. The Merchant of Venice (1596–1597)
15. Henry IV Part I (1597–1598)
16. Henry IV Part II (1597–1598)
17. Much Ado About Nothing (1598–1599)
18. Henry V (1598–1599)
19. Julius Caesar (1599–1600)
20. As You Like It (1599–1600)
21. Twelfth Night (1599–1600)
22. Hamlet (1600–1601)
23. The Merry Wives of Windsor (1600–1601)
24. Troilus and Cressida (1601–1602)
25. All's Well That Ends Well (1602–1603)
26. Measure for Measure (1604–1605)
27. Othello (1604–1605)
28. King Lear (1605–1606)
29. Macbeth (1605–1606)
30. Antony and Cleopatra (1606–1607)
31. Coriolanus (1607–1608)
32. Timon of Athens (1607–1608)
33. Pericles (1608–1609)
34. Cymbeline (1609–1610)
35. The Winter's Tale (1610–1611)
36. The Tempest (1611–1612)
37. Henry VIII (1612–1613)

38. The Two Noble Kinsmen (1612–1613)

William Shakespeare's contribution to the English language is huge; not just in terms of his complete works, but also in the impact that those works have on our language even in modern times - many of the words and expressions we are familiar with today have their origin in Shakespeare's plays and poems. Over the years, William Shakespeare's popularity kept growing – his works have been translated into numerous different languages, performed as Musicals and Ballets, and most recently in modern films. People across the world started looking for a day to celebrate his genius – 23rd April seemed to be the obvious choice.

National Shakespeare Day was first officially mentioned as an idea by Robert J. Williamson, the artistic director of the British Shakespeare Company. The concept has become widely known and celebrated in theatrical circles and appears to gather momentum and popularity with each passing year. Special pageants are held at Stratford-Upon-Avon, where Shakespeare was born, and where thousands of tourists still go each year to see his plays performed. The bells of Holy Trinity Church ring out and the Mayor of Stratford leads a procession there to lay flowers on Shakespeare's' grave.

Elsewhere the celebrations include "Talk Like Shakespeare" and "Dress Like Shakespeare" events, plus the performance of many of his most popular plays and poetry.

National Shakespeare Day might not be an official holiday (yet ...), but it certainly ensures that we remember the greatness of the timeless Bard of Avon.

The information for this article was taken Wikipedia and www.thoughtco.com

Space To Share A Prayer

An Easter Prayer (*Taken from The Book Of Common Prayer*)

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Strap Lines

When it seems as if God isn't solving our problems, maybe it's because He has faith in our own abilities.

Anger is only one letter removed from danger.

Try thinking of church as a hospital for sinners, rather than a shrine for saints ...

We shouldn't worry about what other people think of us, the chances are they don't do it very often.

Faith is the certainty that God's will is being carried out, even when it doesn't look like it.

Time for A Smile

A visiting bishop was just getting into his stride with the sermon at Evensong, when a power cut took the lights out. The Verger dutifully produced candles from the vestry and the bishop returned to the pulpit and shuffled his notes,

"Now where was I up to?" He mused aloud.

To which a voice from the front pew replied, "Almost at the end!"

A teenager who had just passed his driving test offered to drive his parents to church; after a somewhat hair-raising journey, they eventually pulled up outside the church.

His mother got out unsteadily and said, "Thank you".

"Any time", replied the young man.

His mother turned and said, "I wasn't talking to you, I was talking to God!"

The young curate's 6 year old daughter had been very challenging all week, and as a punishment the curate decided she should forgo the Sunday School outing. When the day arrived he wondered whether he may have been too harsh and relented, telling the little girl she could go on the trip after all.

Instead of the excited response he'd expected, the little girl was pretty gloomy.

"What's up?" The curate asked, "I thought you would be pleased",

"It's too late" replied the little girl looking downcast, "I've already prayed for rain!"

The Parish Puzzler

Think Of A Word

How many words can you think of that include the following letters?

E A S T E R

Bible Quiz 3 – Where ...

1. Where was Jonah trying to avoid going to when the whale swallowed him?
2. Where was Jesus when Mary and Joseph couldn't find Him?
3. Where was Joseph taken to when his brothers sold him into slavery?
4. Where did Jesus perform His first miracle?
5. Where did the crowds gather on the first Palm Sunday?
6. Where did Moses' mother leave him so that the Egyptians would find him?
7. Where was Jesus praying when he was betrayed by Judas?
8. Where did Moses receive the 10 Commandments?
9. Where was the tree of all knowledge to be found?
10. Where did John the Baptist baptise the early Christians?

(Answers on page 33)

Village Trivia

Last month's question:

Q. There are several 'banks' in Ainsworth, but none of them the monetary type – can you name two of them?

A. Holly Bank, Rosebank Close, Bankfield

This month's question:

Q. Where would you find "Good food served daily"?

Answer in next month's magazine.

