

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Artwork courtesy of Ainsworth Beavers
From top left clockwise – Tom, Bobby, Giovanna, Henry
(All aged 7 years)

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

February 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

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

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 February 2022

(Subject to any current covid restrictions)

- Wed. 2nd Feb 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
- Sun. 6th **THE ACCESSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 1952**
 10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
- Wed. 9th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
- Sun. 13th **THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**
 8:00am COVID-secure BCP Communion (in Church)
 10:30am Parade & Family Service (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
- Wed. 16th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
- Sun. 20th **THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**
 10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
- Wed. 23rd 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
- Sun. 27th **THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**
 8:00am COVID-secure BCP Communion (in Church)
 10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
- Wed. 2nd Mar **ASH WEDNESDAY**
 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
 7:30pm COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
- Sun. 6th **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
 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:

For your comfort we are operating 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 the NHS Test & Trace app, then sit in Zone 1. If you are clinically vulnerable, you might prefer Zone 3.

Everyone 11 years of age and over must wear a mask in Church unless clinically exempt. Masks may be removed (briefly) to receive Communion, when singing, or if leading worship in some way (e.g., if reading the Bible lesson).

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.

Zone 2 (remaining pews on left hand side of the aisle – 1m⁺ social distance): Please sit in the designated pews, sitting in the space indicated by arrows. NOT IN OPERATION DURING CHURCH PARADE

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.

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).
- Zone 1 – we will distribute to you from the Sanctuary Steps. Please line up as directed, only 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.
- To avoid handling service books, a PowerPoint version of the order of service is projected in church. However, if you struggle with this, there are a few printed orders of service available on request (please take them home with you afterwards).
- 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 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 in church due to the risk to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately and arrange a PCR test. Likewise, please stay at home if you have been instructed to do so by Test & Trace.

A few words from the Vicar

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. (Romans 13:1)

February this year is a funny (as in odd) month in Church life. Often, Lent begins, during February but, with Easter Sunday on 17th April, Ash Wednesday is on 2nd March. So, I can't write about Lent this month. Neither can I write about Epiphany, which finished with Candlemas on 30th January.

We're in a sort of in-betweeny time that, for want of a better title, is described in the Church calendar as 'Before Lent'.

But there is one important celebration this month. During worship on 6th February, we mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the throne. It is important and appropriate we do so. Not only is Her Majesty Supreme Governor of the Church of England but, over the last 70 years she has gently witnessed to her own Christian faith. In this, she is a good example to the rest of us.

Good example? Well, yes! Although whizz-bang evangelistic events and shiny new Church growth programmes have a place within the life of the CofE (although, personally, I have serious doubts about that), it is much more important for each of us to ensure our faith is a central and natural part of our lives.

Of course, none of us broadcasts to the nation on Christmas Day, neither are we shown on the news leaving Church after attending worship with our families. But we can witness gently to others by being regular in worship and putting our faith into action in simple ways (being a good neighbour, for example). Also, like Her Majesty, we ought to be willing to speak naturally of our faith.

Why? Well, if our faith in Jesus is evident and attractive, others will take an interest. If, however, others get the impression that our faith in Jesus is unimportant to us, that our faith does not inform how we interact with others, then nobody will be interested.

Then there is the ecumenical dimension. Every time Her Majesty crosses the border, she becomes a member of the Church of Scotland, a Presbyterian rather than an Anglican. A reminder to us that there is Christian life beyond the Church of England and, in our case, a reminder of the importance of our centuries-long relationship with Ainsworth Methodists.

Why do I mention this? Isn't our relationship a given?

Well, important changes are taking place within Manchester Diocese. Specifically, as I keep mentioning, our parish now forms part of a Mission Community with several others, stretching south from Ainsworth and Walshaw to Whitefield via Radcliffe. As the importance of our Mission Community grows in the life of this parish, as clergy become more stretched, if we are not careful, this could come at the expense of our local ecumenical relationship.

I would hate for that to happen! Indeed, whatever the future holds for our Mission Community, we need to give priority to maintaining close relations with our Methodist brothers and sisters in Christ.

So, now that we are moving from a pandemic to endemic situation where restrictions will no longer be required, we need to get the ball rolling again. So, Ian and I are reintroducing our joint Palm Sunday procession and service. This time, however, we process from our Church to Ainsworth Methodists. I know this is a long way off (10th April), but please put the date in your diary.

God Bless - *Dave*

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the February 2022 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is, as always, packed with useful information and interesting articles and reports – after all the frantic preparations surrounding Christmas and New Year, the slightly quieter time of January and February give everyone chance to regroup.

It seems that the winter months and inclement weather have been with us for a long while now, but there are definitely signs of Spring – slightly lighter nights and mornings, bird song and a few hardy bulbs peeping up - all are encouraging and give us something to look forwards to!

Talking of things to look forwards to, 2022 marks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, celebrating not only her 70 years of service as Queen but also reflecting the fact that she is the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, and the longest reigning monarch in British history. As part of the celebrations, we have an extra long bank holiday to look forwards to, plus numerous events and initiatives at both local and national level; it would be lovely to be able to include some pieces on past Jubilee celebrations in future magazines – if you would be willing to share your memories / photos please get in touch.

