

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Spring comes To Christ Church Ainsworth
(Photo courtesy of John Nicholson)

Serving the Community

www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

March 2021

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In This Issue ...

- Front cover ... Photo courtesy of John Nicholson
- Page 2 In This Issue
- Page 3 Worship With Us
- Page 4 Planning To Attend Our Church Building For Worship?
- Page 5 A Few Words From The Vicar ...
- Page 7 Editor's Spot
From The Registers
Just A Thought
- Page 8 Acknowledgement – Church Yard Group
Acknowledgement – Porch Boxes
- Page 9 News From The Diocese – Fairtrade Fortnight
- Page 10 ... Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements
- Page 11 Around The Organisations – Ainsworth Scout Group
Cubs, Scouts
- Page 14 ... 12th Radcliffe Brownies
- Page 15 ... 16th Radcliffe Brownies
- Page 16 ... Mothers' Union
- Page 18 ... From The Archives
- Page 19 ... Why Do We Say That Then?
Space To Share A Prayer
- Page 20 ... Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)
- Page 21 ... Through The Seasons - Ainsworth In February
- Page 22 ... Struggles Can Develop Strengths
Olde Worlde Weather Lore
- Page 23 ... Did You Know ... March Facts
- Page 24 ... The Great Daffodil Appeal Is More Important Than Ever!
- Page 25 ... Time For A Smile
- Page 26 ... Strap Lines
A Few Things That Haven't Been Cancelled Due To Covid
- Page 27 ... The Extended Parish Puzzler
- Page 29 ... Who's Who
- Page 30 ... Who's Who For Church Organisations
- Page 21 - 34 ... Little Fishes
- Page 35 - 39 ... Advertisements



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

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

- 6.30pm Mid-Week Praise posted on Facebook only throughout lockdown 3.0

To join us on Facebook, follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth/>

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

If you missed any of our livestreamed services, some of them can be found on our website <https://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk/online-worship.html> or our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1kRCPBlymPoDSyhH9CZYrw>

The Prayer Book Society also lists some churches livestreaming BCP services: <https://www.pbs.org.uk/churches-and-services/-1>

Planning to attend our church building for worship?

The following COVID-19 Secure restrictions apply:

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

Churches are allowed to remain open for worship during lockdown 3.0, provided they can do so safely, however some people will feel that it is currently better not to attend in person. Indeed, the Church of England advises that certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Whether you attend worship in church with others, or prefer to join with us on Facebook, is entirely your decision. Our responsibility is to ensure you have the choice.

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

A few words from the Vicar

Well, I am glad to say that the vaccine rollout is going well. Many in our congregation have had their first jab, and many others are looking forward to being jabbed sometime soon.

I am certainly impressed by the efficiency of the process. One morning, I received an email via Bury Council informing me that, as a faith leader, I was entitled. So, I followed the link and a little over an hour later I was at Fairfield Hospital being vaccinated. By strange coincidence, whilst I was there, my GP surgery phoned offering me a jab as they had worked their way through their list to my age range. Then, two days later, I received another offer from the NHS by post!

Clearly, the NHS is working hard to ensure everyone is vaccinated as soon as possible. If that means some of us receive more than one invitation, well better safe than sorry! I would sooner be asked three times than miss out.

Sadly, there is some misinformation in circulation which could jeopardise the overall effectiveness of the vaccination programme. For this reason, I am glad that CofE Bishops have been prominent in supporting the NHS campaign (#GiveHope) to encourage take up. For Christians, apart from those advised by their GP to avoid the vaccination for medical reasons, loving your neighbour during a pandemic must include playing your part in reducing the severity of COVID-19. So, please get jabbed!

Anyway, all this is good news, there is light at the end of the tunnel. We can all look forward to returning to some sort of normality. Not that post-pandemic life will be the same as it was in 2019. For example, I do not need to spell out to you the economic and educational costs of the pandemic restrictions. Such things are obvious to everyone. But, what about the Church of England? Well, like other spheres of life, the Church is changing too.

Thanks to everyone who continued their regular giving during the pandemic, our parish has managed to keep its head above water financially. But, overall, the Church of England has taken a massive financial hit. Prior to the pandemic, financial difficulties meant that a reduction in the number of stipendiary clergy was already planned for this Diocese. The worsening financial situation, sadly, takes us even further away from the traditional model of one vicar, one parish.

