

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Snowy Church
(Photo courtesy of Dennis Gillman)

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

January 2021

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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 Mid-Week Praise (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>

Planning to attend our church building for worship?

The following COVID-19 Secure restrictions apply:

- **Unless you are legally exempt, you must wear a facemask**
- Our seating capacity is normally limited to 28 downstairs but can be increased slightly when members of the same household / bubble attend together. There is also limited capacity upstairs.
- Services are basic and short.
- Everyone must gel their hands as they enter the building.
- There is a collection plate on the font, but this will not be passed around.
- Worshippers are expected to remain 2m socially distant from each other, unless from the same household / bubble. This means sitting down promptly (where the paper is on the pew) and no gathering in the aisle or immediately outside the main door for a chat.
- **When worshippers enter, they must sit in the next available pew, filling from the front and from the wall, taking care not to touch any part of the pew as you move along. There must be no heading for that favourite pew!**
- **Everyone (except the presiding priest) will remain seated throughout each service. Unfortunately, this means any children attending must also remain seated throughout the service.**
- There is no singing.
- A PowerPoint version of the order of service is projected in church. A version is available to download (Sunday only), but is not available to collect on the way in.
- A Test & Trace QR Code is displayed at the entrance for those worshippers who have downloaded the NHS T&T app. Others are asked to complete a registration form each week. The forms will be destroyed after three weeks. A GDPR compliant privacy notice is posted inside church.
- We leave from the rear pew first.
- The toilet is for emergencies only, and anyone using it is expected to spray disinfectant on all surfaces they have touched.

The Church of England advises that certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Whether you wish to accept the increased risk attached to attending worship with others, or prefer to continue joining with us on Facebook, is entirely your decision.

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

A few words from the Vicar

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47 NRSV)

I am not sure who promised that the COVID restrictions would be over by Christmas but, obviously, they are still with us! So, we continue worshipping God the best we can, either by engaging with our livestreamed services or attending our COVID secure church building (both if you wish).

At least those attending our weekly Communion service now have the option of receiving both bread and wine. The solution authorised by the House of Bishops is not ideal; I dip the wafer in the wine before dropping it into the hands of each communicant. As you may have gathered from previous articles, my preference is to use individual cups. Nonetheless, being pragmatic, 'dipping' is a step in the right direction.

For me, you cannot beat the symbolism of sharing the common cup, but who knows when this will be safe once more? Even when this is allowed, for perfectly understandable reasons, I suspect many will prefer not to drink from it.

This neatly brings me onto our recent Confirmation Service. Congratulations to Dylan Farnworth, Callum Fogg, and James Bates, three young members of the Christ Church family, who were Confirmed by Bishop Mark just before Christmas. It was a wonderful

event. It was a huge privilege to be with them as they gave voice to their living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Actually, the connection between Confirmation and taking Communion is coincidental. As the title suggests, Confirmation is about publicly confirming our baptismal vows, our personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and our decision to follow him. Being Confirmed is a key milestone as we travel along our faith journey, a step that should only be taken when we are good and ready to make that commitment and not before.

For decades, Church of England parishes have had the option of admitting baptised children to Communion before Confirmation, and many do so already. Children (normally Year 3 and above) are required to attend a study course before being allowed to share the bread and wine. Elaine, Debra, and I all have experience of leading such courses in other parishes.

So, at Christ Church we have begun a period of consultation before the Church Council decides whether to ask Bishop David to allow us to do likewise.

There are strong theological reasons for doing so. For example, from Acts and 1 Corinthians we see that, at that time, Baptism was the pathway to sharing in the Lord's Supper, children were baptised, and so will have participated in the communal meal that has evolved into the Eucharist we share.

There are strong pastoral and missional reasons too. Because we have a deliberate policy of actively encouraging youngsters to participate fully, Mid-Week Praise has grown rapidly. In normal times they lead prayers, read from Scripture, take the collection, tidy away etc. What they cannot do is share in the bread and wine. If they could, then this would send to them a powerful message of belonging and inclusion, which can only help us grow further as a church.

Also, there is an issue around fairness. If children, have been allowed to take Communion in other parishes, under Church of England rules, should they transfer to us they can take it here too. Some have, so take Communion at Mid-week Praise. Likewise, Ainsworth Methodists practice an open table for children so, when they join us for a Communion service, any children amongst them can share in the bread and wine, yet any Christ Church children present cannot.