Recently, members of our uniformed organisations have been busy creating their own stained glass window designs for our Parish Magazine front covers – maybe there's someone artistic out there who would like to create a Jubilee themed stained glass window design for our July Parish Magazine front cover ... Feel free to send your offerings to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Enjoy this month's magazine - hopefully you'll find a little inspiration to spur you on through the last of these winter months! 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.

Traditionally, stained glass is glass coloured by adding metallic salts to the glass when it is made. The coloured glass is then made into stained glass windows. Small pieces of coloured glass are

arranged to form patterns or pictures. The glass is then held together by strips of lead and supported by a rigid frame.

There are many examples of beautiful stained glass windows in Churches, Cathedrals and other places of worship, but stained glass windows are also increasingly popular in private homes and commercial buildings.

The windows themselves may be intricate patterns, or in some cases tell a story; bible scenes and characters are often depicted in stained glass.

A big thank you must go to Rikki and Ainsworth Beaver's for this month's front cover artwork – all of which are of a very high standard. Tom, Bobby, Giovanna and Henry are this month's cover artists, but



special mention must also go to George (also aged 7), who chose to create a narrative window (see left); at the top of the window we see the wise men presenting their gifts to the baby Jesus, there is even a camel waiting patiently in the background! Moving along there is an empty cross before Easter, followed by Jesus crucified and the hope that ultimately this will lead us towards world peace. I never stop being amazed by some of the things that these young people come up with and the standard of work that they produce - *Alison*

From The Registers

FUNERALS

December 3rd
8th
14th
20th
22nd

We commend to God's keeping
Norman Nurney
Eunice Marsden
Audrey Parker
Nora Tudge
Peter Foran

Treasurer

A big thankyou to Melissa Fogg, who has volunteered to take on the role of Church Treasurer. This is a really important role, and we are grateful to Melissa for taking it on.

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.

Coffee And Conversation

The next Ainsworth Community Coffee and Conversation will be held on Tuesday 8th of February. 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.

Christingle 2021 Update

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christingle service in Church on Sunday 5th December. Sadly, there were not many of us, but what we lacked in numbers, we made up for with enthusiasm! We sang familiar carols and had fun putting together the Christingles, remembering what each element of it means. It really is a lovely service signifying hope in times of adversity, a light at the end of a tunnel of difficulty; and what a difficult year it had been for many.

I have to say THANK YOU also to the Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who put their donations into the collection candles and envelopes before finishing for Christmas. It shows what our young people are like when they can spare time to remember children who are not as fortunate as themselves.

The total amount raised for The Children's Society Christingle appeal was £372.09.

You might be interested to know what kind of things this money will be used for:

£45.65 - could pay for the first half hour talking therapy session to help a child who has been bullied begin the process of overcoming trauma.

£106.61 - could pay for a child to have an intensive therapy session

with one of the Society's trained practitioners

£273.58 - could pay for a young person in care to have 6 sessions of one-to-one support with a trained project worker, who can give professional advice and help them look forward to the future.

£639.68 - could pay for a series of 6 sessions of intensive support to help a child who has been abused to manage their trauma and move forward to thinking about a brighter future.

There are projects run by The Children's Society all across England, including some locally in the North West, notably in Rochdale and Oldham. The money raised to pay for these is all donated by people like you. The difference made to the lives of the young people is immense, they are so grateful to have the chance of escaping their problems with help. One of them is Alyssa who says "I don't know what I would have done without The Children's Society....I feel like everyone else deserves the help I got".

Susan Campbell, local secretary The Children's Society

The Children's Society Housebox Collection

The Children's Society housebox collection will be done in March in the same way as it was completed last year. As many people are still being careful and wishing to avoid interaction with too many individuals, this feels like the best way forwards.

I will be sending out letters to everyone on the housebox list, informing them of the date when boxes will be collected from their home. I will then return the boxes the following week. I really enjoyed seeing everyone last year and having a chat at the door, so I am looking forward to the same this year!

Some of you may be fans of the BBC TV programme Countryfile. If you are, eagle-eyed viewers may have noticed that The Children's Society was featured on the episode on Sunday 16th January. They were covering a topic involving "county lines" where children in rural areas and suburban areas are bullied into running errands for drug gangs. This is a difficult problem to eradicate as the gang leaders prey on isolated youngsters and threaten family members if they do not deliver the drugs. By working with other agencies such as the Police

and council departments, The Children's Society is trying to support families in different ways - this is an example of a situation where no one solution suits all.

For over 140 years, the Society has been fighting for the hope and happiness of this country's young people, including in recent years, campaigns to bring about big social changes so that young people can have better lives today and greater opportunities in the future. Your continued help by supporting the housebox collection is a large part of this change. Thank you.

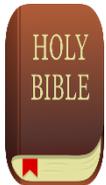
Susan Campbell local secretary

If you would like to donate to The Children's Society work for young people, please get in touch with me and I will explain how you can be part of our fundraising efforts.