Who's Who

Vicar	Revd Dave Thomson Christ Church Vicarage Ainsworth Hall Road. Ainsworth BL2 5RY vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk Twitter @Vicar_Dave	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Church Treasurer	Melissa Fogg	
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	Geoff Hampson	07910817577
Church Lottery	Judith White	07812074776
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com
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 nd Sunday Family & Parade Service
12.00pm	Baptisms (Except 2 nd and last Sunday)

Weds 6.15pm Mid-Week Praise

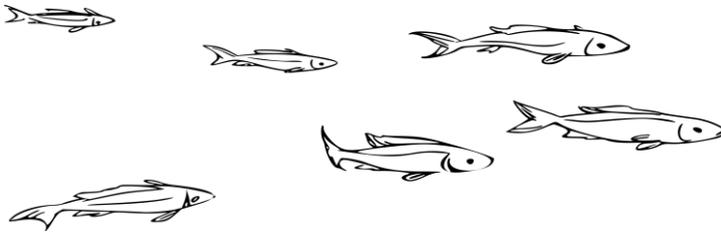
Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty

Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage and Funerals
Contact Revd Dave Thomson.

(Answer to Bible Quiz – Where? 1) Ninevah, 2) in the Temples; 3) Egypt; 4) Cana; 5) Jerusalem; 6) in a basket in the Bullrushes; 7) The Garden of Gethsemane; 8) On Mount Sinai; 9) The Garden of Eden; 10) The River Jordan.

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
Sunday School		
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	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	
Scouts 14 th Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Monday 7 – 8.30pm; last Wednesday of the month 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader John Turner	01204 381590
Rainbows 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 4.30pm to 6.00pm in the Church Hall Rainbow Guider	
Brownies 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Captain Emma Lee	0161 764 2243



Little Fishes

Easter



The Easter Story

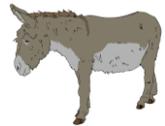
Over 2000 years ago, a man called Jesus, brought a message of hope and love to the world. Many people listened to Jesus as He spoke of God's love, and were inspired by what He said and by the things that He did. Jesus had a small group of friends who were especially close to Him and had begun to help Him to spread the good news of God's love - these were Jesus's disciples

Jesus was the Son of God; He had been sent to spread the word of God and to save mankind from sin. Although the disciples didn't fully understand it, Jesus knew that the only way that this could happen was through His own death - this is what happened ...

Palm Sunday ... One day, Jesus and His disciples were on their way to visit Jerusalem; as they came near, Jesus stopped and asked 2 of His disciples to go on ahead, He told them,

"When you get to the town you will see a donkey tied up, untie it and bring it to me. If anyone questions you tell them that the Lord needs the donkey, and He will return it later."

So, the disciples did as they were asked and brought the donkey to Jesus. Some of them put their cloaks on the donkey's back and then Jesus rode the donkey on towards Jerusalem.



Many people had heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem - they had heard about some of the miracles that Jesus had performed in other places, and they were very excited to see Him and hear



Him themselves. When the people spotted Jesus riding towards Jerusalem they came running to greet Him; they knew that He was special, and so some threw their cloaks down onto the road for the donkey to walk on, and many others threw Palm leaves down - a bit like putting a red carpet out for someone really important to walk on!

As they got closer to Jerusalem, more and more people joined them, they waved their Palm branches and shouted out,

“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!”

But some people were not happy about all this, the Chief Priests and Pharisees were religious leaders, so you would expect them to be really happy to see Jesus and listen to Him, but actually they thought that Jesus was getting far too much attention, they didn't like what He was saying, and they wanted to get rid of Him.

Jesus didn't go right into the city that day because the time wasn't right.

Mauddy Thursday - The Last Supper



The following Thursday was the first day of the feast of Passover; Jewish people have celebrated the Passover ever since the time of Moses, when the Lord 'passed over' their houses and so saved all of the Israelite babies.

The disciples asked Jesus where they should meet to eat their Passover meal. Jesus replied to them, "Go into the city and you will find a man. Tell him that we would like to come to his house for Passover."

The disciples did as Jesus asked and prepared the Passover meal. Later that evening, Jesus met with his friends; the disciples were worried because they knew that the Chief Priests and the Pharisees weren't happy about Jesus becoming so popular; in fact, the Pharisees were trying to work out a way to get rid of Jesus once and for all!



Before they all sat down to eat, Jesus did something which surprised His friends - He took water and a towel and insisted on washing their feet; this was a job that the lowest of the servants would usually have been expected to do. Jesus was a very, very special person,



so imagine that, to the disciples, this would have been like a huge celebrity coming into your home and beginning to clean your shoes or tidy your bedroom!! Jesus did this to teach the disciples that they should all serve and help other people, no one is too great or too grand to look out for people around them.