As any parent knows, children have an inherent sense of what is fair and what is not. Putting myself in their shoes, I would be shouting, "that's not fair!"

For these and other reasons, I have concluded that our current policy is untenable and ought to change.

I would welcome your thoughts.

God Bless

Dave

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the January 2021 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, and the beginning of another new year. It is possible that for many people 2020 will be remembered as the year they would like to forget, but in spite of all the challenges that 2020 brought, inevitably, if you look hard enough, there were also many positives.

The beginning of a new year is a good time to take stock, to review the goals and plans that we have for the various parts of our lives, to consider what's working and what maybe needs tweaking, and to identify the positives that we can build on and the resources we could tap into to help us on our journey. Often, when we do take a moment to look back, we're surprised at how much we've achieved and how much progress we have made.

I hope you'll find a little inspiration for the new year in some of the articles in this month's magazine, but most importantly enjoy the read, and please do your best to keep safe and well. As always, please keep your reports and articles coming in by the second Sunday in the month, to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com. *Alison*

Vacancies ...

We are praying for a new Treasurer to take over from Geoff who, sadly for us, is moving soon, **plus** a second Churchwarden to focus upon building issues. These are both crucial ministries in our church, necessary for the efficient functioning of this parish. Of the two roles, the Treasurer vacancy is the more urgent, but it is difficult to foresee how we can function fully without either. **Please do not assume that the clergy will cover building maintenance and finance until such time as these vacancies are filled – they do not have the time!**

Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs)

We are looking for volunteers to become ALMs. ALMs are lay people active in church life, who have been identified by their parish as having a particular gifting, vocation or calling to lay leadership.

They work collaboratively alongside the Vicar and the wider ministry team, with a distinct focus on growing, nurturing, and serving the wider parish community. Areas of ministry include: Children & Families; Community Outreach & Social Action; Digital Church & Online Media; Ecology & Creation; Mission & Evangelism; Parish Admin, Finance & Governance; Pastoral Outreach & Listening; Prayer & Spirituality; Worship & Liturgy; Youth Work.

Further details can be found by clicking on this link: [Diocese of Manchester | Authorised Lay Ministry \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/diocese-of-manchester/authorised-lay-ministry)

Interested? Simply contact the Vicar to start the ball rolling, with a view to applying for the 2022 course.

Grave Cleaning 2021

A reminder that payment for grave cleaning was due by 31st December 2020. If you have not paid and wish the cleaning to continue, or if you want the team to start cleaning a grave, please contact Jan Hayes on 01204 796404 (home) or 07895-033736. Thanks - The Churchyard Team

News From The Diocese – Eco Church Update

Manchester Diocese is excited to announce that it has received an Eco Diocese award from the national environmental charity A Rocha in recognition of its work to embed environmental issues into the life of the diocese.

The Bronze award also recognises the many churches across Greater Manchester and Rossendale who have worked hard to make their buildings and worship greener, and who have received Eco Church awards over the past three years.

News From The Diocese - Mission Community Proposals

A number of Archdeaconry Events will be held throughout January to discuss the proposals for creating Mission Communities across the Manchester Diocese; church officers, members of the congregation,

lay and ordained ministers are invited. The date for the Bolton Archdeaconry event is Wednesday 27 January 2021, 19.00 - 20.30 via Zoom. For more info on how to participate visit the Manchester Diocese website.

News From The Diocese – Stepping Stones For Growth

Church growth is high on the agenda within the Manchester Diocese and the Church of England generally. “Stepping Stones for Growth” is a brand new training program which the Manchester Diocese ran via Zoom at the end of last year. It’s our very own Manchester toolkit, to help local churches think about growth in new ways.

The Stepping Stones for Growth webinars explored the different ways in which we might seek to grow in numbers and faith, in our own diverse settings and across our different church traditions.

Importantly Stepping Stones recognises that growing in numbers and growing in faith are inextricably linked. Many people lead busy lives which leave little time for quiet reflection, and yet amidst the hustle and bustle of juggled responsibilities they still feel that ‘something’ is missing. We are all on a journey of faith, none of us is perfect, but there is always hope. It takes a lot of courage for individuals to begin to consider what life might really be about and to begin to explore their faith in more depth.