Email: suecampbell1960@gmail.com

Tel: 01204 522523

100 Years Of The Bible Reading Fellowship



The story of the Bible Reading Fellowship began in 1922, when Revd. Leslie Mannering, the vicar at St. Matthew's Church in Brixton, South London, was discussing with a member of the congregation the spiritual needs of the church and local community.

In his sermon the following week, Revd. Mannering reminded his congregation that growing the kingdom of God in their neighbourhood, meant the personal commitment of every member of the church, and included them developing a regular practice of Bible reading and prayer. To help them to get started, he produced simple daily Bible reading notes.

The following month, January 1922, The Fellowship of St Matthew was launched with the aim of encouraging spiritual growth in the areas of prayer, Bible reading and Communion. A new monthly leaflet provided Bible passages for daily reading with brief explanatory notes and prayer needs for the parish, the wider Church and the world. Within the first month 100 people had signed up for the Bible study notes, by the end of the first year it was 175. More and more churches began requesting copies of the leaflets, and in 1926, the Fellowship of St Matthew became known as The Bible Reading Fellowship. By 1939

238,000 copies of the Bible reading notes were being printed for an international audience.

100 years later, the Bible Reading Fellowship is still going strong and has a number of initiatives lined up to mark their centenary year; amongst other things, the BBC's 'Songs Of Praise' on 23/01/22 will be dedicated to the work of the Bible Reading Fellowship, then on 24/04/22 an online service of thanksgiving and celebration will be streamed.

For more information on the BRF or their centenary celebrations visit www.brf.org.uk

Daily Bible reading notes can be ordered online, or by contacting Jane Lord, our local BRF representative on 0161-764-1551.

Fairtrade Fortnight – 21/02/22 – 06/03/22



Fairtrade works with farming co-operatives, businesses, and governments to make trade fair so that producers earn secure and sustainable livelihoods.

The climate crisis is a huge threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. Without a fairer income, farmers and workers are unable to invest in the types of mitigation and adaptation techniques needed to protect the environment, and their businesses. This represents a vicious cycle of poverty in which steps towards environmental protection and decarbonisation are likely to be beyond the reach for those who aren't even able to earn a living income because the price they receive for

their produce is far too low.

When thinking of Fairtrade, most people think of bananas, chocolate or tea and coffee, but there are many other Fairtrade products, including gold, wine, clothes, beauty products and flowers. There are over 70,000 people growing, harvesting, packing, and caring for Fairtrade flowers which are traceable to the original farm. Fairtrade certified farms must ensure safety and working conditions for their employees. These farms receive a Fairtrade Premium of 10% for

every item sold, which allows workers to invest in healthcare, education and other social benefits.

There are a number of events and initiatives on offer throughout Fairtrade fortnight – for more info visit <https://action.fairtrade.org.uk> or follow the link at www.manchester.anglican.org

Help For A Pilgrim

“Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Pip Bowhay, I am a 66 year young lady from the congregation of All Saints, Kenton, Devon. I am writing to ask for help with a venture I plan for this year. Let me explain:

I lost my sight in 2007 due to a stroke. Since then, I have completed two long distance, fund-raising walks, both for large charities. I had planned to walk the Via Francigena- Canterbury to Rome last year, to raise much needed cash for St Petrock’s homeless shelter in Exeter. Due mainly to the pandemic, I am instead, walking between most of the Anglican cathedrals in England; from Truro across to Canterbury, then up the east to Durham, across to Liverpool, and then down the west taking in Coventry and Lichfield and finishing in Exeter. My route is quite convoluted because I’m trying to keep to about 10 miles per day, keeping off A and B roads where possible. I can’t walk on tracks or trails on my own as I have balance issues linked to my loss of sight. Hence, it’s Tarmac all the way.

They say, “No man is an island” and, in that vein, I am asking for help from all the church communities along my way. Specifically, I am asking for accommodation for a weary traveller for one night; If there is an offer of a meal, it will be most gratefully received; I’m a demon dishwasher. However, I can pick something up on route or eat locally if that is possible and more convenient. Ainsworth is on day 112, which is 30th July.

Please would you put my plea to your flock and pass my email on to anyone who can offer help. I appreciate that the date is somewhat distant, but the walk is 153 days long and I'd like to know where I'm staying each night, before I begin, I also appreciate that these are uncertain times and people will, naturally, be wary about who to allow into homes. I Have been Double-jabbed and Boosted! and I can only say that I follow all the guidelines for keeping myself and others safe.”

Please get in touch with Revd. Dave if you are able to help.



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 8th February

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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



Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Ainsworth History Society Meeting

Monday 7th February

7.30pm, Duke William, Well Street

Everyone welcome. Please note – no meeting in January due to the Bank holiday.

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 8th February

10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome

Save The Date!!

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.

Save The Date

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.

Porch Boxes

We are now able to receive donations for Porch Boxes in Church again, but it's also still an option to 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 09-01-55, account name The Porch or Online

<https://porchboxes.wordpress.com/>

Hints And Tips From Yesteryear

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

- Egg whites thicken up twice as fast when you are beating them, if you add a small pinch of salt.

