

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



'VE Day 75'
(Photo courtesy of Kat Sowden)

Serving the Community
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Parish Diary June 2020

Whilst there are no services in Church, join us at 11am on Sundays on our Facebook Page for prayers, readings and a reflection <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth/> and on Wednesdays at 6:15pm for Mid-Week Praise.

Any additional services will be advertised through the update to the weekly pewsheet and on Facebook

(To get updates via the pewsheet, email polly.ryder@hotmail.co.uk)

A few words from the Vicar

In a few weeks, maybe by early July, it is just possible we may be able to reopen our lovely church building. But, before you get your hopes up, this is likely to be for socially distanced private prayer only. Meeting together for worship is a more distant prospect.

For now, access to church continues to be restricted. I can enter church for three reasons only; to pray, to record or livestream worship, and to check the condition of the building.

I take the view that my prayers for the needs of individuals and the parish are no less effective if I pray at home in my study. So, as always, that is what I do.

As for online worship, the dodgy 4G signal in church and the absence of a broadband connection means it is better if I continue to livestream from my dining room.

So, I am restricted to inspecting the building. This is a little strange because our church is like a time capsule, still decorated in the purple of Lent, in preparation for the sadness of Good Friday and resurrection joy of Easter Sunday.

At a recent PCC meeting (socially distanced via Zoom) we began to think about managing our return. We wondered, what will worship be like when the Government gives us the green light? Well, we cannot be sure, but an educated guess is possible.

Just like dining on a cruise, gelling our hands as we enter will become second nature.

We will also need to observe social distancing. This will mean refraining from shaking hands when we share the peace and, to allow

others to pass safely, not standing in the aisle for a pre or post service chat. But how will we share in the Lord's Supper in this brave new world? We await guidance on that one.

As in Germany, I suspect we will not be allowed to sing, although I am sure Jenny will still play the organ for us. So, no hymnbooks, but no service booklets either. Paper is absorbent so cannot be disinfected, and COVID-19 can survive on paper for 24 hours. Awkward!

Then there is one almighty challenge. We may be expected to disinfect surfaces between services. If that is not possible, we may be obliged to leave the building locked for 72 hours to allow enough time for the virus to degrade. This would limit us to one service in church each Sunday. Again, awkward!

I am aware that many are yearning for things to return to the preCOVID-19 normal sometime soon. Unfortunately, that is looking doubtful, at least in the short term. It could be months, possibly next year, before things return to something like normal. In the meantime, we will need to be flexible.

Then, for some, our older members especially, but for a few of the younger ones too, it will be impossible for them to join us for worship anytime soon. Some will be obliged to self-isolate or continue shielding. What about them? And what about those who are housebound can no longer join us in church for worship anyway? It would be wrong to neglect their spiritual needs, so I plan to continue livestreaming.

Anyway, I expect livestreaming will become a permanent fixture. In common with many other parish priests, I have discovered it is a wonderful missional opportunity. Indeed, I suspect the Church of England has stumbled upon a God-given opportunity here. So, having begun livestreaming, it would be foolish to stop!

Welcome to the new normal!

Every Blessing

Dave

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

April 21st

We commend to God's keeping

Vera Hart

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the June 2020 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine; another 'e-magazine'. As a reader, I have to say there's something rather special about printed pages and being able to leaf through a publication, however as an editor, I could get rather used to the new 'e-format'. A more relaxed deadline, no worries about trying to ensure the final number of pages is a multiple of 4 (for anyone who's ever wondered about it - that's why there are sometimes lots of little snippets and extras and sometimes very few!) and the option to include colour photos – what's not to like!

Whilst we're aware that the e-format magazine won't work for everyone, I hope that most people that wish to, have been able to access the magazine, and who knows, maybe it's reached others who would normally miss out.

Rather than dampening people's enthusiasm, it seems that in many cases the lockdown situation has encouraged people to think outside of the box and look for ways to connect and have fun whilst still following the guidelines around social distancing. So many of our groups and organisations have turned to 'virtual' activities, some of the uniformed organisations even managing to keep going with badge work – well done everyone, and a huge thankyou to all who have sent in their updates and reports.

A number of fabulous local initiatives also sprang up around the VE Day 75 celebrations; socially distant street parties, zoom quizzes, even a village scarecrow competition! Thanks to Kat Sowden for this month's front cover picture – 'Ruby', a 1936 Austin Seven Ruby Deluxe, owned by Steve Horrocks, was proudly on display during the VE Day celebrations; back in May 1945, Ruby was already 9 years old!

Make sure you read the reports on all of these activities, plus some thought provoking VE Day memories shared by some of our older parishioners. Once again we have an 'Extended Parish Puzzler' to keep you occupied as the lockdown continues, and also an inspirational poem by 14year old Megan Grace.

Enjoy this month's magazine 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

PCC News

One of the most astonishing things about the current lockdown situation is the speed at which individuals, groups and organisations have adapted to the restrictions that we've all been faced with; embracing the use of modern technology, reviewing practises and procedures and finding new ways of working. There are many shining examples of this within our church and also within the wider community. Within a very short space of time support networks had sprung up; people were 'looking out' for vulnerable neighbours; WhatsApp groups were being used to ensure that people had what they needed and someone to turn to for a friendly (socially distant!) chat.