Following on from the webinar the delegates from Christ Church Ainsworth met via Zoom for a debrief and action planning session; this was really positive and inspiring, with a number of ideas and thoughts put forwards for possible further development and a series of follow up sessions planned for the new year. Hopefully some of the ideas and initiatives from the Stepping Stones sessions will enable us to reach out and encourage others. Watch this space for further information or contact Revd. Dave at vicar@ainsworthparish.uk

Confirmations

Congratulations to James Bates, Dylan Farnworth and Callum Fogg who were Confirmed at Christ Church Ainsworth by Bishop Mark, on Sunday 13th December 2020.

Acknowledgement

I should like to thank everyone for their telephone call, cards and letters of sympathy on the occasion of Christopher's death. I found them all supportive at this sad time. Sue Johnson

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Epiphany Carols

Join us for another opportunity to sing some of those favourite carols, 6.30pm Sunday 3rd January on our Facebook Page.

2021 Church Diaries

There are still some 2021 Diaries available; feel free to collect one from the back of church. You are also welcome to collect one for a friend unable to attend worship in church. For a donation, we can post a diary to you.

Composted Leaf Mould

The Churchyard Team have lots - please help yourself (it is free, but a donation to the Churchyard fund is always appreciated). It is in the compound at the back of the new grave section on the far right of the Church (you will need to bring your own bags and a spade!).

Cairn of Remembrance

Our 'Cairn of Remembrance' can be found at the flagpole corner of the church building. Although our Season of Remembrance has ended, you are still welcome to bring a stone in memory of a loved one and place it on the cairn. Please feel free to decorate your stone if you wish to.

Porch Boxes

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

Daily Hope

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



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

Around The Organisations ...

Beavers

Due to the Covid restrictions the Beaver trip to Rochdale Town Hall to see “Dippy The Dinosaur” was cancelled, much to the disappointment of the Beavers, however we did manage to arrange a Zoom meeting with the lady who was in charge of the visits to Dippy. The Beavers had been asked to prepare some questions beforehand, which many of them did, and our Dippy 'guide' thought that many of the questions were very good and detailed. During the Zoom meeting the Beavers were given a virtual tour of Dippy's skeleton, showing its enormous size, as well as getting their questions answered.

The Beavers also had a Zoom Christmas Party where all the party hats were shown off, we had a quiz and also a bingo word game. Thanks must go to Pierce Giblin, a new Young Leader, who arranged all the Party activities.

We hope that in this new year we once again will be able to have face to face meetings and that life returns to normal. Soon we will be welcoming new Beavers to the Colony as ten of the older Beavers continue their Scouting experience and join the Cub Pack.

Rikki

12th Radcliffe Brownies

As part of the “Know Myself” theme, we have continued to work on our Reflect skills builder, looking at our interests, our feelings in a variety of situations, and things that matter in our local area. We considered some traditional celebrations (such as birthdays); how and why we celebrate these – and how different they have been this year!

Since half term, we have been looking at traditional occasions, starting with Bonfire Night, when we filled rocket key rings with coloured sand, and then we made a paper mache poppy battery tea light holder and coloured a picture of poppies as part of our remembrance activity. And, with Christmas approaching, we looked at the ways we normally celebrate Christmas and how this might be different if lockdown is still in force – and then we began to plan our own Brownie end-of-term Zoom party!



As part of our Brownie promise is to help other people, it was pleasing that the Brownies were able to help charities, both local (through a harvest collection for Porch Boxes), and national (through a sponsored activities session for Children-in-Need and Girl Guiding).

This term, 11 of the Brownies completed the Reflect skills builder, and, away from our meetings, many of the Brownies have been busy again, with Amelia, Eloise, Isabelle, Isla, Izzy, Lily-May, Polly and Scarlet gaining their Local History badge, Lily-May and Eloise their Charities interest badges, Erin her Baking badge and a number of Brownies completing parts of these and other badges.

Well done!

Polly, Brown Owl

16th Radcliffe Brownies

Well, what a year we have had at Brownies...one we won't forget I am sure. The girls never cease to amaze us with their resilience...doing badges from home, Zooming which is hard for some, and understanding when some of the best bits of Brownies - like camp – couldn't happen.

