Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Artwork courtesy of Scarlett Fogg.

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

January 2023

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

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

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

To join us on Facebook, follow this link: https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth/

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

If you missed any of our livestreamed services, some of them can be found on our website https://www.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 January 2023



Sun. 1st Jan THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

10:30am Holy Communion

12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Wed. 4th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

Sun. 8th THE EPIPHANY

8:00am BCP Communion (in Church)

11:15am Covenant Service (at Ainsworth Methodist

Chapel)

12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page

Wed. 11th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

Sun 15th THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

10:30am Holy Communion (in Church)

12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Wed. 18th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

Sun. 22nd THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8:00am BCP Communion (in Church)
10:30am Holy Communion (in Church)
12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Wed. 25th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

Sun. 29th CANDLEMAS

10:30am Holy Communion (in Church)12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)

Wed. Feb 1st 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

Sun. 5th THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10:30am Holy Communion (in Church)12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)6:30pm BCP Evening Prayer in Church

Wed. 8th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)

A few words from the Vicar

Well, the run up to Christmas was eventful.

During the first week in December, three members of our congregation were called to Glory: Mavis Rimmer, June Hayes and Jim Bowden. Mavis was a long-standing member of our Mother's Union Branch, as was June. June was also a member of our choir and helped with pastoral visiting. As for Jim, in addition to some official roles and being part of the Churchyard Team, he is affectionally remembered for handing out cough sweets every Sunday to the choir and clergy, plus anyone else who wanted one. All three are missed and won't be forgotten.

Each served the Lord in their own individual way and, as I reflect upon what I know about their lives, I am reminded that our Christian faith isn't just about worshipping on Sundays. It is also about living out our faith in how we relate to and care for our families, friends and neighbours; in our work lives (teacher, shop keeper, and Police Sergeant); and in our leisure time. If Jesus is Lord, then he is Lord of all. He has lordship over every aspect of our lives, not just how we spend Sunday mornings.

May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory!

Then, it snowed and froze as the temperature plummeted. Although the Church path was cleared and gritted immediately, pavements in the village and further afield remained lethal for several days. Some hardy souls braved the icy conditions (and the lack of heating in Church) to attend worship. Others decided that discretion is the better part of valour and stayed safely at home. There is no right and wrong in this situation. As adults, we weigh up the risks and decide for ourselves.

If you do decide to stay away due to poor weather, remember there are online options available. The Church of England posts an online service on its website every Sunday morning and, at 12 noon our online service ('Worship at Home with Christ Church') is posted to our Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. 'Worship at Home' is specifically designed for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend worship in our Church building. It began as a livestream during the pandemic and has continued ever since.

Sadly, it will not be possible to continue 'Worship at Home' following my retirement at the end of February. However, other parishes from within our Mission Community record online services, so those unable

to attend 'on site' worship here in Ainsworth could easily access these. Further details will be available in the New Year.

Unfortunately, Jenny, our organist, fell victim to the icy conditions. She slipped and cracked her shoulder, so is out of action and was unable to play over Christmas. We resorted to CDs instead, which worked well enough.

There was a silver lining though. Following Jenny's injury, one thing led to another, and we joined Ainsworth Methodists for a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Combining congregations for the evening worked. It was a brilliant service. Truly magical. Singing carols in a full Church is a much better worshipping experience than doing so in two half empty ones. Indeed, some of us didn't want the evening to end.

Maybe there's a lesson here for future years. However, I will leave that thought hanging there. I will be long retired by next Christmas and shouldn't interfere.

Anyway, here's praying that Jenny has a speedy recovery. And let's hope and pray that the New Year is not quite so eventful!

God Bless

Dave

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the January 2023 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, and the beginning of another new year. It seems incredible to think that another year has passed by; time is indeed a strange concept – no matter what is happening in the world or to us as individuals, time ticks on relentlessly.

The beginning of a new year is always 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.

When we, or the organisations that we are involved with, set ourselves any sort of goal or target, it's important to be realistic; realistic about what we want to achieve, realistic about the path we need to take to do that, realistic about what support we may need along our way, and realistic about whether that support will be available to us.

Whatever the coming year has in store for us as individuals, we can be certain that it has change in store for us as a Parish, Dave will retire at the end of February, and our Church will enter a period of interregnum whilst we await the selection of his replacement. Whilst our congregation and our PCC may not be quite so large in number as it once was, we are fortunate to have a few positive and proactive people to lead us forwards. Thankfully, as our Mission Community continues to grow and develop, we will also be able to look to others around us for support and encouragement in the weeks and months ahead. As a Parish we have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but with positivity, enthusiasm and prayer I'm sure we will get there.

The new year brings a number of new additions to our Parish Magazine; check out 'The Hymn That's In My Head', 'Praying Through The Seasons' and 'Hatches, Matches & Despatches'; we also have some fabulous new front cover artwork, alongside our regular reports and columns. Many thanks to all those who take the time to write for the Parish Magazine each month – it is massively appreciated.

As we welcome in the new year, let us all raise a glass, and look forward with positivity and hope for the future, whatever that may bring. *Alison*

From The Registers

FUNERALS We commend to God's keeping

November 17th Tommy Schofield

30th Pauline Doyle

Front Cover Artwork

Over the past 12 months our front cover artwork has been provided by various members of the Uniformed Organisations; throughout 2023 our front cover artwork will be provided courtesy of members of our Mid-Week Praise congregation.