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

Around The Organisations ...

Beavers

The Beavers enjoyed their Christmas Party along with a visit from Father Christmas.

Scarlett Fogg, Theo Smith and Sonny Woodhouse have now gone up to Cubs and we wish them well. We now look forward to another year of Fun with badge work, sleepovers and Fun Days at Giant's Seat Camp Site.

Rikki

16th Radcliffe Brownies

We have awarded our first 3 gold awards , the highest award a Brownie can get - over 28 badges were earnt by each girl to achieve this and hours of unit meeting activities. Well done to Amber, Grace and Aoife. It is a huge achievement and you should all be very proud. Thanks too to their parents for supporting them in completing this challenge which involved a trip to St Thomas Guides to do highland dancing and crafts.

We rounded up last term with a christmas party and baking night - we have missed making food. The girls iced reindeer cupcakes and gingerbread men before enjoying games and food.

We are now back and working on our mindfulness badge - the girls made some grateful jars and we talked about everything we are thankful for. We are planning an awards ceremony and a trip to the pantomime - we have also missed trips . We have welcomed 6 new girls - Phoebe, Alice, Amelia, Annabelle, Isla and Rebecca and now have a waiting list.

And the big news is - OUR PACK WILL BE 50 YEARS OLD ON THE 1 March. It was founded in 1972 so we will be celebrating. If you went to our pack and have memories or photos please do get in touch.

Yours in Guiding

Sarah Mac- Snowy Owl

Ainsworth History Society www.ainsworthhistorysociety.org

The next meeting of Ainsworth History Society will be held on Monday 7th February, in the gazebo outside the duke William, Well Street.

Transformation - Now!

I quote in part from the Mothers' Union website:

'Our evolving response to the effects of a global pandemic combined with the start of a new triennium presents an opportunity to look to the future with fresh vision as we adapt and learn to thrive in these changing times.

In 2020/21, Mothers' Union members showed amazing resilience, responsiveness, and adaptability. Now is the time to build on this experience to:

- *Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith.....*
- *Transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21st century life.*

"For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37)"

As I mentioned last month, we will revisit this theme throughout the year but perhaps we could start by privately looking at the first item.

How CAN we transform ourselves? Maybe we could put aside a few minutes once a day or week to ponder, meditate and pray about our personal and spiritual welfare and faith. Just as a starting thought; do you remember our theme for 2017, 'Faith in Action'?

The Covid infection rates have become unstable again and we may find that we have to alter our planned program at the last minute. I hope not but hope that you will be understanding if this proves necessary.

At the time of writing, our AGM is still planned for the 1st February at 2.30pm. Subs will be due that day and we will make sure that you all know the necessary amount before that date.

We will meet at the same time on the 15th February when we will once again use MU resources for our time together.

As a preliminary notice our pancake celebration will be on Tuesday 1st March.

Jennifer White (Hon. Secretary)

Just A Thought

Always tell the truth; it is the easiest thing to remember.

From the Archives – February 1997

In 'The Vicar's Letter' in the February 1997 Parish Magazine, Father Alan wrote about the period of Lent being like a journey, and the need for Christians to use this time as a period of contemplation and preparation. Easter must have fallen early in 1997 as there were a number of mentions of Lent preparations throughout the magazine, including the Ash Wednesday Communion services and Tuesday evening Lenten Devotional Services. Also within the Parish Diary, a note that a Confirmation Service would be held at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe later that month – no Evensong at Ainsworth on that day.

Whilst the various groups and organisations had only just returned from their Christmas break, there were already plans underway for camps, Pack Holidays, talks, outings, fund raising events – the leaders then, as now, clearly put a huge amount of time and effort into planning their programmes.

In February 1997, the 'Face To Face' interview was with George Fish, the former Parish Reader; The 'Holiday Church' featured in the February 1997 Parish Magazine was All Saints, Edmonton, London, the article having been sent in courtesy of Marjorie Jones. The article describes Edmonton as, "... a rather dreary suburb in the North East of London ...", but turn down the aptly named "All Saints Close" to discover "... another world. Set in a large old churchyard, grassy with a good number of trees and bushes, there stands this beautiful church, large and built of a soft warm coloured local stone ...". (A quick google search reveals this is an accurate description and, eerily, the black and white sketch included with the article is there as a full colour photograph showing the recent restoration of the church tower, following receipt of a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund!

In February 1997 there were 3 Baptisms and 2 Funerals recorded from the previous month, but no Weddings. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 477 (a separate note listed 131 of these Communicants were from Christmas Day!!) and the collections totalled £1761.

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

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." - Matthew 28:19:

Some Thoughts ... These were the words that Jesus said to His disciples shortly before the ascension; He tasked them with going out into the world and making more disciples from all the corners of the earth – this was to include people of all nations and all ethnicities. Through Jesus, the ripples of the word of God had spread wider and wider so that the term 'God's people' was no longer restricted to the people of Israel.