Our Clergy team were quickly on the case – amongst other things, 'live streaming' services to ensure that people continue to feel supported by and connected with our church; providing regular updates by e-mail, Facebook and our website; providing links to enable people to access all manner of online worship opportunities. All of these things take time and effort but are hugely important to many people; as a Parish, we are very fortunate to have so many forward thinking, dedicated and caring people on our team - thankyou.

The PCC meeting scheduled for early March was unable to go ahead due to the impending lockdown, but with business to discuss and decisions to be made, spurred on by Revd. Dave, the PCC met by 'Zoom' early in May – and it worked really well! PCC members were able to come together to discuss important issues whilst remaining in the safety and comfort of their own homes.

Much discussion ensued around when Churches may be able to re-open and how that might look; what safety and distancing measures might be required and how we might be able to adapt to meet those requirements. Like so many other areas of our lives, we are going to have to 'think outside of the box' and come up with a new normal; the phrase, "We like what is familiar, but we learn from what is new" seems to be very appropriate.

Many events and occasions have had to be cancelled / postponed during the lockdown, including our Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which should have taken place in April. The purpose of the annual vestry meeting is to elect churchwardens for the forthcoming year; whilst the annual parochial church meeting provides a forum through which the PCC, Vicar and Churchwardens report back to church members on how they have discharged their

responsibilities over the past 12 months. There is a legal requirement for these meetings to be held, hence we will need to reschedule once we have a clear idea of when churches will be able to re-open.

After 5 years in office, our current Churchwarden, Lillian Haworth, has taken the decision to stand down. Lillian took up office in 2015 and has worked tirelessly throughout this period providing practical support, information, knowledge and advice. She will be greatly missed in this role and the PCC would like to express their thanks for all her hard work; Lillian's successor will have a hard act to follow.

Finally, a quick update on our Parish Lottery. As time moves on and situations and circumstances change, it is important that we are able to adapt; 25 years ago, when the Parish Lottery was launched the world was a very different place and people's lifestyles were very different too. Our Parish Lottery was in the process of being reviewed, with a relaunch planned for early in April; obviously this is something that has had to be put on the back burner under the current circumstances, but we have every intention that it will be back!

Alison Hartley

Thanks (And An Appeal) From The Treasurer

I would like to offer my grateful thanks to those of you who responded to my appeal last month for donations to be made directly into the church bank account rather than be set aside and also to consider setting up a monthly standing order for regular giving to the church rather than using weekly envelopes.

I apologise for the repetition but, for anyone who didn't see last month's appeal ...

If anyone is able and would like to make a donation now rather than set aside their Weekly Offering envelopes until church services resume, please contact me.

Would you consider setting up a monthly standing order for your regular giving to the church rather than using weekly envelopes? Standing orders are a tried and trusted method of making regular donations to charities and more than 25 members of the congregation now make their monthly donations this way.

I know that some may have concerns about this method of payment but - a standing order is not the same as a direct debit. YOU instruct your bank to make a regular payment to the church, and:

- YOU decide the amount,
- YOU choose the day of the month it's paid, and
- YOU can amend or cancel the standing order, as and when YOU see fit.

The church does not have access to your bank account. YOU are in control!

You can set up a standing order or make a direct donation to church through your online banking; please contact me on geoffreywhittle@btinternet.com or 01204 385452 or 07976 443165 and I will provide you with the church bank details.

Thank you again to those of you who have already switched to standing order. In the continuing absence of plate collections at church services and following the cancellation of the Spring Fair, it is proving to be a great help to church finances. But, as I said last month, I know very well that some members of the congregation may be facing financial hardship and uncertainty so I would stress that my appeal is to those of you who feel able to help.

Keep well and stay safe in these difficult times.

Geoff Whittle

PCC Treasurer

If you don't usually receive our Parish Magazine, did you know that you can order it and have it delivered each month?

Please arrange for me to have Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine delivered:

Name

Address

..... Post Code

Please cut out & return this form to:

Mrs. S. Varnom, 86, Haig Rd, Bury, BL8 2LF together with a cheque for £6 per year (plus postage if you live outside the Parish) made payable to Christ Church Ainsworth Magazine.

Just A Thought ...

An optimist is someone who finds an opportunity in every difficulty; a pessimist is someone who finds a difficulty in every opportunity.

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Family Race Night

POSTPONED

Hopefully this event will be rescheduled once lockdown restrictions have been lifted. Watch this space for more info or email

scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk

Family Coach Trip - Bakewell

In view of the ongoing restrictions this trip has been cancelled.

Ainsworth Village Day

In view of the current restrictions on 'social gatherings', the Ainsworth Village Day team have taken the decision to cancel this year's event. Hopefully Ainsworth Village Day will be back bigger and better than ever next year.