If you missed out on the Epiphany picture, make sure you look out for the colouring sheets next time you are in church – there will be a different picture to colour in each month; we'll choose one picture to go on the front cover of our Parish Magazine and then use all of the other pictures to make a colourful display in church.

This month our front cover artist is Scarlett Fogg.

Acknowledgement

A huge thank you to our friends at Ainsworth Methodist Church, for inviting us to share in their Service of Lessons and Carols. Despite the bitterly cold evening, the chapel was full, the choir and readers were in fine voice, and to top it all, the service was held by candlelight – all in all, a really lovely start to the festive season.

Online Giving

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, we are now able to accept online donations to support the work of our church.

Online giving is done via a website called 'Give A Little'; you can access our page by clicking on the following link: https://givealittle.co/campaigns/4e852de9-3667-426f-ae72-1747784eda0c

Or by scanning the following QR code with your mobile phone:



Once you've done that, choose the amount you wish to donate – the suggested options are £5, £10, £20 or £50, but there is also an option to click and choose your own amount. Next, simply follow the on screen instructions - fill in your personal details, (if you are a tax payer you can choose to add Gift Aid to increase your donation), then enter your card

details. When you're finished, you'll get a 'Thank You' message on screen and you can request a receipt via email for your own records – simple!

Parish Magazine Advertising

If you, or anyone you know, runs a local business, why not consider advertising in our Parish Magazine? As an 'E-Magazine', our Parish Mag not only goes out to all those on our Parish mailing lists, it can easily be shared and is also accessible via our website www.ainsworthparish.org.uk www.achurchnearyou.com and our facebook page. Thus potentially, the reach for advertisers is much greater than it has been previously.

For more information, please contact Alison on 07952-709041, or e-mail ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Easyfundraising

Our Easyfundraising total is now £889.78. We currently have 27 supporters registered, but we could always find room for more! If you're shopping online, make sure you use #easyfundraising; over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise a FREE donation for Ainsworth Parish Church - Bolton every time you shop. And it's not just for when you're buying gifts; you can use easyfundraising when you book holidays, train tickets, even when you insure your home or car!

Our cause is registered as Ainsworth Parish Church – Bolton; why not sign up now at: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=ivcmuo&char=36470&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=anwupsharebox

Mission Community News – Zoom Prayers

The Mission Community 'Zoom Prayers' held each evening throughout Advent were once again well received and well supported. As the sessions are led by a different person each evening, there is plenty of variety of both style and content; ranging from traditional Compline through to Celtic Evening Prayer.

Whilst we all have our own prayer routines and preferences, sometimes it's nice to try / experience a different approach to prayer. As we move into the New Year, our Mission Community are hoping to run a series of 'Ways Of Praying' sessions – want to know more? Watch this space for further details.

Bible Reading Fellowship - Bible Reading Notes; Why Bother?

It's said that if a ballet dancer doesn't practise for one day, she notices. If she doesn't practise for two days, the class notices. If she doesn't practise for three days, the whole audience notices. It might not be so immediately obvious if Christians don't read the Bible every day, but sooner or later, it will be noticed.

Different Christian traditions give different weight to the habit of daily Bible study, but all are agreed that it's an important discipline: a practise to be fostered, along with prayer, worship, reflection and service, if faith is to grow deep roots.

Our enthusiasm for Bible reading may wax and wane; life becomes busy or difficult; we drift away an don't know how to return; scripture

no longer seems to 'speak' to us; we get bored, distracted or discouraged, until daily Bible study becomes a joyless 'ought', or a guilt-inducing 'should'.

But what if, instead of thinking of it as a duty, we think of it as a gift; a lovely opportunity to sit in God's presence, focus on His word and keep the channels of communication open?

Daily Bible reading notes nourish and inspire on good days, but when they really come into their own is when we're flagging. They provide us with structure, a manageable passage of scripture, and the thoughts of a wise, compassionate and experienced commentator.

The Bible Reading Fellowship offers six different series of Bible reading notes, from the seriously theological, to the quietly contemplative; from notes for women, to reflections for older people. The most popular series is the approachable and illuminating 'New Daylight', which offers insight into God and into scripture. Whichever series you choose, it will, over time, introduce you to the whole sweep of scripture, from Genesis through to Revelation, allowing you to absorb its wisdom, develop your understanding, and encounter daily inspiration, encouragement and challenge.

For more information on BRF, Bible reading notes or any other BRF publications visit brfonline.org.uk

Mission Community Prayer

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church In the burning fire of your love,

We lift before you the churches of our mission community and the communities where we live and serve you.

Grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of your gospel, Bearing with one another in love as You build us together into one community.

Always abiding in You, may we be found steadfast in faith and active in service.

Open our eyes to see the opportunities you have prepared for us to work together in mission in new ways;

Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen





Candlelight Prayer

An oasis of calm at the end of a busy week; why not join us for 10 minutes of quiet prayer and reflection, each Friday at 8pm on Zoom.

Simply click the following link to join in:

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

Or for more info contact Alison on 07952-709041
"As the shadows begin to lengthen, be guided by the light that shines within you."





Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 10th January 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

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 10th January

10.30 - 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome

Candlelight prayer Friday evenings, 8pm on Zoom

Join us for 10 minutes of quiet prayer and reflection; an oasis of calm at the end of a busy working week.

Mothers' Union 1st & 3rd Tuesday Of The Month

Tuesday 17th January @ 1pm – Faith Lunch
Tuesday 31st January @ 2.30pm – Service to be held in ACCH
Advanced notice – Tuesday 4th February @ 2.30pm – AGM (ACCH)

Ainsworth Social Club Tuesday 3rd January & Tuesday 17th January 7.30 – 9pm, Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

We are an independent social club for the over 50's, our motto is 'Challenge yourself'. Want to know more? Check out our facebook page 'Ainsworth Social Club', or e-mail ainsworthsc@outlook.com

Ainsworth History Society
Tuesday 10th January
7.30pm; Ainsworth Church & Community Hall
Everyone welcome.

Ainsworth Community Walk

Every Tuesday @ 1pm; meet outside The Duke William

Why not explore your local green space and join us every Tuesday for a free circular guided walk along local country footpaths and across open farmland, taking in the beautiful surrounding scenery? For more info visit walkwithme@bury.gov.uk

Around The Organisations ...

Ainsworth Scout Group

As we start another year may I take this opportunity to publicly thank all the leaders in the various sections of Ainsworth Scout Group for all their hard work and dedication during 2022.

It is good to see that, despite all the trials and tribulations of the last couple of years, we have managed to continue within the sections to achieve high rewards for the youngsters, keep our high numbers, including our waiting lists, and see all members enjoying a wide variety of activities and fun.

Our one need is the recruitment of an overall leader in the Cub Scout Section. If you, or anyone you know, feel you may be interested please contact me on 01204 595378.

Happy New Year to everyone

Bill White

Group Scout Leader

Cubs

What an end to the year, a fun party, and several badges to present; Astronomer, Pioneer, World Faith, and My Faith activity badges and World Challenge Awards – good luck to those who are in charge of sewing on badges!

We have welcomed Pierce to our team as a Young Leader now he is in the Explorer Section and a useful asset he is proving to be - enjoy your time with us Pierce – it only seems five minutes since you moved up from Beavers as a young Cub!

Planning for the new term of 2023 will be taking place before we return to our meetings on Friday 13 January 2023.

All the best to everyone for the new year

Gwen White - Baloo

Scouts

Over the last few months, we have had a few weeks off due to Football etc so we haven't done much badge work, however we have been having a great time playing daft games and doing team building exercises.

At the Church Christmas Fair we ran the cafe and games, and the hot beef and hot turkey barns went down a treat - so much so we sold out!!! Thanks to all those who came along and supported us.

We finished for Christmas with a cold night at Bibbys Farm Camp Site, where we had a fire, played wide games and ate hotdogs and smores.



Following this, 4 of the young leaders and 2 leaders stayed for the weekend and woke up on the Saturday morning to snow! We had great fun "working" building snowmen and had a go at snow canoeing! Great new winter sport!!

We had Christmas dinner on the Saturday evening, followed by watching yet more football then playing board games. A great weekend was had by all.

2022 was a great year for Scouts, and I would like

to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported us over the last 12 months in all our endeavours, and to the parents of the young people who bring them to all the random places we visit and on a Friday night.

My biggest thanks go to my other leaders, Aled, Ben, Mollie and George and our young leaders Ben, Charlotte, Dylan and David (who is now an actual leader as he just turned 18), as without you all the Section just wouldn't be able to meet and continue to be as successful.

Here's hoping you have a fantastic 2023.

Stacey

Advent Raffle

Thank you to all those supported our Christmas Advent Raffle. Lots of people have won great prizes, including a weekend away in a holiday cottage, a hot tub for the weekend, lots of hampers and chocolate.

I would like to thank Emma Giblin, who has run this twice for us now, for doing all the planning and sorting of prizes as well as doing a randomiser to get everyone their ticket numbers. We couldn't run it without her.

We will be running this again next year (if Emma is happy to do so ha ha).

Coach Trips - Past And Future

We had a fantastic day out on our Christmas Coach trip to Ulverston Dickensian Market. Thanks to all those who came along and supported the event. The weather held off for us until we were on the coach on the way home thankfully.

We have now also planned our Summer Coach Trip and we are having a day out to Llandudno on Saturday 8th July 2023. The costs for the trip are:-

- 14 and over £27
- 13 and under £17
- Family ticket 2 x adult and 2 x under 13 £70

If you would like to join us on our fun day out by the beach please follow the link below to book your seats:-

https://www.cognitoforms.com/AinsworthScoutGroup1/FundraisingFamilyCoachTripLlandudnoSaturday8thJuly2023

12th Radcliffe Guides and Brownies



At the Remembrance Parade, Grace carried the Union Flag with Poppy and Hattie escorting; Eloise carried the Guide flag with Hannah and Isabelle escorting; and Lucy carried the Brownie flag with Harriet and Lily May escorting. Izzy laid the wreath on behalf of all those in Ainsworth Girl Guiding.