Then Jesus sat down for supper with his friends. He thanked God for the bread and shared it with the disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body which is given for you". Then He took a full cup of wine, He thanked God for it and said, "This is my blood, which will be shed for many people so their sins may be forgiven." They all took a sip from the cup.



Just as Jesus had shared a loaf of bread and a cup of wine with His friends, he told them they should always do that in future "in remembrance of me".

Good Friday - The Betrayal

Judas was one of Jesus' disciples, but he had secretly decided to betray Jesus - he promised the Guards at the Temple that he would show them where Jesus was; they even agreed a secret sign to make sure the Guards knew they had got the right man. Early



the next morning, Judas went with the Guards to the place where Jesus was praying with His disciples, Judas walked straight up to Jesus and

kissed Him - this was the secret sign, and quickly the Guards arrested him.

The Guards took Jesus to their Governor, Pontious Pilate, who asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "Yes, I am."

This upset the Chief Priests because they were jealous of him and the friends He had made.



Pilate listened to the things that the Chief Priests and the Pharisees were saying about Jesus, but he really couldn't see any

reason to punish Him, it didn't seem that Jesus had done anything so very wrong. Pilate asked Jesus lots of questions - he was actually really interested in the things Jesus said, but Jesus didn't stick up for himself - it was almost as if He knew that the people wouldn't listen anyway, even though He had done nothing wrong.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him."

But the people didn't like that at all and shouted, "Kill Jesus! Release Barabbas instead!" Barabbas was in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. That probably sounds a bit strange, but the people who didn't like Jesus had done such a good job of telling lies about Him that lots of other people had become scared and now they really believed that Jesus was a bad person!

Pilate didn't like this at all, he tried to talk to the angry crowd; he asked them what Jesus had done; he told them that Jesus didn't deserve to die and that they should release Him. But the crowd just became more and more angry. Pilate didn't want the crowd to begin a riot, so in the end he agreed to hand Jesus over to the guards and released Barabbas instead.



The soldiers dressed Jesus in a purple robe and put a crown of thorns on his head, they laughed at Him and made fun of Him, then they lead him away to a hill named Golgotha. 

There were three crosses on the hill and the soldiers nailed Jesus to the one in the middle; then once again the crowd started laughing and jeering; they made a sign that said,

JESUS OF NAZARETH - KING OF THE JEWS

They shouted, "If you can save other people, why don't you save yourself?".

Jesus could have saved Himself, but He chose not to - He wanted to save us instead.

Later that same day, as Jesus hung on the cross, He cried out, "It is finished!", and then He died. At that same moment a great



darkness came over the whole land, it completely covered the sun, and the people were terrified. In the temple in the city a huge curtain suddenly tore in half, but no one could see why it had happened, until one of

the soldiers who had wanted Jesus to die, suddenly understood and said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Too late he realised he had been wrong about Jesus.

Easter Sunday - The Resurrection

After Jesus died, His friends took His body away and placed it in a stone tomb, this would have been a bit like a cave.

They wrapped Jesus's body in white cloths and, before they went away, they rolled a huge boulder in front of the tomb so that nothing and no one could get in.



Jesus's friends were very sad, but they were also very scared - wondering if the crowd might turn against them next.

On the third day, which was Sunday, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went back to the tomb early in the morning, taking special oils with them. When they reached the tomb, they saw that the boulder had been moved and the tomb was open. Not only that - Jesus's body had gone too!!

The women were very scared, but just as they were wondering



what to do, an angel appeared by the tomb and said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died, but He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself,

the tomb is empty."

The women were confused; they were sure Jesus had died, so how could He be alive? They looked in the tomb - the cloths Jesus had

been wrapped in were lying on the ground and the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus, He is on his way to Galilee."

So, the women turned and hurried away, they were laughing and crying all at the same time. As they ran back down the path,



suddenly, there was Jesus! The women quickly knelt down and worshipped Him, Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, tell my disciples to come to Jerusalem - that is where they will see me."

The disciples quickly made their way to Jerusalem, they were all sitting together, talking, and wondering what to do next, when Jesus walked into the room and said to them, "Peace be with you."



The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were still shocked to see Him standing there with them.

Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me as if I am a ghost? Why don't you believe what you are seeing? Look at the scars on my hands and feet. It really is me!"

The disciples were astonished, even though Mary and her friends had told them about Jesus being alive again. They were so full of joy, and yet was it really possible? Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible."

The Easter story might seem like a really sad story, but when you read it all and begin to understand a bit more about who Jesus really was and what He did, it's actually the greatest story of all times.

Jesus died to save everyone else; He died so that our sins would be forgiven. Jesus died on the cross because He loves us, no matter who we are or what we do! Each and every one of us must try to remember that and to do our best to love Jesus in return.

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