Porch Boxes

It is not possible to receive donations for Porch Boxes in Church at present, however Porch Boxes are still very much in need of our donations. If you shop at any of the following stores they have somewhere to receive donations: ASDA (Radcliffe; Pilsworth & Bury); Morrisons (Whitefield & Ramsbottom); Tesco (Bury & Ramsbottom)

Confirmations

Following the Prime Minister's most recent announcement, we can expect this year's Confirmation service (18th June) to be cancelled. A replacement service will be organised as soon as it is feasible to do so. For now, we are seeking expressions of interest, so please email vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk to register (NB. Children must be in Year 6 or above and attend Church regularly). Before anyone can be Confirmed, they are required to complete a course of study. We normally prepare candidates via evening meetings (adults) or a study day in church (year 6 and above). Owing to the social-distancing rules, it will not be possible to meet physically but, if there is enough interest, we can prepare adults and children (separately) via Zoom.

Around The Organisations ...

Scouts

St George's Day this year was somewhat different to normal with no parades in sight, however it was fantastic to see all the Scouts out in their uniforms clapping for carers as part of the day's celebrations.

Even though we obviously aren't able to meet as normal, we are still running events on a Friday night. We have had a family bingo night, run by Mollie. What a fun night, all you need is your telephone number and an online bingo number generator - Great fun for all the family!

As well as the fun things we have been doing, we have also started doing some badge work.

On the first Friday in May, the Scouts presented their "Scout's Den" ideas. They had been tasked with producing a gadget or idea that would be good for Scouting. We had some fantastic ideas that I'm sure, if we could actually give them the money, would make the inventor a fortune. Six of the ideas were put through to the final Den:

- 1) Charlotte's "Wonderpants" - when you just don't have enough room in your pockets, you can stick items with velcro to the outside of your pants.
- 2) Matthew's double sided rucksack - one on your front, one on your back - to keep your hands free to carry your chair and sleeping bag.
- 3) Luci's first aid kit - made from empty Tic Tac boxes stuck together with areas for all your essentials, plus one to use as a bin.
- 4) Callum's pot drying rack - hand made wooden drying rack (we have already told him that if he can make it foldable we can sell at least 10 of them)/
- 5) Isabella leaders stress balls - what a fab idea, balloons with flour and water in, making fantastic stress balls.
- 6) Ralphie's Tent Peg identifiers - flower pegs with a solar light on the top to stop people (especially me) falling over pegs and ropes on camp.

We are continuing on with Scouts on line until we are told we can meet again.

On a more serious note, the 80 Easter Eggs for the Scouts and Cubs are still in date and sat in Baloo's spare room, so don't panic!!!!

Stacey (On behalf of the leaders)

Ainsworth Scout Group

It is with regret, but using common sense, that we have had to make the decision that there will be no face to face meetings of any of the Scout sections until September. Parents will be contacted as time goes on as to the actual dates of us getting back together.

Some sections are organising badge work for the youngsters to do at home and Stacey is continuing to run her Family Fun Friday evening on WhatsApp and other on-line devices.

The fund raising Race Night has been postponed and the coach trip to Bakewell cancelled.

Keep safe everyone.

Bill White - Group Scout Leader

16th Radcliffe Brownies

The Brownies are just about to trial meeting virtually on Zoom. In the meantime, we have been doing our best to stay connected via our Facebook page. The girls have been working on their 'Zero Waste' badge ... weighing rubbish and thinking about how we can reduce water waste too. The girls have also been sent a link to pawprint badges and we set them a challenge of doing any badge they like ... there is a VE one, an indoor camping one and loads more ... can't wait to see what each girl chooses.

We joined with others in spirit to clap for keyworkers in our uniforms too.

Hope everyone is doing well.

Yours In Guiding - Sarah McAnulty

Strap Lines

The greatest nourishment for children is not what goes into their mouths, but what comes out of ours.

Reality is that which, when you stop believing it, doesn't go away.

When you get to the point where you think you understand your kids, you're probably too old for it to matter.

12th Radcliffe Brownies

Although we couldn't meet due to lockdown, we followed the lead of Scouts and celebrated St. George's Day by wearing our uniforms whilst doing our "Clap for Carers" - and here is our display of some of the photos.



In spite of lockdown, several Brownies have completed interest badges and other Brownie Activities – Well done Brownies! Whilst we are going to continue our meetings online for the rest of the term, we are looking forward to being able to meet again face-to-face.

Brown Owl

Building Hope and Confidence

At a recent meeting of Manchester Trustees, it was felt that during this Covid-19 crisis they wanted to invite all Mothers' Union members to join in prayer, as far as possible at the same time each day. During "Lockdown" many of us are not, or hardly going out at all, but we can still connect with members in our Diocese in prayer. Knowing that many of us are praying at the same time each day, can bring a sense of belonging and give a strength to our prayers.

They suggested that as many of us as are able, stop for a few moments at 10a.m. every day to pray. If anyone needs it, I have a copy of suggested 'Lockdown' prayers which I will happily print off and post to members. They are also available on the Mothers' Union Manchester Facebook page. If that time is not suitable, please do find another time which is convenient for you – the important thing is that we pause and pray.

It was suggested that we light a candle (safely) and sit quietly for a few moments before beginning to pray. If we can give even 5 minutes to praying together, there will be a powerful wave of prayer echoing around the Diocese every day.