After half term, the Brownies made puppets out of socks, whilst the Guides learned about some of the activities Guides did during World War 2 – including putting out fires, building shelters and helping the injured. We all lit a tea light and used it to melt a marshmallow to make smores – delicious!

Then it was a busy time doing Christmas activities: we sewed penguin decorations; made lanterns and snowmen Christmas cards and played snowman drive (a variation on Beetle drive) and for our last meeting we all went to Paint-a-Pot, where we had a great time painting ceramics – and even the leaders did one!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 12th Radcliffe Guiding Leaders

Transformation - Now!



We started December with some very sad news. Mavis Rimmer, who was recovering well from hip surgery in April, passed away. Mavis had been an active member of the committee, organising with Hazel, our trips out and birthday cards for and on behalf of members.

A couple of days later, June Hayes also died. June had been a Mothers' Union member for almost 55 years. She was branch secretary for 13 years and branch leader for 6 years. Her friendship, experience and encouragement has been appreciated by me and many following leaders.

We also learned of the death of Jim Bowden, a long-standing worshipper at Christ Church Ainsworth and someone who put his faith into action.

We'll miss you all. Our deepest condolences to your families and friends. Please be assured of our love and prayers for peace, hope and courage in the weeks and months ahead.

We closed 2022 with our Advent Carol Service. Thank you, Dave for conducting the service, Jenny for playing the organ and members of the choir for swelling the singing of the carols and hymns.

We move into 2023, retaining the theme of Transformation - Now!

We won't be meeting on the 3rd January; our first meeting will be on Tuesday, 17th January starting with a **Faith Lunch at 1.00pm.** and following this, we will choose our Prayer Partners for 2023. If you are unable to attend but still wish to have a Prayer Partner, please can you notify either Andrew or me prior to the meeting?

On January 31st, being the 5th Tuesday, Dave will lead us in an act of worship in the **Church Hall at 2.30pm.** As this will be the last Service that Dave celebrates specifically for our branch, it would be good if as many members as possible could be there.

An advanced notice: the branch AGM will be on Tuesday 4th February at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Subscriptions are due at that meeting. If you are unable to come, please can you get your subs to Andrew, Jean or me beforehand.

We hope to have a date for our rearranged party in the New Year. Finally, I wish all members and friends a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Jennifer White

Ainsworth History Society www.ainsworthhistorysociety.org

We meet on the Second Tuesday of each month from 7:30pm in the upstairs room of Ainsworth Church and Community Hall (on the corner of Bury Old Road and Ainsworth Hall Road). The next meeting is Tuesday 10th January when we will look at mining in and around the village. All are welcome.

December Meeting:

A few members managed to overcome the treacherous conditions underfoot to listen to a presentation about Girlguiding in Ainsworth, based mainly on the information provided by Anne Rule.

There was a unit in the 1930's and 40's and during the war the girls

went to camp in Wales using public transport and carrying their bedding in brown paper parcels tied up with string!

That unit closed at some point and a new unit opened in 1957. This unit still exists today, although there have been some temporary



closures over that time. It was very interesting to see how the Guide uniform has changed over time – from the uniform in 1942 to today's blue and red polo shirts and jackets



From the Archives – January 1998

The front cover of the January Parish Magazine sported a 'new and more modern design', comprising a dove, a cross and the flame of the Holy Spirit all artistically interwoven; there is no suggestion as to who created the design, but it is certainly very impressive.

The Parish News page contained a number of acknowledgements and thank yous, along with the news that the Bishop of Manchester, the Right Reverend Christopher Mayfield, would be visiting the Parish as part of a 'Resourcing The Church' initiative; it was hoped that all members of the PCC and as many members of the congregation as possible would attend.

Whilst the various groups and uniformed organisations had been enjoying a few weeks off over the Christmas period, it seems they had all been partying quite hard in the run up to the Christmas break! The Church Women's Fellowship had held an evening of coffee and carols, followed by a trip to the Octagon Theatre, Mothers' Union members had enjoyed a Christmas meal at Smithills Coaching House, Young Families had held a children's Christmas party AND a parents Christmas meal at the Bulls Head in Greenmount, members of the WI had held a line dancing evening, and the Day School reported a successful Christmas Fair – busy times indeed!

In January 1998, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Mrs Doris Windsor "perhaps the oldest, but certainly one of the most vibrant members of our congregation". The Holiday Church featured was All Saints' Church, Mappleton, East Yorkshire, with an interesting article written by Mrs. Joan Arrowsmith.

In January 1998 there were 5 Baptisms and 4 funerals recorded from the previous month, but no weddings. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 375 with the Collections listed as £1716.

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Praying Through The Seasons ... Winter

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ..." Ecclesiastes 3:1



How do we approach the season of Winter? Do we mourn the passing of Summer's warmth and Autumn's golden glow? Do we live in fear of shortened days, long nights and the cold of the days ahead?

Or does the Winter remind us of the wonderful rhythm of God's creation? Seeds sown in Spring have grown, fruited and provided for our needs. Trees that provided shelter for wildlife have now shed their leaves which in due course will rot down and provide nutrients for the coming year. Plants in our gardens which have seemingly died lie dormant within the ground, ready to emerge and bring us joy in the Spring to come. In winter everything lies dormant in the silent earth, it is a time of rest and reflection before the awakening and the slow build toward brighter days.