We wanted to end the year with a fun badge so picked the Advent Challenge ... 24 challenges for one badge ... but it is such a lovely badge we couldn't resist!!! So, the girls have been making Christmas cards, icing Christmas cupcakes, making pudding baubles, taking part in a family quiz, playing Christmas 'pictionary' and lots of other games. We will end with a virtual sleepover in place of our usual party with hot choc-stirrers, gingerbread making, some games and we will all be wearing pjs and making dens (sorry parents).

Yours in Guiding - Snowy Owl

Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

A Very Happy New Year to everyone! As always, a new year brings a new theme. From Mary Sumner House (MSH) comes the message “2020 has been a year when we, as an Organisation, have been challenged and have adapted and responded in ways which we would never have thought possible.

*There will also be challenges ahead in 2021 as we **rebuild hope and confidence**, in our local groups and branches, in our communities and in our spiritual life. We have learned so much in 2020 and now is the time for us to draw on what we have experienced to strengthen Mothers' Union for the future.”*

They are offering a series of virtual sharing sessions when all members can come together to draw on experiences (both good and bad) of 2020 and use these to stimulate, enthuse and inspire each other. These webinars are on offer to everyone. You don't have to have a computer, tablet or smart phone to join one of these Zoom sessions. There are free telephone numbers that you can dial in from a landline. If you would like to be part of one of these sessions, please let me know and I'll see that you get the connecting details. They are taking place on the 14th January at 2pm, on the 19th at 7.30pm and on the 23rd at 10am. The booking details are also on the Mothers' Union website and in the Mothers' Union News.

At a recent meeting of the Worldwide Trustee Board, a number of key messages were drawn together to be shared with members. The focus of the key messages was to say ‘thank you’ to everyone in playing their part in ensuring that MU has continued to thrive and prosper.

They thanked:

- Each and every member, everywhere, for the amazing way in which they have ‘stepped up’ during the pandemic supporting one another through prayer, visits, calls, Whatsapps, Zooms – and even when isolating themselves, finding ways to support local communities.
- Everyone who contributed by prayer, financially or by responding to the Emergency Appeal
- For the way in which so many have had the courage to embrace new technology

- To the staff team at MSH who, despite extended periods of furlough and a third of the staff departing have continued to support members in their work
- For the programme work relating to COVID-19, for which external funding was identified and work completed in 2020 (in Tanzania, Myanmar, Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Madagascar) and for other programme work, for example in England, Tanzania and Sudan, which has continued despite the pandemic.

Space prevents me from mentioning the whole number of 'thanks' but it is on the latest MU news which many of you will have received from Jean. For those not online, I will happily print off the list if you wish. The Board sends blessings for a peaceful and joyful Christmas and looks forward with hope and confidence to renewal in the New Year.

Now - back to our branch. We will hold our AGM when it is next possible for us to meet. In the meantime, subscriptions are due (£32) and need to be paid to Barbara Standing when you can all manage it. Please do not go round to Barbara's house until we are assured that it is safe to do so; a cheque can be put in the post. We must be careful not to put each other at risk.

Jennifer White
(Hon sec.)

From the Archives – January 1996

The front cover of the Parish Magazine in 1996 saw a change from the Village sketches seen in previous editions, instead it featured a drawing of a Celtic Cross; a note inside the January Magazine stated that it was "... a design by Mrs. Betty Riley, a committee member of the Church Women's Fellowship, and is a copy of the Celtic Cross. It consists of an interlaced strap design of great ingenuity, and is a continuous ribbon without any ends; if traced round it will return the explorer to his starting point." There then followed some speculation as to whether the Celtic Cross was simply an intricate design or whether it may have conveyed some more meaningful message to those early Celts.

In 'The Vicar's Letter' in January 1996, Father Alan wrote about hope and stated that no matter what is happening in the world around us, Christians should remember that "...hope and trust triumph over fear and forsakenness ...". A message which is as relevant today as it was when it was written 25 years ago.

Elsewhere in the January 1996 Parish Magazine there was a short review of what seems to have been a successful 'Sale of Work', £2,350 having been raised for Church funds; there were numerous reports on the Christmas activities enjoyed by the various groups and organisations; and a whole host of activities and fund raising events lined up for the coming months.

In January 1996 there were 3 Baptisms and 1 Funeral recorded from the previous month; the total collections recorded for the previous month was £1311 and the number of communicants 375.

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

Amidst The Bustle Of Each Day

Amidst the bustle of each day,
Help me to listen, and to pray;
To hear Thy voice and know Thy will.
To take a moment to be still

Amidst the bustle of each day,
Help me to look and see Thy way;
Help me to know what I must do,
To bring me closer, Lord, to You.