You will all have received a letter entitled 'Coronavirus: A difficult ask', in which we are told of the cost saving measures that have been taken at Mary Sumner House in response to the unprecedented Covid-19 crisis. This virus has swept across the world, bringing with it many challenges, and Mary Sumner House (MSH) our central hub has become vulnerable too. I have been listening to Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President telling us that the very heart of Mothers' Union is at risk. In normal circumstances, they are able to raise over £1 million pounds each year, mainly by renting conference rooms, fundraising activities and the MU shop. Without this income, Mothers' Union will not be able to meet the costs of development work, staffing, fundraising and governance. Already 50% of the staff at MSH have been furloughed.

Across the 83 countries in which we operate, there has been an increase in action from Mothers' Union to assist the response to COVID-19. Members are pushing their communities to network in new and unique ways which reduce in-person meeting as much as possible but still deliver essential aid to those who need it most.

A SNAPSHOT OF ACTION!

In Asia:

In Toungoo and in Hpa-an diocese in Myanmar, numerous hand sanitisers, bottles of hand soap and face masks have been made and distributed to people in the community. These are essential to the efforts to slow the spread of the virus in a context where a lack of infrastructure can make logistics very tricky.

In Africa:

In Uganda, members are supporting those who are living hand-to-mouth by distributing food and care packages. They are also sharing important information and advice about protecting against the virus.

In the Americas:

In normal times, Mothers' Union has a meals on wheels service to assist those in need in the West Indies. However, at the moment that has stopped due to safety concerns. Adapting to the situation, members are packaging food and every member is helping one family each who have been identified as vulnerable.

In Great Britain and Ireland:

Many members (Manchester included) are supporting our NHS. Mothers' Union scrubs and scrubs bags help ensure that staff can remove all clothing and keep it safely in a separate bag. This reduces the risk of infection in the home, protecting key workers' families and households. Care in the community such as this is an essential component of our movement.

Members are also making 'hearts' for critical care units. Matching pairs of knitted hearts are given to the patient and their family, so that people can feel more connected with their relatives. Thousands of items have been made and donated.

We are asked if we can help relieve this crisis situation, **BUT ONLY IF WE ARE ABLE.**

I would ask all members, if they want to help. A donation has already been sent from the Trustee board in Manchester.

The money in our account belongs to you, the members. Can I ask that you consider how we, as a branch can support the MU efforts? There has been a suggestion that we send a group donation from the branch and our treasurer Barbara S. has suggested the amount of £50. You may feel that a personal donation is more appropriate. Please don't ignore this - the crisis won't go away like magic. It would

be good if you can phone, text or email your opinion to Jean E, Barbara S, or me.

On a lighter note, here's a few classic 'bloopers' to bring a smile:

* Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian Evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

* Remember the church jumble sale. We have a gents three-speed bicycle, also two ladies for sale, in good running order.

* Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

* Miss Christine Mills sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

* Potluck supper, Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

And finally, one to remember when we recommence our meetings!

* Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

In the meantime, keep smiling and stay safe. 'Apart yet together'.

Jennifer White
(Hon. Sec.)

AINSWORTH SOCIAL CLUB

We endeavour to keep in touch with each other during lockdown through social media, e-mails and our WhatsApp group. Also by phone and post to those who can't access the internet.

One of our challenges this month has been to reach out to others beyond the club in these difficult times, and a number of our members have been knitting, crocheting and sewing pairs of hearts for local hospitals. Whilst no visiting is allowed, one heart is given to the patient and one to the next of kin or partner to provide a connection and a little comfort.

At the time of writing, ASC has handed over more than 200 hearts to be used in this way.

Another challenge has been to keep our brains active because we know only too well that brain-function can deteriorate as we get older. Several of us, who normally form a team for the monthly quiz at the Duke William, devised a quiz which was sent out to members as a brain-stretching exercise but also provided a bit of fun!

‘VE Day 75’

On the 75th anniversary of VE Day, HRH Queen Elizabeth II paid an emotional tribute to Britain’s lockdown spirit in her VE Day message to the nation,

‘ ... “It may seem hard that we cannot mark this special anniversary as we would wish. Instead we remember from our homes and our doorsteps.

“But our streets are not empty; they are filled with the love and the care that we have for each other. And when I look at this country today, and see what we are willing to do to protect and support one another, I say with pride that we are still a nation those brave soldiers, sailors and airmen would recognise and admire.” ‘

75 years have passed since victory in Europe was declared in May 1945; people across the country came together to celebrate the momentous occasion all those years ago, and despite the lockdown restrictions, communities all over the country found ways to commemorate the 75th anniversary on the 8th May 2020.

Whilst the national mood in 1945 was one of exhilaration, there was also the keen awareness that although Germany had surrendered and victory in Europe had been declared, many troops were still waging war against Japan in the East; many were waiting to return from their postings overseas; many were still incarcerated in Prisoner Of War Camps; and many, many people – troops and civilians, had lost their lives in the long fight against fascism.

The VE Day edition of ‘The Bury Times’ described the mood locally as one of “sober thanksgiving”. Churches of all denominations held services throughout the day as people went to give thanks for the allied victory, but also to mourn and remember those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The Government declared a 2 day national bank holiday on the 8th and 9th of May 1945 and allowed children across the country the whole of the rest of the week off school. Flags appeared on every street, church bells rang out and street parties sprang up.

75 years later, in spite of the current restrictions, communities across the UK came together to celebrate that momentous occasion, and to honour once more those who gave their lives in the name of freedom.