Jesus' disciples had learned from Him by listening to His teachings and following His example – they were now asked to go out into the world and work with others in the same way, bringing others to faith. They were also given authority to baptise in the name of God; a person's willingness to be publicly baptised being evidence of their belief in and commitment to follow Jesus.

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

Hidden Gems

Bramhall Hall

Bramhall Hall is one of Cheshire's most impressive black and white timber framed buildings; the Tudor Manor House is set in approximately 70 acres of parkland on the outskirts of Stockport, and is currently owned and managed by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.

The name 'Bramall' means "nook of land where broom grows", the earliest reference to Bramall can be found in the Domesday Book, at which time the manor was part of the Hamestan Hundred of Cheshire, and worth 36 shillings!

Bramall Hall was owned by various members of the Davenport family for the best part of 500 years, but due to financial difficulties the property was eventually offered for sale by auction in 1923. The new owner, John Henry Davies, lived in the house until his death in 1927; his widow remained there until 1935, at which point the property was

sold to Hazel Grove and Bramall Urban District Council, with the intention that the house and grounds be opened to the public.

In recent years, thanks to a £1.6 million grant from the Heritage National Lottery Fund, Bramhall Hall has undergone an extensive programme of restoration, both inside and out. Floors, ceilings, walls, furniture, works of art – all have been extensively cleaned and where necessary refurbished by skilled craftsmen using traditional techniques. As a result, the Hall has quite literally been brought back to life; an extensive programme of activities runs throughout the year, ensuring there is ‘something for everyone’; new interpretation boards tell the Hall's fascinating story through film, virtual tours, interactives and a giant family tree, and volunteers from The Friends Of Bramhall Park are on hand to share their knowledge and expertise with visitors young and old.

The park surrounding Bramhall Hall is also well worth exploring; during the late 1890's, Sir Charles Neville completely reimagined the landscape of his estate to reflect the trends of the time; he even went so far as to divert the River Ladybrook to achieve his desired results! Attractive formal gardens are found close to the hall, with various different planting schemes and themes found in other areas of the park. A number of woodland trails follow the course of the river and wind their ways through the ancient woodland; most paths are wheelchair accessible – but be warned – whichever route you follow, the return journey to the carpark is going to be uphill!

Whilst there is an expectation that visitors will be respectful of their surroundings, there are no ‘Keep Off The Grass’ signs and dogs are welcome in the grounds. For those with young families a small but well equipped play area will provide hours of fun.

Part of the recent major redevelopment at Bramhall also saw the conversion of some rundown and underused outhouses into the all essential café – the resulting ‘Stables Kitchen’ is set within a walled garden for those who wish to eat outside and offers a delicious selection of hot / cold drinks, snacks and home made cakes. Truly a hidden gem and well worth a visit.

For more information about Bramhall Hall and Bramhall Park visit www.stockport.gov.uk

(Thank you to Joyce Atherton, who got in touch following last month's article about Gawthorpe Hall; you may be interested to know that the novel "The Familiars" by Stacey Halls, is about a young, married woman living at Gawthorpe Hall at the time of the Pendle Witch Trials – evocative of the time and setting, and well worth a read.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



The big event of 2022 will surely be The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking not only her 70 years of service as Queen but also reflecting the fact that she is the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, and the longest reigning monarch in British history.

To celebrate this momentous achievement, a whole host of initiatives and events will be held across the UK and throughout the Commonwealth, culminating in an extended Bank Holiday from Thursday the 2nd of June to Sunday 5th June. This Bank Holiday period will include public events, local community activities and also national moments of reflection on Her Majesty's life and reign.

Three of the most popular Royal sites for visitors - Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse - will all be staging special exhibitions and events: Buckingham Palace summer openings return in 2022 with stunning portraits of The Queen by photographer Dorothy Wilding, along with items of personal jewellery worn for the sittings. At Windsor Castle, the Coronation dress and Robe Of State worn by The Queen will be on display, while at the Palace of Holyroodhouse you will be able to see a display of outfits worn by Her Majesty on occasions to celebrate the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees.

A number of additional long term initiatives are already underway, the Queens Green Canopy encourages individuals, groups and communities to plant a tree to celebrate the Jubilee and also help the environment (visit www.queensgreencanopy.org for more info); the Platinum Pudding Competition is a nationwide baking competition which sets out to find a brand new pudding dedicated to The Queen (visit www.fortnumandmason.com/platinum-pudding for more info).

Visit platinumjubilee.gov.uk for event listings in most areas.

Jubilees Through History

The concept of the jubilee dates back at least as far as Biblical times. Initially jubilees were simply used to provide a practical structure for land management; every seventh year was marked as a jubilee year, and in that year the land was left to lie fallow. Over time the jubilee year began to take on more significance, with a commonly held belief that God would be more bountiful in a jubilee year.

In the Roman Catholic Church, jubilees began to be formally celebrated around 1300 AD and were seen as years of forgiveness of sins and reconciliation.