At times too, there is a winter in all of our lives, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone, or to put our hope in days that are yet to be.

Lord, in the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and the wind is chill, remind us of the warmth of your love.

Lord, in the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early, remind us that in the darkness your light still shines

Lord, in the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when the trees are leafless, and the world can seem bleak, remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And Lord, when, in our lives, we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul. Amen

Just A Thought

Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get.

A Brief History Of Hymns

For over 2000 years, Christians have used music and song as a form of worship. For the earliest Christians, this would have involved singing of the Psalms within the Temple.

The word "hymn", however, comes from the Greek word "hymnos" which means "a song of praise". Originally these would have been written in honour of the Gods, however hymns and the singing of them has evolved and changed over the centuries and been affected by new thinking and developing religious beliefs: throughout the history of the church, whenever there has been renewal, revival or restoration, new songs of worship have appeared.

During the Middle Ages hymns took the form of Gregorian chant or 'plainsong'; these were sung in Latin and most often by monastic choirs.

In England the non-conformist minister Isaac Watts (1674-1748) began a transformation of congregational singing. Watts believed strongly that hymns should express the religious feelings of the people and he became a prolific writer, creating hundreds of new hymns. Watts has been described as "the liberator of English hymnody" as his hymns moved people away from simply singing Old Testament psalms, inspiring people to sing from the heart, with great faith and understanding.

In the same period, another significant movement affected the hymns of the church: the Methodist movement, led by John Wesley. Wesley and especially his brother Charles used simple rhythms and sing-able melodies to help congregational singing. They wrote many of our most well-known hymns that are still very popular today.

In the late 19th Century, a new style, known as "gospel" emerged. These songs were usually characterised by a strong lead vocal and exciting harmonies and were a great influence on later contemporary worship worldwide.

The twentieth and twenty first centuries have seen an explosion of new hymn writers and approaches. Old texts have been refreshed by new tunes and lots more contemporary hymns have sprung up. In the non-traditional church movement, there has been a move away from the previous style of congregational singing to worship led by one singer or a worship band. Instrumentation has become more popular and musical styles have become much freer. The church today is

richer than ever in musical resources and continues to bring congregations together through song.

(The information for the above article comes from 'A Brief History Of Hymns' by Simon Lole – Songs of Praise conductor, composer,

The Hymn That's In My Head

arranger & organist www.bbc.co.uk)

Hymns and music play a large part in Christian worship; you can't beat listening to (or singing along with) a joyful, rousing hymn - whether it's in church, on the radio or listening to a CD. There are literally hundreds of fabulous hymns and worship songs out there.

Often, it's the tune that initially catches our imagination, you might find yourself humming it as you walk the dog, drive to work or go about your daily tasks; sometimes a tune or hymn will just come to mind, seemingly from nowhere ...

Fortunately, as I write this, we are still well within the 12 days of Christmas, so it's fine that the hymn that seems to be stuck in my head at the moment is actually technically a Christmas Carol ...

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing, And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long; Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring; O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.

O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing!

For lo!, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendours fling, And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

These words were written by Edmund Sears, a Pastor of the Unitarian Church in Wayland, Massachusetts, in 1849, and, at his request, set to a tune called 'Carol' by Richard Storrs Willis in 1850.

It is believed Sears was affected by the revolutions of Europe and the Mexican–American War, and that it was these events that inspired the melancholic tones of the poem, which accuses the world of being full of 'sin and strife' and ignoring the Christmas message.

In most Commonwealth countries, these words are now song to a tune called 'Noel' which was adapted by Arthur Sullivan, from an English melody. Whilst this is probably the tune that most of us are familiar with, it is actually the hauntingly melancholy 'Carol' that has sneaked into my head this year, having been played a number of times on Classic FM – must try to track a copy down before next Christmas!

Be Inspired

""God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Psalm 46 v1

Hatches, Matches & Despatches - January!

Born in January ...

- 1942 Stephen Hawking British theoretical physicist, cosmologist and author
- 1643 Isaac Newton, British physicist and mathematician; founder of classical physics
- 1947 David Bowie, British singer and musician, actor, record producer and arranger
- 1955 Rowan Atkinson, British actor, comedian, and screenwriter
- 1892 J.R. R. Tolkien, British philologist and author, creator of classic fantasy works
- 1457 Henry VII, King of England, 1485–1509
- 1982 Catherine, Princess of Wales
- 1882 Virginia Woolf, English writer

Married in January ...

- 1888 David Lloyd George (55th UK Prime Minister) to Margaret Owen
- 1938 Stan Laurel (Comedian) to 3rd wife, Vera Ivanova Shuvalova
- 1940 Harold Wilson (68th UK Prime minister) to Mary Baldwin (poet)
- 1966 George Harrison (Beatle) to Pattie Boyd (model)
- 1973 Jane Fonda (Actress) to Tom Hayden (activist)

Died in January ...

- 1645 William Laud (Archbishop of Canterbury) beheaded in the Tower of London for treason, aged 71
- 1782 Johann Christian Bach (German Composer), aged 46
- 1840 Princess Elizabeth (7th child of King George III and Queen Charlotte), aged 69
- 1971 Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel (French fashion designer), aged 87
- 2010 Bill McLaren (Scottish rugby commentator known as 'the voice of rugby'), aged 86
- 2019 George (the last Hawaiian Tree Snail of his kind), at the university of Hawaii aged 14

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

What's Holding You Back?