VE Day 75 – Ainsworth Remembers

A short walk around Ainsworth on 'VE Day 75' provided numerous examples of communities coming together. On a glorious, sunny day, bunting and flags fluttered from houses, lamp posts and fences; a number of the Scarecrow Competition entries also now 'held' Union Jacks, and messages of thanks and hope were displayed in many windows.

Revd. Dave live streamed a short but very moving service of thanksgiving via the Christ Church Ainsworth facebook page. Throughout the day residents celebrated quietly; families picnicked on front lawns; neighbours enjoyed 'socially distant' gatherings between adjacent gardens; a number of notices sprang up on driveways, inviting people to join 'Zoom' VE Day 75 quiz nights and a variety of other 'virtual gatherings'.

As the day drew to a close and the light faded, laughter and singing continued into the evening; from one particularly jolly (or tipsy!) socially distant gathering, the strains of "We'll Meet Again" could clearly be heard.

Our village, along with the rest of the country, may have been on lockdown, but our community found so many ways to express their thanks, to remember and to celebrate a truly momentous occasion.

From The Mouths Of Babes

On spotting the Union Jack fluttering on the gates of Ainsworth Methodist Chapel on VE Day, my 4 year old niece stated, "Oh look – even God's put a flag up ..." !!

Wartime Memories

Ian Watts was living in Thornaby, Teesside in May 1945; here he recalls some of his abiding memories from those years.

A child's eye view of the war 1939 to 1945 in Teesside.

The sound of the air raid warning - the earthy smell of the Anderson shelter in the back garden - the bucket in the shelter for the toilet during the long nights spent in the shelter - my father stood at the door of the shelter in his Home Guard uniform saying that 'someone is going to get it tonight' as a parachute mine fell in Thornaby - the sound of the anti-aircraft guns firing just behind the house - the

sound of shrapnel falling on the roof - the sound of bombs falling - seeing two search lights pointing into the sky lighting up the black cross on the German bomber flying overhead - seeing the tracer bullets going up in the sky and not hitting the bomber - wearing a gas mask with its rubber sides which rattled against your face when you breathed - having to carry an identity card at all times (FGFW 177/3 never forgotten even after all these years) - being warned not to pick up anything lying in the street as it may be an anti-personnel bomb - my father's 303 rifle stood by the front door ready to be taken if called for - hearing the All Clear being sounded - experiencing double British Summer Time so it was daylight up to 11.00 at night - seeing pictures in the newspaper of the scenes in the Belsen concentration camp - seeing the open ovens in the camp with all the ash still inside - seeing all the bodies hanging.

Even now, 75 years later, I still cannot stand the sound of the air raid warning or the sound of an aeroplane at night. Some memories never fade.

Doris Chorlton was 7 years old and living in Ainsworth with her family when victory in Europe was declared on the 8th May 1945.

Doris was just 12 months old when she moved to Ainsworth from Eccles with her family, at that time Eccles was 'getting hit really hard', and Doris's father thought that Ainsworth would be a quieter and safer place for the family to live. When a bomb fell in nearby Tottington, they must have wondered whether they had made the right decision!

The youngest of 4 sisters, Doris and her family lived at 57, Bury Old Road, across from Ainsworth Methodist Chapel; her father had a pen on the piece of land directly opposite the Chapel (a detached bungalow now stands on the site) and the family were lucky enough to have a plentiful supply of fresh eggs from the chickens he kept there. As a young girl, one of Doris's tasks was to turn the eggs in the incubator, then, later on when they acquired a nanny goat, Doris added 'chief goat milker' to her repertoire.

Doris's older sisters were all employed in the war effort – 1 sister working at Barton Airport, which was a target for heavy bombing; another sister was in the ATS (then based where Constellation Mill now stands); the third was an Orderly at the camp which was situated near to Whitehead Lodges.

Doris has happy memories of village life; she recalls Mr. Metcalf being the Vicar and the churches (all 3 of them) always being well attended. The relatively new Co-op was the only food shop in the village at the time and Doris remembers waiting whilst the 2oz butter ration was weighed out. The houses in Ainsworth Village at that time were mainly the old cottages and terraced houses; whilst the cottages generally had cellars which doubled up as air raid shelters, others who were less fortunate had to take refuge under the stairs during raids.

Doris recalls the joy and excitement of VE Day; the church bells were rung; people put flags up; the villagers held a party on the 'Rec'; and best of all, in honour of the occasion, her father killed a chicken and the family had the incredible luxury of a celebratory chicken dinner!

From the Archives – June 1995

In his 'Letter To The Parish' in June 1995, Father Alan Flaherty, the Incumbent at the time, spoke at length about Whitsuntide and the tradition of Whit Walks; lamenting that in many areas the traditional Walk of Witness had all but disappeared from the church calendar, and expressing his pleasure and relief that this was not the case in the Parish of Ainsworth. The Parish Diary for that month confirmed that the 'Whitsuntide Walk Of Witness' would be held at 3pm on Saturday 10th June, followed by a short service in the Methodist Church.