Beyond the bustle of each day,
When darkness falls, and skies are grey;
Beyond all stress and strain and strife,
Lord, lead me to eternal life.

A. Hartley

Space To Share A Prayer

God of hope,
in these times of change,
unite our nation
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.
Give us courage to overcome our fears,
and help us to build a future
in which all may prosper and share;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Pandemics: An Historical Perspective

By Dr Tim Mason

We are currently threatened by Coronavirus, which is causing a global epidemic, or pandemic, of Covid-19. Pandemics, though, are nothing new and over the centuries we have developed ways of dealing with them. This is a brief history of pandemics and ways of responding to them. Today's problems are not so dissimilar to those of the past.

One of the first pandemics of which we are aware was one of 'The Plague'. Starting out as a harmless bacterium colonising reptile intestines, it had, by 1000BCE, evolved to cause lethal infections in people. That evolution continued for another millennium when, in 180CE, a strain arose which would change the course of human history. By 660CE it had killed a third of the population of Constantinople, from where it spread further west, reaching Britain 120 years later. That's less than 20 miles per year! History shows us, then, that pandemics begin imperceptibly as microbes evolve and are then spread by human activity.

A second pandemic of the Plague, one which became known as 'The Black Death', originated in China around 1200. From there, facilitated by trade and warfare, it spread at twice the speed of the first. It arrived in Dorset on 7 July 1348, an event now proudly recorded there, on a plaque! From here it spread along the coast in small trading vessels, arriving in my home village of Titchfield in October that year - the first place in Hampshire to get the disease. The Manorial Court there recorded eight deaths that month, a figure which by May of the following year had increased to a total of 155, a third of the population - a death toll that was repeated throughout the land.

By this time the disease was recognised as infectious, so the response made to it was to prevent the sick from coming into contact with the healthy. Houses where a sick person lived were sealed up, leaving sick and healthy together to their fate. Doors were guarded and food provided. No-one was allowed in or out for six weeks. By that time sufferers would have either died or recovered and certainly none would be infectious. We'd call that enforced quarantine today. Windsor in the 16th Century adopted an even more radical measure. Seeing London as a potential source of infection, they set up a gallows to hang anyone arriving from there! A rather extreme enforcement of Lockdown!

A century later the capital was again suffering from the disease

and, in an attempt to escape it, Charles I moved the law courts out to Reading. The result was an outbreak of the disease there and sufferers were moved out to a recently built 'Pest House' in Whitley. The disease remained a threat until the late 18th Century, by which time improved housing and nutrition, along with recognition that rats were an undesirable presence in places of human habitation, saw the disease decline. This decline was probably also driven by a drop in global temperature. It was not unusual for the Thames to freeze over for up to two months!

While pandemics of plague ceased without vaccines, the expectation is that a vaccine will be found for Covid-19. The first disease for which a vaccine was produced was smallpox, which had been causing pandemics since the second century CE. That disease, caused by the *Variola* virus, had though been recognised well before that, in China in the 5th Century BCE. Here they observed that it could only be contracted once and, by the 10th Century CE, it was common for children there to be deliberately infected with a mild form of the disease and thereby be protected from any more serious form. It was not until the early 18th Century that news of this technique, called 'Inoculation', reached Britain. Its use soon became widespread.

In the context of smallpox immunisation though, it is Edward Jenner who is remembered by his establishing the alternative technique of 'vaccination', using *Vaccinia*, a similar virus from cows. He had heard that milkmaids infected with cowpox became immune to smallpox, without their having risked a smallpox infection. They developed no more than sores on their fingers. So, in 1796 he vaccinated Sarah Nelmes, using cowpox from a cow called Blossom. It worked and subsequent worldwide vaccination resulted in the eventual elimination of smallpox in 1980, the first infection for which that had been achieved and an objective which we should have for the current Covid-19 pandemic. It will undoubtedly be a bigger challenge, but bigger too are the tools at our disposal.

First published in 'Titchfield News', December 2020. Dr Tim Mason is a retired lecturer in Microbiology from the University of Portsmouth. He continues to give lectures on the history of infectious diseases to a wide range of audiences.

Just A Thought ...

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain.