The concept of the Royal Jubilee dates back to the reign of King George III, when on the 25th October 1809, the beginning of the fiftieth year of his reign was marked both in Britain and across the Colonies. Since then, Royal Jubilees have become an occasion to mark and celebrate various milestones within the life and reign of a monarch; Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was celebrated on 20 and 21 June 1887, and her Diamond Jubilee 10 years later, on 22nd June 1897.

In more recent years, Queen Elizabeth II has celebrated 3 major Jubilees – her Silver Jubilee was celebrated throughout the United Kingdom and Commonwealth in 1977, her Golden Jubilee in 2002 and her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. On each occasion a whole range of events and initiatives have aimed to connect with and involve people from all walks of life – from the splendour and pageantry of the royal processions to the formal acts of worship held throughout the country, to the many street parties and community gatherings – the celebrations gave the nation an opportunity to show its affection for Her Majesty and its gratitude for her dedicated service.

Watch this space for more information about The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, but it would also be lovely to be able to include some recollections from our readers – do you have fond memories (and / or pictures) of previous Jubilee celebrations? Do you remember the Queen's Coronation? Have you ever met the Queen or attended a Royal Garden Party? If so, why not consider sharing it with others – either e-mail your piece to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com or, if you prefer good old fashioned 'snail mail', simply jot down your recollections and drop off in Church or at 30, Knowsley Road, Ainsworth.

Cook's Corner



Vegetable Pasta Bake

You will need:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 courgette, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 peppers, diced
- 1 packet baby sweetcorns, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 100g cherry tomatoes
- 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 1 tsp sugar
- 400ml vegetable stock
- 300g penne pasta
- 1 tub of ricotta
- 50g grated cheese

1) Heat the oil in a large saucepan, then add the courgette, onion, peppers and garlic. Cook on a low heat for approx 5 mins until the vegetables are soft.

2) Meanwhile cook the penne pasta in boiling water until tender

3) Add the cherry tomatoes to the pan of vegetables and cook for a further minute.

4) Stir in the chopped tomatoes, tomato puree and sugar, then add the vegetable stock and bring to the boil.

5) Drain the pasta, then add to the vegetables and tomatoes; simmer for about 10 minutes.

6) Transfer to an oven proof dish.

7) Tip the tub of ricotta into a small pan and heat over a low heat until fully melted, then pour over the vegetables and pasta to fully cover the surface.

8) Sprinkle with the grated cheese, then place in the oven at 180c for approx 20 minutes, or until the cheese is golden.

9) Enjoy!

On Reflection

Reflection 9 – Jonah and are we merciful to others? (Elizabeth Spiers)

This popular ‘tale’ tells how Jonah was swallowed by a whale after refusing to obey God.

Jonah clearly had no problem hearing God speak, but he obviously didn’t like what he heard. God told him to go to Nineveh which was an evil city with an evil king. Their fearsome reputation was legendary. The people were cruel and barbaric, especially in their dealings with enemies and foreigners. No wonder Jonah didn’t want to go. Instead, he boarded a boat going in the opposite direction. In other words, he ran away. Except that you can’t run away from God. Psalm 139 tells us:

*“If I take the wings of the morning or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there shall your hand lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.”*

God commanded a great storm to arise, and Jonah was eventually pushed overboard to save the passengers and crew. Cue the entry of the whale. In his distress, Jonah turned back to God, was rescued from his situation, and given a second opportunity to obey Him. This time Jonah went to Nineveh and began speaking the message that God had given him, that all Nineveh would be destroyed in 40 days. This message had a profound effect on the inhabitants of Nineveh and the whole nation repented and believed in God. God saw their repentance, forgave them, and didn’t destroy the city. A happy ending then?

Not for Jonah! He was furious with God for having mercy on such an evil people. This, he says, is why he ran away. He knew God was slow to anger and rich in mercy, but he wanted judgement on the city, not mercy. They had committed many atrocities and Jonah wanted to see them pay dearly for them.

Isn’t that just like us? We are happy to take a second chance, but we so often want someone who has hurt us or sinned against us to pay for it. That they don’t pay seems unjust and unfair, especially if we have behaved well. But our God is a God of love, who sent His own Son to pay the penalty for our sins. He has been incredibly merciful to us. Shouldn’t we be merciful to others?

‘For the one who has shown no mercy will be judged without mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.’ James 2:13

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

The following poem appeared in the February 1997 edition of the Parish Magazine

This Day

I may never see tomorrow
There's no written guarantee,
And things that happened yesterday
Belong to history,
I can't predict the future,
I cannot change the past,
I have just the present moment,
I should treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely
As it soon will pass away
And be lost to me forever
As part of yesterday,
I must exercise compassion,
Help the fallen to their feet,
Be a friend to the friendless,
Make an empty life complete.

The unkindest thing I do today,
May never be undone,
And friendships that I fail to win#
May never more be won,
I may not have another chance,
On bended knee I pray,
And thank God with a humble heart
For giving me this day.