A report from the PCC stated that the Vicar and 39(!) parishioners had attended the Easter Vestry meeting, at which Mr. P. Hinchliffe and Mr. J Maudsley had been appointed as Church Wardens with Mrs. M. Jones appointed Deputy Warden. Mr. W. White was appointed as a Lay Representative to the Deanery Synod; 8 PCC members were elected / re-elected for the next 3 year period; and 25 Sidesmen and women were approved for the following 12 month period. Mrs. Wood reported there were 358 names on the Electoral Roll, 152 of whom were resident within the Village. Following a period of enthusiastic fundraising, the Treasurer confirmed that the Tower Fund was doing well with just £640 still to be raised.

Elsewhere in the magazine the day school reported on a successful Spring Fair and provided information about their forthcoming Car Boot Sale; the Social Committee reported that the Church Spring Fair had gone well following a new format and asked for constructive feedback; Scouts were planning various camps for the summer months and the

Cubs were looking forwards to their annual 'Father and Son Camp', the theme for which was 'Pirates'.

In June 1995 there were 2 Baptisms, 1 Wedding and 2 Funerals recorded from the previous month. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 505 and the collections totalled £1679.

Ainsworth Scarecrow Competition

Anyone who happened to walk or drive through Ainsworth Village in the 2 weeks running up to VE Day 75, may have been surprised, maybe even a little alarmed, by the growing number of 'figures' popping up throughout the village. Figures in front gardens, figures in hedges, even lamp posts weren't spared!

Although aliens did feature, this was not in fact some kind of extra-terrestrial invasion, but a fabulous outpouring of community spirit in the form of a 'Village Scarecrow Competition' organised by the illustrious Ainsworth Village Day Team.

From traditional scarecrows to cartoon characters, mermaids, princesses, super heroes, NHS Workers and everything in between (there was even a Revd. Dave scarecrow and a Boris Johnson scarecrow!!) our community did us proud; in total there were over 60 entries.

Congratulations to the winners, and a huge thankyou to the Ainsworth Village Day Team for organising such a fabulous initiative which brought such an amazing response and gave so many people a great deal of pleasure (both making the figures and searching for them around the village). Maybe this could become an annual event! 😊

1st



Runners Up



Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

The following poem was sent in by Judith Shore, but was written by her 14 year old granddaughter, Megan Grace. Megan is a year 9 pupil at Cannon Slade and wrote these words while she was supposed to be doing school work! Many thanks for sharing them with us.

Pandemic

Remember the time when we all used to play; go out to the park or the beach for the day.

We'd sing, and we'd dance, and we'd run, and be free; we'd run and we'd laugh and we'd love, you see.

Now we can't, that's all gone away; now we're at home on our own every day.

Remember when you wanted to be alone? To stay in your room – on your X-Box or phone;

You didn't want to go out; you didn't want to play; now that's all that you want – but it's all gone away ...

What you would give to see family or friends! The loneliness, the boredom – it just never ends ...

The whole world was working; and suddenly it stopped; our country; our nation; our world – just stopped.

No more parks; no more beaches; no funfairs or pools; no more work; no more holidays, or sports or school.

But we will find our way out of this mess; one with no confusion or worry or stress.

We must have hope, and hope we must; not for normal, but just for just.

This time of reflection has made people think; it's a time to rise; to heal; not to sink.

If a virus we can't see, or hear, or smell can capture the world in a global spell,

And start a pandemic, lockdown and hell, then we need to push our way out of this cell;

Not by escaping or hiding, and by no means by force, but unity, obedience and patience, of course.

It's now our time to stay home and stay safe; finally to wash off this empowering chafe;

Remember, stay positive, stay alert and stay kind, because one day we will remember this and look back in time.

Take this as an opportunity, a recap, a recall; because now we know to stand up, no matter how far we fall.

Soon this will be over, but I don't know when; live for the now, not the soon, nor the then ...

So, go that little further, stay two meters apart; because no matter how far away one is, one is always in your heart.

Now can you do this? Not for me, but for you; if we all do this together yet apart, we will pull through.

After all, if that can cause a pandemic affair; then I'll start off my own, with a smile to share 😊

Megan Grace (Age 14 years)

Space To Share A Prayer

God of love and light,

In this time of fear, give us your peace.

In this time of isolation, give us your presence.

In this time of sickness, give us your healing.

In this time of uncertainty, give us your wisdom.

In this time of darkness, shine your light upon us all.

In Jesus' name, Amen

(Tear Fund Prayer)

Parish Customs And Traditions

A tradition is defined as an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behaviour (such as a religious practice or a social custom). Britain is full of customs and traditions which have been around for hundreds of years. British customs and traditions are famous all over the world; but some are more unusual than others!

June – Well Dressing

Well dressing is the art of decorating (dressing) wells, springs or other water sources with pictures made of growing things, and is a way of giving thanks for the gift of fresh water. This ancient custom is popular

all over Derbyshire and is thought to date back to the Celts or even earlier.

The wells are dressed with large, framed panels decorated with elaborate mosaic-like pictures made of flower petals, seeds, grasses, leaves, tree bark, berries and moss.

Wooden trays are then covered with clay, mixed with water and salt. A design is drawn and its outline pricked out onto the surface of the clay. The design is then filled in with natural materials, predominantly flower petals and mosses, but also beans, seeds and small cones.

Well-dressings are beautiful and delicate and take a lot of work to make, and yet they only last for a few days.