It's the one who fears they'll get it wrong
That never speaks their mind,
The one who's scared they may get lost
That's always left behind,
The one who's never just quite sure
That never takes a chance,
The one who thinks they'll look a fool
That never learns to dance.

The one too shy to take the lead
That always needs a shove,
The one who's scared they might get hurt
That never learns to love.
There'll be things we're not that good at,
Maybe times we'd like to hide,
But the only ones who've 'failed' in life
Are the ones who've never tried.

Anon

Space To Share A Prayer

Loving God,

Whether we leave behind a year of joy or a year of trials and difficulties, we pause to give You thanks.

We thank you for being with us every day of every year. We thank you for making all things new and for giving us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.

Remind us of your presence in the days to come, even when we feel pushed and rushed by busyness, and by the demands that we and others place upon ourselves – Amen

Time For A Smile

A young curate visiting the local primary school listened in on a lesson about Jacob's ladder. At the end of the story a little boy asked, "If they were really angels, why did they have to climb the ladder? How come they didn't just fly?"

As the Curate gathered his thoughts, a little girl replied, "Our chickens can't fly when they're moulting; happen them angels were moulting".

Cheat's Kitchen

Simple Sausage Slice



You Will Need:

- 1 pack of ready rolled puff pastry
- 6 sausages
- 1 packet of microwaveable savoury rice
- · Mozzarella or grated cheese

Method:

- 1. Unroll the sheet of puff pastry, placing on a baking sheet with the greaseproof wrapper underneath the pastry.
- 2. Heat the microwave rice according to the packet instructions.
- 3. Use a spoon to spread a layer of the savoury rice over 1 half of the sheet of pastry.
- 4. Arrange the sausages on top of the layer of savoury rice.
- 5. Sprinkle pieces of mozzarella or grated cheese over the sausages.
- 6. Fold the other half of the pastry over to cover the filling and firmly pinch round the edges to seal.
- 7. Score the top of the pastry to allow the steam to escape.
- 8. Bake at 200c for approx 20 mins or until golden and crispy.
- 9. Enjoy!

Strap Lines

Always look on the bright side. How nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt!

Being male or female is a matter of birth; being a gentleman or a lady is a matter of choice.

Commitment is making a choice to give up other choices.

Don't confuse your path with your destination. Just because it's stormy now doesn't mean you aren't heading for some sunshine.

The best time to exercise is early in the morning – before your brain figures out what you're doing!

The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

EPIPHANY

Last Blast Christmas Carol Quiz ...

- 1. What was in those ships all three?
- 2. Where were the shepherds seated as they watched their flocks by night?
- 3. What stood in Royal David's city?
- 4. When did good King Wenceslas look out?
- 5. What did my true love bring on the 4th day of Christmas?
- 6. What should the merry gentlemen be dismayed by?
- 7. Which of the trees in the wood bears the crown?
- 8. Where are the bells ringing?
- 9. What came upon the midnight clear?
- 10. If I were a shepherd, what would I bring?
- 11. What were the cattle doing that woke the baby?
- 12. How hard was the earth in the bleak midwinter?
- 13. What did the herald angels sing?
- 14. What must be decked with boughs of holly?
- 15. Why must we sing through all Jerusalem? (Answers on page 28)

Village Trivia

Last month's question:

- Q. Where would you find the Stuart Fairclough Pavillion?
- A. Ainsworth Bowling Green

Church Trivia

This month's question:

Q. Who was the Vicar at Ainsworth Parish Church in 1944?

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 01204 398567

Twitter @Vicar_Dave

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 Bookings via website

Magazine Editor Alison Hartley ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Magazine Secretary

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, 2nd Sunday Family & Parade Service

12.00pm Baptisms (Except 2nd and last Sunday)

Weds 6.15pm Mid-Week Praise

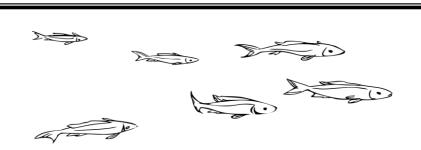
Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty

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

Answers to Last Blast Christmas Carol Quiz: 1) Our Saviour Christ and His lady, 2) On the ground, 3) A lowly cattle shed, 4) On the feast of Stephen, 5) 4 Calling birds, 6) Nothing, 7)The holly, 8) In heaven, 9) The glorious song of old, 10) A lamb, 11) Lowing, 12) Hard as iron, 13) Glory to the new born king, 14) The halls, 15) Christ is born in Bethlehem..