Keep Your Burdens For The Daytime

A young lady confidently walked around the room with a raised glass of water while leading a seminar on stress management. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'Half empty or half full?' She fooled them. 'How heavy is this glass of water?' she enquired with a smile. She replied, 'The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes'.

And that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, we won't be able to carry on. So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up again tomorrow if you must.

Olde Worlde Weather Lore – January

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

If St. Paul's Day be fair & clear it will bring a happy year;
If by chance it happen rain, it will make there be all kinds of grain;
If the clouds make dark the sky, then birds & animals this year will die;
If blustery winds do blow aloft, then wars shall trouble the realm oft.

Did You Know ... January Facts

1st January – The beginning of the new year, a time to reflect & plan.

2nd January – Luna 1, the first spacecraft from earth to orbit the sun, was launched on this day in 1959.

3rd January – The Holly Man or Green Man, a figure from Pagan myths, emerges from the River Thames as part of the Twelfth Night festivities. The Green Man is thought to represent life, death, fertility and rebirth.

4th January – Louis Braille was born on this day in 1809. 4th Jan is now officially recognised as National Braille Awareness Day.

5th January – Twelfth Night – your last chance to get those Christmas decorations packed away.

6th January – On this day in 1540, King Henry VIII married Anne of Cleves, his 4th wife.

7th January – On this day in 1785, Jean-Pierre Francois Blanchard and John Jeffries, made the first trip across the English Channel in a hydrogen balloon.

8th January – On this day in 1851, Frenchman Léon Foucault used a device known as Foucault's pendulum to demonstrate that the Earth rotates on its axis.

9th January – On this day in 1854, the first free lending Library opened, on Marylebone Road, London.

10th January – On this day in 1863, the London Underground first began to operate.

11th January – Plough Monday.

12th January – On this day in 1895, the National Trust was founded by 3 Victorian philanthropists; Miss Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley.

13th January – St. Hilary's Day; St. Hilary of Poitiers is often referred to as the patron saint of lawyers.

14th January - Makar Sankranti, the Hindu Harvest Festival

15th January – On this day in 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr. Was born.

16th January – On this day in 1493, Christopher Columbus set sail for Spain.

17th January – On this day in 1912, Scott and his expedition team reached the Antarctic.

18th January – “Pooh Day”; on this day in 1882, A. A. Milne was born.

19th January – On this day in 1903, a new bicycle race, The Tour de France, was launched.

20th January – On this day in 1265, the 1st English Parliament met for the 1st time.

21st January – On this day in 1976, the 1st commercial Concorde flights took to the skies.

22nd January – Queen Victoria died on this day in 1901.

23rd January – On this day in 1957, the Wham-) Toy Company produced the 1st Frisbee.

24th January – Winston Churchill died on this day in 1965.

25th January – On this day in 1759, Robert Burns was born.

26th January – On this day in 1841, Hong Kong was proclaimed a sovereign territory of Britain.

27th January – On this day in 1832, Lewis Carroll was born.

28th January – On this day in 1807, Pall Mall, London, became the 1st street to be lit by gaslights.

29th January – On this day in 1896, Emile Grubbe became the 1st doctor to use radiation to treat breast cancer.

30th January – On this day in 1790, Mr. Greathead, the inventor of the lifeboat, carried out his 1st sea trial.

31st January – On this day in 1606, Guy Fawkes, 1 of the conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot, was hanged, drawn & quartered.

Time For A Smile

Three Parish Priests were enjoying a coffee together; during the course of the conversation, it emerged that all 3 had had issues with squirrels making their homes in their churches.

The first priest confessed that he had become so angry that he'd borrowed a shotgun and tried to shoot the squirrels; other than causing some minor structural damage it hadn't put the squirrels off at all.

The second priest admitted that he'd laid a trap and caught the squirrels in his church then driven 50 miles away to release them – next day the squirrels were back in church.

The third priest looking rather smug claimed to have found a solution, "I simply baptised them and confirmed them" he said, "and I've never seen them in church since."

Strap Lines

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

The Extended Parish Puzzler

How Many Words

How many words can you make from the following letters?

E P I P H A N Y

Epiphany Quiz

1. What does the word 'Epiphany' mean?
2. According to tradition, how many Magi visited the baby Jesus?
3. In which Gospel does the story of the Magi appear?
4. What was the name of the King who wanted to kill Jesus?
5. According to tradition, what were the names of the Magi?
6. Who wrote the words to the Carol 'Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar'?
7. In the 15th Century, who painted 'The Adoration Of The Magi'?
8. What gifts did the Magi bring to offer to Jesus?
9. What is myrrh?
10. Who wrote the words to the Carol 'We Three Kings Of Orient Are'?