After the well dressing is erected the well or spring is blessed in a short outdoor service.

Eyam, like many of the towns and villages in Derbyshire, has several wells and a short procession from well to well is carried out during the blessing of the wells.

Simple Ways To Change The World

Following a presentation to the Deanery Synod by St Margaret's Prestwich on becoming an 'Eco Church', a list of 'simple ways to change the world' was sent out with the minutes. Each month we'll be offering you a few suggestions off that list.

Cook from scratch - Cooking at home saves a lot of cash, but it also uses fewer resources than dining out or buying pre-made food. Although what you eat is usually more important than how it's cooked, eating food that's been processed in distant industrial kitchens, wrapped up in plastic and cardboard packaging, and driven to your local supermarket uses up a lot of energy.

Opt for reusable water bottles - Tap water is drinkable! Bottled water is expensive on so many levels – the cost of the water, the plastic bottle and the fact that that an estimated 80% of the bottles don't get recycled.

Line dry - If you have a clothes dryer, there's a good chance it uses more energy than anything else in your home. Grab a clothes rack, set up a clothes line outside, or just hang wet laundry on clothes hangers around the house.

Turn off the lights - There's a reason light switches are located by the door! Make a habit of turning them off when leaving a room, and

especially whenever you leave the house—you'll save energy (and save on the energy bill) in the process.

Time For A Smile

A man, running a little behind schedule, arrived at a church film evening and, in the semi darkness, he managed to find a seat. As his eyes adjusted to the darkness, he was surprised to see a dog sitting beside its master in the row ahead, intently watching the film. It even seemed to be enjoying the film, wagging its tail in the happy bits, drooping its ears at the sad bits, and hiding its eyes with its paws at the scary bits.

At the end, the man approached the dog's owner and said, "Wow, I'm amazed at how your dog really seemed to enjoy the film" The owner replied, "Yes, I can't believe it myself, because he hated the book."

Martin arrived at Sunday school late. Miss Walter, his teacher, knew that Martin was usually very punctual, so she asked him if anything was wrong.

Martin replied no, but that he had been going to go fishing but his dad had told him that he needed to go to church.

Miss Walter was very impressed and asked Martin if his dad had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing?

Martin replied, 'Yes he did. Dad said he didn't have enough bait for both of us.'

The rector of a very large church had a feeling that his relationship with his staff had become rather too informal and casual, so he thought he would have some fun by putting a sign on his office door which said "I'm the Boss", hoping this might have some spin-off effect on the staff.

Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said: "Your wife called. She wants her sign back."

The Extended Parish Puzzler

How Mow Many Words ...

Can you make from the following letters?

L O C K D O W N

How many crosses?

As you would expect, there are a number of crosses and images of crosses to be found within our church; each month we'll be including a photo and asking, 'Where can this cross be found?'

Last month's photo was of the cross on our Paschal Candle. You'll have to work this month's photo out from memory - any idea where this cross can be found? (Answer in next month's magazine).



Books Of The Bible - Anagrams

1. E E E L S S S T C A I C
2. K B K A K A H U
3. S P I E S N H E A
4. S U I T T
5. A Z P E A I H N H
6. A S L O M E T N T N A I
7. G I A G H A
8. P P P S N L H I I I A
9. H I M E J E A R
10. S R O T C I I A H N N

Church Seasons Word Search

There are 12 church seasons / special days hidden within the grid; they can read in any direction but always in a straight line. Need a bit of help? The hidden words are listed on page 29.

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

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	Lillian Haworth	0161 761 6187
Reader Emeritus	Venitia Flaherty	
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	

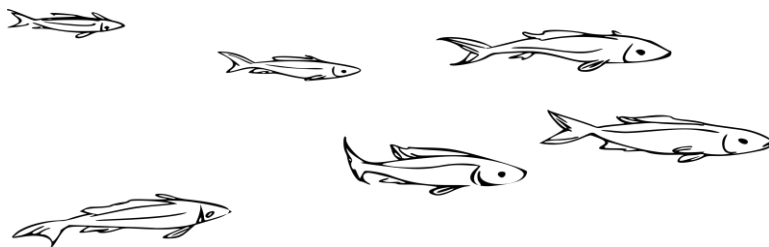
Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage and Funerals Contact Revd Dave Thomson

(Answer to Books of the Bible Anagrams on page 25: 1) Ecclesiastes; 2) Habakkuk; 3) Ephesians; 4) Titus; 5) Zephaniah; 6) Lamentations; 7) Haggai; 8) Philippians; 9) Jeremiah; 10) Corinthians

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 Rainbow Guider Janet Kay	01204 525739
Brownies 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Captain Emma Lee	0161 764 2243

(Church Seasons Word search: Epiphany; Candlemas; Lent; Easter; Trinity; Ascension Day; Pentecost; Harvest; All Saints Day; Remembrance; Advent; Christmas)



Little Fishes



Thanks to Freya Howcroft-Swift (age 7) for our cover picture this month

Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Sunday 31st May 2020

Last month Little Fishes was all about Ascension Day and we learned that 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended to heaven leaving his friends to return to Jerusalem and wait for his promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

But what happened next?

Before he left his friends, Jesus had made them a promise. "The Holy Spirit will come to you and give you the power to tell other people about me; to spread the word."