(Anon)

High Days And Holidays

February – Random Acts Of Kindness Day – 17th February 2022

Being kind is more than just a nice thing to do; research has shown that being kind plays a crucial part in our physical and psychological wellbeing. Witnessing, participating in or receiving an act of kindness can all reduce stress levels and help us to feel happier, and the great

thing is that being kind doesn't have to be about making huge or grand gestures; the small things that we do can also make a really big difference both to ourselves and to the recipient of the act of kindness – how good is that!

Here are just a few of the ways in which kindness can boost our wellbeing:

- Kindness can help us to feel happier – when we give or receive kindness a hormone called dopamine is released in our brain creating a feeling of elevation which lifts our mood.
- Kindness can reduce stress – over time the exposure to dopamine we get from repeated acts of kindness can lead to a reduction of the release of the 'stress hormone' cortisol.
- Kindness can be good for the heart – when you are kind to someone you often get a feeling of 'emotional warmth', this in turn causes your body to produce the hormone Oxytocin. Oxytocin causes the release of a chemical called nitric oxide which in turn expands our blood vessels and reduces blood pressure.
- Oxytocin also plays a part in slowing down the ageing process by reducing inflammation and free radicals within the body – another benefit from that act of kindness!
- Kindness tends to improve relationships – let's face it, most of us would prefer to be around people who show us kindness.

Acts of kindness have been shown to have a 'ripple effect'; when we are kind we inspire others to follow that example; they in turn inspire others around them .. and so the ripples of kindness potentially continue to spread out long after the original act of kindness.

Random Acts Of Kindness Day was set up in 1995 by the Random Acts Of Kindness Foundation, as a way to celebrate the small things that we do that make a big difference. Most of us don't hold positions of national importance, but we can all do something; whether it's saying, 'hello' to someone in the street, making a colleague a cuppa, letting someone out of a side street when you're driving to work, planting a tree to be kind to the environment ... there are so many things that we can do to help to make the world a better place.

This year Random Acts Of Kindness Day is on 17/02/22 – why not take on 'The Kindness Challenge'? Simply challenge yourself to perform 3 random acts of kindness on that day and ask yourself how it made you feel.

Imagine how good you'd feel and how far all of those kindness ripples could spread if each one of us did that every single day.

Space To Share A Prayer

Loving God, help me not to lean on my own understanding, but in everything to acknowledge You so that You can direct my words, thoughts and actions.

I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

Strap Lines

Any fool can criticise, condemn and complain – and most of them do!

Anybody who's busy pulling on the oars doesn't have time to rock the boat.

The best time to make friends is before you need them.

You are never too bad to come into Church; you are never too good to stay out.

We may choose to ignore the facts, but that doesn't change them.

Time for A Smile

A large city church held a dinner evening to celebrate the success of a fund-raising campaign. They were delighted when the bishop agreed to attend, and the young people in the church were asked to be waiters for the event.

One boy delivered a main course to the top table with his thumb on top of the steak. The embarrassed rector said to the boy, "You shouldn't be serving the bishop holding the plate like that." The boy replied, "Sorry sir, but I assumed you wouldn't want it to fall on to the floor again."

A young girl once confessed to her priest that she was guilty of a great sin, because she looked in the mirror and said to herself, "I am so beautiful." The priest said, "My dear, that isn't a great sin, it's only a small mistake."

The Parish Puzzler

Think Of A Word

How many words can you make from the following letters?

S A I N T V A L E N T I N E

Bible Quiz 2 – Why ...

1. Why did Adam and Eve have to leave the Garden of Eden?
2. Why was Zacchaeus up in a tree?
3. Why were the Israelites in Egypt?
4. Why was Zechariah unable to speak?
5. Why was Paul on the road to Damascus?
6. Why were the disciples accused of being drunk?
7. Why did Jesus go into the wilderness for forty days?
8. Why did Noah release a raven and a dove from the Ark?
9. Why did Judas kiss Jesus?
10. Why did Jonah have to go to Ninevah?

(Answers on page 30)

Village Trivia

Last month's question:

Q. Metcalfe, Wood and Lauria are all past Vicars of Ainsworth Parish Church, but where else will you find them?

A. They all have Terraces named after them in Ainsworth Village – Wood Terrace, Metcalfe Terrace and Lauria Terrace can all be found off Harley Avenue.

This month's question:

Q. Where would you find Stanley and in which year?

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	Vacancy	
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

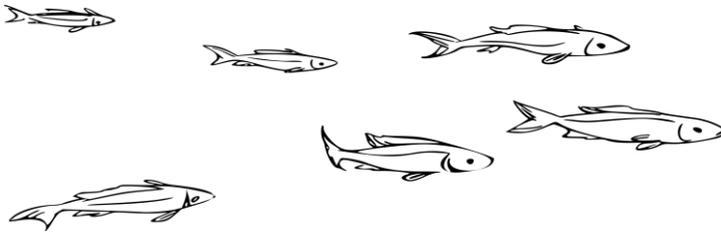
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage and Funerals
Contact Revd Dave Thomson.