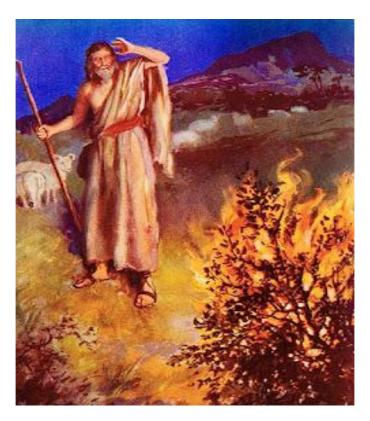
Who's Who For Church Organisations

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Jennifer White	07964 587694
Bill White group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Friday at 6.00pm in the Church Hall Leader Valerie Watts	01204 398634
Friday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall	
Fridays at 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Monday 7.30 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader John Turner	01204 381590
Thursday at 4.30pm to 6.00pm in the Church Hall Rainbow Guider	
Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder	07437 519045
Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Thursday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045
	Branch Contact Jean Eddleston Kathy Armstrong Rand Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Jennifer White Bill White group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk Friday at 6.00pm in the Church Hall Leader Valerie Watts Friday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Fridays at 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk Monday 7.30 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader John Turner Thursday at 4.30pm to 6.00pm in the Church Hall Rainbow Guider Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty Thursday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall



Little Fishes

Moses - Part 2



People In The Bible

Bible is a collection of stories that help us to learn about God and God's dealings with people, right from the beginning of the world. The different parts of the Bible are called 'Books'; each Book was written for a special purpose – some books tell us the story of God's chosen people, the children of Israel, some books are filled with wisdom and advice, some books tell us about things which may be in the future; many of the Books of the Bible include stories about ordinary people who played an extraordinary part in history. Last month, Little Fishes was all about the early life of Moses. We learned that Pharaoh had made all of the Israelite people into slaves and had threatened to kill all of their baby boys, but Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter when he was a baby and grew up in Pharaoh's household.

Many years later, Moses had left Egypt and was working as a Shepherd, when he spotted a bush that seemed to be on fire, but strangely, the bush was not damaged at all by the fire - Moses went to have a closer look, and that's when he heard God speaking to him and telling him that He wanted him to go back to Egypt and ask Pharaoh to let the Israelite people go free. At first Moses was very uncertain - he was just an ordinary person after all; how on earth was he supposed to go and tell Pharaoh that he had to let all of his slaves go free???

But God promised to be with Moses and to help him and guide him, God also reminded Moses that he would have his brother Aaron with him to help him.

Moses - Part 2

And so, Moses went back to Egypt. He spoke to the people of Israel and explained everything that God had told him, and then Moses went to



Pharaoh and told him that God had spoken to him; Moses pleaded with Pharaoh asking him to let the Israelite people go free; he

warned Pharaoh that God would be angry if he refused to let the Israelites go, and would do such terrifying things in Egypt that eventually Pharaoh would be glad to let the people of Israel go. Pharaoh was not happy at the thought of losing all his slaves, and so he refused. Moses warned him again that terrible things would happen if Pharaoh didn't listen, but still Pharaoh said "No". And so, God sent 10 plagues on the people of Egypt, in the hope that this would force Pharaoh to let the people go.

Plague number 1 - The first plague to hit Egypt was the water of the river Nile turning to blood!! The river Nile was really



important for Egypt, and so this plague caused absolute disaster across the land. God sent Moses and his brother Aaron to the edge of the river and told Aaron to raise his staff and strike the

water; as soon as he did this, the water turned into blood. This plague caused all of the fish in the river to die and a stream of blood to flow throughout Egypt, so the people had no water to drink or to wash in. This plague lasted for one whole week.

Despite the horror, the Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.

Plague number 2 - Frogs!! God told Aaron to stretch out his hand over the waters of Egypt ... and suddenly there were frogs swarming all over the place! Pharaoh couldn't believe what he was seeing! He pleaded with Moses to make the



frogs go away. He even promised that, if the plague was gone, he would let the Israelites go. So, God removed the frogs, but Pharaoh changed his mind ...

Plague number 3 - So God said to Moses, 'Say to Aaron, "Stretch out your staff, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt." And when Aaron

struck the dust with his staff, lice swarmed all over Egypt. The people of Egypt were tormented by them; wherever they went the lice were already there! But still, the Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go. And so \dots

Plague number 4 - God sent a plague of flies throughout Egypt. The whole of Egypt was overrun by these pesky winged insects - there were flies in the people's houses, on their food, everywhere you could imagine - there were flies there; except for the part of Egypt where the Israelite people lived. Pharaoh hated the flies, but he still refused to let the Israelites go.



God spoke to Pharaoh and said, "Let My people go. If you refuse to let them go, and still hold them, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep—a very severe pestilence. And the Lord will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt."

But guess what ... even though he heard God's warning, Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go!

Plague number 5 - Disease ... and so God sent a great disease that killed every animal that the Egyptian people owned; cows,

horses, donkeys, camels, sheep, goats ... But the animals which were owned by the Israelites were all still fit and healthy; imagine how the Egyptian people felt when they saw all their animals dying - they

would have no meat, no milk, no cheese, nothing to pull the ploughs or carts \dots But still Pharaoh refused to let the Israelite people go!

Plague number 6 - Boils (a boil is a nasty, painful sore)!! God told Aaron and Moses to take handfuls of ashes from a furnace and throw them up into the air and let them float down over the land of Egypt; as the ashes fell, wherever they landed - on man or beast - they caused a horrible, painful boil. Even though he saw all of the Egyptian people and animals suffering, Pharaoh still would not let the Israelite people go.

Plague number 7 - Hail ... A few hail stones doesn't sound too



bad, but the hail involved in this plague was not like any that we have seen today. The hail that pelted down on Egypt was HUGE!!, Great big balls of ice that left no living thing unharmed. Anyone

who didn't manage to get inside fast enough to avoid the hail stones was killed on the spot. Again, the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was completely untouched.