For 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven, his friends had stayed together in Jerusalem, praying and wondering what was going to happen next.

On the 10th day, as they knelt together praying, they suddenly heard a noise like a strong wind which seemed to fill the house that they were in.

As they looked it seemed as if tongues of fire reached out to touch each person who was there, and as this happened they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.



Suddenly Jesus's friends found that they were able to speak in different languages. There were many people from all over the world staying in Jerusalem at that time; when each person heard Jesus's friends speaking in their own language, most of them were amazed and praised God and spoke of the wondrous thing that had happened.



Some people laughed and said that Jesus's friends must have drunk too much wine to be talking such nonsense.



Peter was a special friend of Jesus, he stood up in front of the crowd and told them, "It is early in the morning, we are not drunk." He told the crowd how Jesus had lived among

them and died on the cross so that their sins could be forgiven. He told them that Jesus had ascended to heaven and that God had now sent the Holy Spirit to be with them and guide them. He told the crowd that they should be sorry for their sins and stop doing bad things, and that if they did this and were baptized, they would also receive the Holy Spirit in their lives.

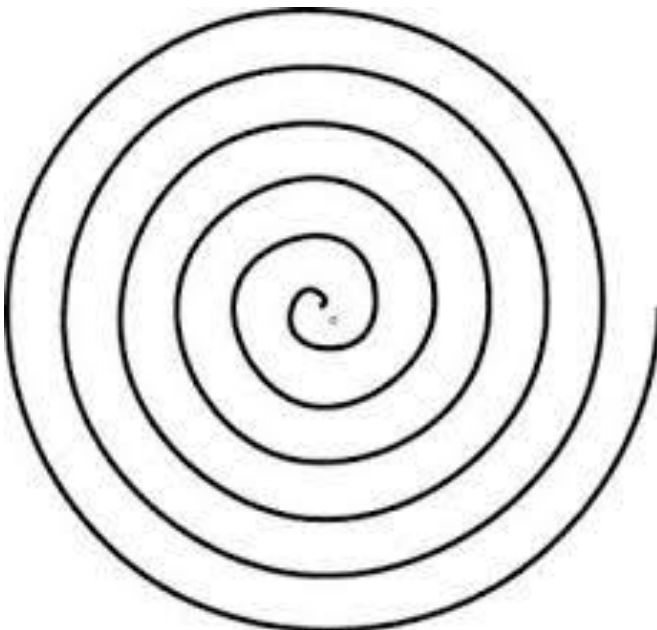


Many of the people who were in the crowd that day listened to Peter and were baptized and became Christians.

Pentecost Craft Idea - Wind Twirler

You will need:

- A piece of thick paper or thin card
- Pens, crayons or coloured pencils
- Scissors
- A piece of string about 30cm long
- A hole punch



Here's what to do:

* Ask a grown up to help you print out and cut round the spiral template on the previous page, or copy the template onto a piece of thick paper then cut it out.

* Use the hole punch to make a hole in the middle part of the spiral.

* Lay the spiral flat and use the marker pens to decorate it; you could use red, orange and yellow colours to look like flames.

* When you've finished decorating the spiral, thread 1 end of the string through the hole in the middle and knot it.

* Use the thread to tie the spiral to a tree branch, a fence or even a washing line, then watch the Wind Twirler spin and twirl.

Pentecost Word Search

Hidden in the grid there are 6 words from the Pentecost story - can you find them all? Some go forwards, some go backwards, they can even go up or down!

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

LOVE

FIRE

POWER

HOLY

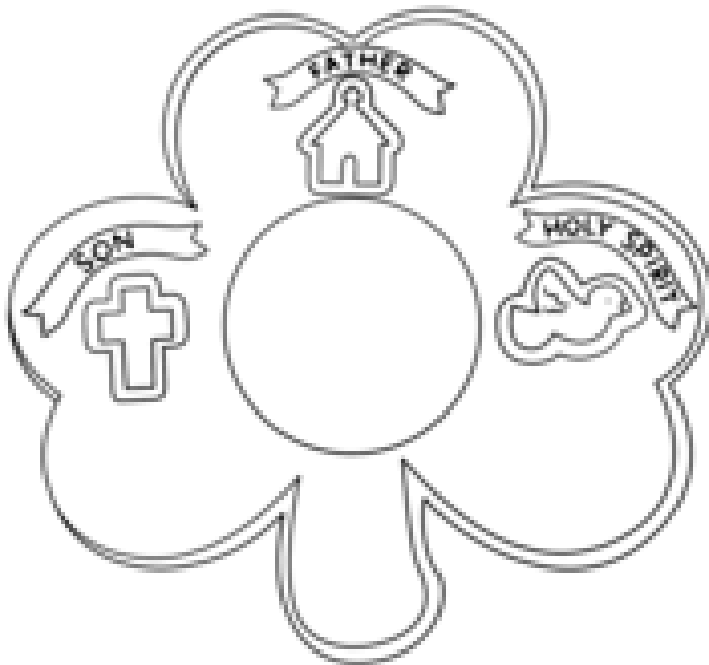
WIND

SPIRIT

Next month Trinity.

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 14th June.

God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit



Name: _____

Age: _____