(Answer to Bible Quiz – Why? 1) both of them ate fruit from the forbidden tree – God banished them from the garden for disobeying His command; 2) He was a small man and he wanted to see Jesus; 3) They had left Canaan due to a; 4) He doubted the word of the angel of God so was struck dumb; 5) He was on his way from Jerusalem with a mandate to seek out and arrest followers of Jesus; 6) Because the Holy Spirit allowed them to speak in tongues; 7) The Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil; 8) to determine whether the flood waters had receded enough to allow them to leave the Ark; 9) To betray Him, a kiss clearly identified Him to the

crowds; 10) he was called by God to go to Ninevah to prophesy disaster because of the city's excessive wickedness.

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	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 Jennifer White	07964 587694
Group Leader	Bill White group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscoouts.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.gmnscoouts.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

Parables



Jesus The Teacher

During His lifetime, Jesus told lots of different parables, always with the hope that the people listening to Him would think about what He was saying and learn from it. The parable we're going to look at today is about a shepherd and his flock of sheep - you can find this parable in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 18 and also in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15.

The Parable Of The Lost Sheep

Jesus originally told this parable to a group of Pharisees; the Pharisees were the Jewish leaders at that time, they were very clever people, and it was their job to make sure that everyone else followed the religious laws. The Pharisees were very pleased with themselves and thought that they were very important and better than the other people around them. In fact, they were so pleased with themselves that they didn't like to be near the other people, they said the other people were 'sinners' and kept well out of their way.



The Pharisees were annoyed that Jesus often spent time with these 'sinners', He spent time talking to them and teaching them, He even sometimes shared a meal with them - that was definitely against the Pharisees' rules! And so, Jesus told them this story to help them to try to understand.

Once upon a time, there was a good shepherd; the shepherd had 100 sheep to look after. Each day he would lead them to the best pasture to feed, he would make sure they could get to the cool, clear stream to drink, he would keep a close eye on them to make sure none of them wandered off or got attacked by wild animals, and as night fell, he would lead them back to the shelter and safety of the village.



One day, as the shepherd checked his sheep, he noticed that one of them was missing. He counted them and then checked again,

but there was definitely 1 small sheep missing. Now some people would think, 'Never mind - I still have 99 other sheep, and the 1 that is lost was after all only a very small sheep'; others might think, 'Oh dear! Well, I can hardly leave the rest of the sheep while I go off looking for just 1 small stray sheep'.



But the good shepherd loved all of his sheep and they were all equally important to him, and so he left the rest of the flock grazing on the pasture and went off in search of the 1 small lost sheep; and when he eventually found it, he was sooooo pleased! He picked the sheep up and carried it on his shoulders all the way back to the flock, and when he got back to the village, he told all of his friends and threw a huge party to celebrate having found that 1 small, lost sheep.



Then Jesus said to the Pharisees, "If it was you that had lost that 1 sheep, surely you would leave the rest of the flock somewhere safe and go and search for the 1 that was lost; and when you found it, surely you would be so pleased that you would want to tell everyone and throw a huge party to celebrate?" I imagine that the Pharisees would have had to agree with this. Then Jesus said to them, "In the same way, there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine good people who do not need to repent."



So, What Does This Parable Mean?

Sin is quite a tricky thing to think about and to understand - even for grown-ups, but here's a simple way to think about it; imagine if there were no rules at all, no rules at home, no rules at school, no laws to tell us what we can and can't do - everyone would just do whatever they wanted whenever they wanted and pretty soon things would get messy! In fact, it would be CHAOS!! So, to try to stop that from happening we have rules at home and at school - in fact pretty much everywhere - to tell us what we can and can't do; that way everybody understands.

For Christians, God is ultimately in charge of everything, and He too sets rules; rules for how we should behave towards each other. Sin is when we go against God's rules and do what we want to do when we want to do it, rather than following the rules that God has given us. But here's where it gets a bit tricky - sin isn't just the wrong things that we do, it can also include those things that we should do but don't do; wrong things that we think; wrong things that we say; and the attitudes that we have.

No matter how hard we try, everyone of us will get things wrong sometimes; we might say the wrong thing or do the wrong thing; we might decide not to bother doing something when really, we know that we should - all of these things are sins in God's eyes, and so we are all, at some point, sinners. Even the Pharisees couldn't have been perfect all of the time, and so, really, they shouldn't have been so very pleased with themselves!

The important thing for Christians, is that if we are truly sorry for the things that we do wrong (our sins), we can say sorry to God and ask Him to forgive us and help us to do better next time - this is called 'repenting', and it is one of the most wonderful things about being a Christian; God loves each and every one of us, and if we are truly sorry when we get things wrong, He will always forgive us.

Can you find 6 lost things in the grid below?

R	T	Y	U	T	S	F	B
F	S	H	O	E	C	T	L
T	H	T	L	D	G	J	O
J	E	M	W	D	A	T	G
E	E	N	R	Y	E	K	L
R	P	D	O	K	F	L	O
R	O	N	I	O	C	P	V
L	B	K	L	H	W	N	E

Here's the things you're looking for!

- Shoe
- Coin
- Teddy
- Key
- Glove
- Sheep

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