After this, pharaoh sent for Moses, and promised that if Moses persuaded God to stop the hail stones, he would allow the Israelite people to go free. And so, the plague of hail ended, but Pharaoh changed his mind ... Moses went to Pharaoh and pleaded with him to see sense and release the Israelites; he told him that things would get much, much worse for the Egyptian people if he didn't allow them to go free. But Pharaoh refused.

Plague number 8 - As Moses left the Pharaoh's palace, he lifted

his arms to heaven and a wind from the East brought a swarm of locusts into Egypt. There were so many locusts that the sun was completely blocked out and the whole of Egypt



was in darkness! The locusts destroyed everything across the land of Egypt, and once again, Pharaoh begged Moses and Aaron to pray for an end to the plague. Moses agreed, and God sent a wind from the west to drive the locusts away. But guess what - once the locusts were gone, Pharaoh was back to his old tricks; he changed his mind again and refused to let the Israelites go.

God was getting pretty fed up with Pharaoh by now, and so He sent \dots

Plague number 9 - Darkness! A thick, heavy darkness covered the whole land of Egypt; there wasn't even a teeny glimmer of light; no

sun, no stars, no moon (and remember in those days there was no such thing as electric lights or torches either!). The Egyptian people were

terrified, and once again Pharaoh pleaded with Moses to ask God to remove the darkness; but yet again, when God did as he asked, Pharaoh changed his mind and refused to let the Israelites go.

Then came the worst plague of all ...

Plague number 10 - Plague of the firstborn. "Then Moses said, 'Thus says the Lord: "About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the hand mill, and all the firstborn of the animals. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel"



Moses told all of the Israelite people to put a mark above their doors so that the angel of death would pass by without harming them, and it happened exactly as God had said. The firstborn of every person and

creature in the land of Egypt was killed and the Egyptian people wept and wailed in their grief. This time became known as 'Passover' as the angel of death passed over the Israelite people and left them and their children unharmed.

Finally, even Pharaoh had had enough. He called Moses and Aaron to him and told them that they may lead the Israelite people out of the land of Egypt, in order to take God's anger away from the Egyptian people.

The Israelite people had been waiting for this for a long time, so they quickly got ready to leave Egypt and begin their journey to the land that God had promised them - this journey was called 'The Exodus'.

Moses and Aaron gathered the Israelite people together and they set off at once, travelling through the night, wanting to get as far away from Egypt as possible. It was a good thing that they didn't wait because guess what ... When Pharaoh thought about all the work that the Israelite slaves had been doing and realised that none of this work

would get done without those slaves - he changed his mind again and sent his armies after Moses and the people of Israel to force them to return to Egypt!!

Moses led the Israelites on, they could see the Egyptians in the distance, coming after them. Ahead of them was the Red Sea - behind them was Pharaoh's army - it looked like they were trapped. But God said to Moses "Raise your staff", and when



Moses did this, the waves of the sea parted, and a path appeared in front of the Israelites. The Israelites knew this strange path was their only hope of escape and so they ran forwards along the

path. The Egyptian army were close behind them, but as they began to follow the Israelites, the waves closed up behind them and the path disappeared. Moses and the people of Israel ran along the path to safety, but every one of the Egyptians were drowned

Finally, it seemed that the people of Israel were free!

This isn't quite the end of the story of Moses, but it's where we're going to leave Moses and Aaron and the people of Israel - resting before the next stage of their adventure begins.

So Why Exactly Did God Send Those Plagues?

God wanted Pharaoh to release the Israelite people; to let them go free, and He knew that Pharaoh was really NOT going to want to do that. The 10 plagues or disasters God sent were intended to prove to the people of Israel that God was on their side - after being slaves for so long they had almost given up believing that. By sending these plagues, God was also proving to the people of Israel that He had chosen Moses to be their leader and to protect them.

But those plagues were also chosen carefully by God, to prove to Pharaoh and the Egyptian people that there is only 1 true and all-powerful God.

At that time, the people of Egypt worshipped lots of different 'Gods'; they had a Sun God, a God of the rivers and water, a God of the crops and fields, a God of the animals and creatures, a God of babies and children - they literally had a different 'God' for everything. When God sent His plagues, He wanted to show the Egyptian people that they were wrong; these so called 'Gods' could not stop the plagues or protect the Egyptian people from them - but look over there - the people of Israel who believed in the 1 true God, were not being harmed by those plagues at all!

By the time the Israelites left Egypt, they had a clear picture of God's power, God's protection, and God's plan for them.

The result for the Egyptians was very different; Pharaoh had lost all his armies, and his land and his people had been devastated by the plagues. I wonder if Pharaoh had finally learned his lesson ...

Loving God, help us to remember to pray and to trust You with important matters throughout our lives.

Even when things are difficult or feel unfair, help us to remember that you still love us and want what is best for us;

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Here's Something Fun To Do

Can you unscramble the following letters to find the 10 plagues?

LFESI TCOLUS
SLIBO ECLI
SKSENRAD VRRIE FO OLBOD

ECPSITLEEN GFOSR

LHIA SFRITRBON

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