(Answers on page 23)

How Many Crosses?

Last month's cross was a tricky one, but Pew Polishers and Flower Arrangers should have had no problem identifying it as the small cross which is found engraved on each of the Altar vases.

How Well Do You Know Our Village?

As many of us are still unable to go into church, our photo quiz has moved out into the wider community for 2021; does anyone know where this inscription can be found? Answer in next month's mag.

**PRESENTED BY HENRY WHITEHEAD OF HASLAM HEY
1902**

Epiphany Word Search

There are 12 Epiphany words hidden within this grid; can you find them all? (Answers on page 24)

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

Riddle-Me-Ree

Can you solve the riddle? The answer is someone or something that you'll find in the Bible

I had many locks but didn't need a key,
I was far too many for you to count me,
I was never to be shortened for a vow had been said,
I was a symbol of strength that flowed from the head,
In a moment of weakness my secret was out
And I lay all in pieces when *she* gave the shout.

Who or what am I?

(Answer on page 24).

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 Elaine Larkin 1 Greenside. Ainsworth. BL2 5SE elaine.larkin.el@gmail.com Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 388762 01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Church Treasurer	Geoff Whittle	07976 443165
Secretary of the PCC	Vacancy	
Organist	Jenny Johnson	07734976978
Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary	Carole Butler	07982 316388
Parish Child Protection	Peter Holden	01204 596938
Church Hall Booking	Geoff Hampson	07910817577
Church Lottery	Judith White	07812074776
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	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)	
	6.30pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)	
	2 nd Sunday Holy Communion (Book of Common Pray)	
	Healing Service (see Parish Diary)	
Weds	6.15pm Mid-Week Praise	

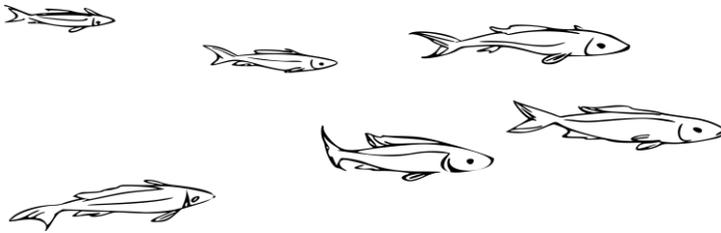
Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage and Funerals Contact Revd Dave Thomson

(Answer to Epiphany Quiz on page 23: 1) A moment of revelation or realisation; 2) 3; 3) Matthew 2: 1-12; 4) Herod; 5) Balthazaar, Melchior & Caspar; 6) Peter Cornelius 7) Leonardo da Vinci; 8) Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh; 9) A fragrant gum resin used in ancient medicine; 10) John Henry Hopkins Jnr.

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 Anne Flowers Or Jennifer White	01204 382214 07964 587694
Group Leader	Bill White group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.00pm in the Church Hall Leader Valerie Watts	01204 398634
Cub Scouts	Friday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Sean Butler	07843 233056
Scouts 14 th Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Wednesdays 7.30pm in the Church Hall John Turner	01204 381590
Rainbows 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 5.45pm to 7.00pm in the Church Hall Rainbow Guider	
Rainbows 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 4.30pm to 6.00pm in the Church Hall Janet Kay	01204 525739
Brownies 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly The church's one foundation; Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 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

Answers to Epiphany Word Search: Balthazaar; Camel; Caspar; Epiphany;
Gold; Herod; Homage; Kings; Magi; Melchior; Myrrh; Star.
Answer to Riddle-Me-Ree: Samson's hair.



Little Fishes

Where Shall we Find The Baby King?
Follow The Star ...



(Photo courtesy of Kat Sowden)

Epiphany

Last month's Little Fishes was all about Advent and Christmas, but did you know that Christmas doesn't finish when we go to bed on Christmas Day night?

Because Jesus was born such a very long time ago, and lots of things have happened since then, things got a bit muddled up and no one was just exactly sure which day Jesus was born, which meant that the early Christian church had to pick a day to celebrate. The Eastern church chose January 6th, the Western Church chose December 25th.

Eventually both churches decided to include both dates which created a 12 day celebration from Christmas Day to Epiphany. This time is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas.

So What Is Epiphany?

The word 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as this is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

Epiphany is sometimes also known as 'Three Kings' Day' - it's a special part of the Christmas story that begins on 6th January; the day when the 3 Kings (or wise men) arrived in Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born.

The Story Of The 3 Kings

When Jesus was born in the stable at Bethlehem, a bright star appeared in the sky and shone above the stable. Far away in the East, 3 very wise Kings saw the bright, new star shining and they knew it was a sign from God that a new 'King' had been born. 

The 3 Kings decided to follow the star and visit the new king, so

they prepared to set out on a long journey towards Bethlehem. Before they set off, they chose special gifts which they could give to the new king; King Caspar chose 

gold, King Melchior chose Frankincense and King Balthazaar chose Myrrh. Then the Kings set off riding their camels through the desert, always following the bright, new shiny star.

When the Kings arrived at Judea, they looked for somewhere to rest; the King of Judea at that time was called King Herod and he invited them to stay with him at his palace. King Herod was a very



jealous person, and when he heard that the 3 Kings believed that a new baby King had been born he made a cunning plan; he told the 3 Kings that he was really excited about the new baby King and would love to meet him - he asked the Kings to come and tell him when they had found the baby so that he could also take him some gifts, but secretly King Herod was furious that there might be a new king and he was determined to get rid of him.

The 3 Kings continued to follow the star and travelled on until they reached Bethlehem, and there the star seemed to be shining over a humble stable. The 3 Kings went in and saw baby Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, and they knew that this was indeed a very special baby - they offered their gifts and prayed to God and gave him thanks.



As the 3 Kings rested that night and prepared for their long



journey back to the East, an angel came to them in a dream and warned them of King Herod's evil plan and told them not to return to Judea, but to go back home a different way.

When King Herod realised that the 3 Kings had cheated him he flew into a rage and told his soldiers to kill all of the baby boys in the area to make sure that baby Jesus could not grow up and be King instead of him. But that very night an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him of King Herod's plan; 'To save the child, you must go to Egypt immediately', the angel said. So, Mary and Joseph gathered up their belongings and escaped to Jerusalem with the baby Jesus, where they all lived in safety for a number of years until they learned that King Herod had died.



Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Long ago, you received special gifts from the 3 Wise Men;
This year, at Epiphany, help us to remember and appreciate
What a special gift you are for us. Amen

Star Brain Teaser

The answers to these clues all begin with the letters STAR:

- 1) To begin or get going ---- S T A R _
- 2) To go hungry ----- S T A R _ _
- 3) You'll find this in potatoes, rice and wheat? -- S T A R _ _
- 4) To look hard at someone or something? ---- S T A R _

Wish Upon A Star Craft Idea

You will need:

1 piece of card

Felt tips or crayons

Scissors

A piece of string or ribbon

Here's what to do:

*Draw a star on the piece of card then get a grown up to help you to cut it out

* Use the felt tips or crayons to decorate your

star

* Think of 5 things that you could include when you say your prayers and write 1 of them on each point of the star

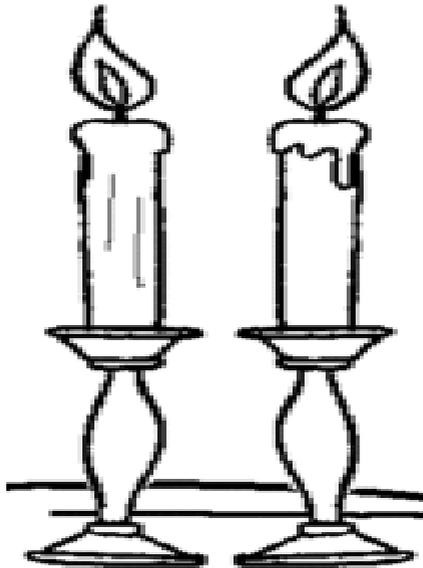
* Make a hole in the tip of 1 of the star's points then thread the ribbon or string through the hole and use it to hang the star up.



Next month - Candlemas

If you enjoy colouring in, why not colour the picture below. Whilst church is closed you could get a grown up to e-mail it to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com Each month we'll choose 1 picture to go on our front page. Closing date Sun 10th January.

Little Candle Burning Bright



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