There are, of course, those who wonder aloud in the pages of the *Spectator* and other publications about the wisdom of growing the CofE bureaucracy and the ranks of its 'middle management' at a time when front line clergy are being cut. Well, you might think that, but I couldn't possibly comment!

Another change on the horizon is the likelihood that parishes will be asked to collaborate with each other in new mission communities. We are at the consultation stage and our PCC discussed the briefing paper in early February. We like the idea of collaborating with neighbouring parishes. It is pure common sense. By sharing resources and engaging in mission together, we can expect to achieve much more.

Unfortunately, the discussion document is light on detail, with no evidence provided to support the expected outcomes and no information on governance. So, although this is an interesting concept, in common with many other PCCs, we have asked for clarification.

Finally, what can I say about our services during March and over Easter. Well, sadly, not much. Of course, I have a tentative plan for Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter but currently, I do not have clarity about what the COVID restrictions will be. So, my advice is, keep an eye on our Facebook Page and weekly newsletter.

God Bless

Dave

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the March 2021 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is once again packed with interesting reports, articles and updates.

Considering that, as I write this, we have been in full lockdown for almost 2 months and in a very restricted tier 4 situation prior to that, I am constantly amazed and extremely impressed by the reports that come in from our various groups, organisations and committees; the leaders, co-ordinators and helpers are doing an incredible job under exceptional circumstances – I take my hat off to you all!

With the continued roll out of the covid-19 vaccination programme and the Government plan for lifting the lockdown, it seems that at last there may be some light at the end of this particular tunnel; before too much longer we may once again be able to do some of the things that have been 'off the menu' for so many months. The past year has been incredibly challenging and upsetting for many people on many levels; as we begin to look forwards to a return to some kind of 'normality', maybe it's a good time to take stock, take time to appreciate the things that we once took for granted, and also to consider what positives we can draw from the past 12 months that we would wish to hold onto.

Spring and Easter are times for growth and new beginnings, let's hope that in the coming weeks and months we can begin to move forwards once again with confidence, in all areas of our lives.

Enjoy this month's magazine, do your best to keep safe, well and positive, and as always, please keep your reports and articles coming in by the second Sunday in the month, to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com.

Alison

From The Registers

FUNERALS

January 7th

January 20th

We commend to God's keeping

Robert Green

Dorothy Fairclough

Just A Thought

Be not afraid of going slowly, be afraid only of standing still.

Acknowledgement

The Church Yard Group would like to thank all those who purchased Christmas Wreaths for supporting us at the end of a very difficult year. The proceeds raised over £100 towards the funds for maintaining the Church Yard.

Our thanks go to **Arthur Lane Nurseries** for supplying the wreaths; without their generosity this money would not have been raised.

The Church Yard Group

Acknowledgement From Porch Boxes

Dear Friends,

It is with sincere appreciation that we send this letter of thanks for your donations and support for Porch Boxes during 2020. Your contributions have most certainly made a positive impact to our work in and around the Borough of Bury, more especially with the additional needs brought about by Covid-19.

With all the regular gifts from around the Borough of food & toiletries etc., plus financial donations, we know that all your gifts have, and will, go a long way to helping us service an ever-growing need.

So, it is with great joy that we say a big **THANKYOU!!**

The need of course, never goes away, but seems to be with us all year – every year, and we are a long way from our ultimate target: “to be able to close the Porch operation down because the need has gone away”. Unfortunately, the target is nowhere in sight despite the “prosperity” that we associate with the United Kingdom, in common with many other nations around the world.

We look forward to the additional contributions that we have had in past years over Easter, Harvest & Christmas, and of course the continued and important regular contributions from many sources, such as Churches, Schools, Businesses, Organisations and Individuals over the year.

More than ever, we thank you so much for your kindness, your generosity, and your care.

Sincerely,

Alan Wood

Secretary Porch Boxes

News From The Diocese – Fairtrade Fortnight 22/02 – 07/03



Guarantees
a **better deal**
for Third World
Producers

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks and the cotton in our clothes; people who are often exploited and underpaid.

This year Fairtrade Fortnight will feel very different. 2020 was a hard year for everyone and we know that physically campaigning and meeting people will continue to be challenging in 2021, but many of you will want to continue to support Fairtrade through this time.

Fairtrade Fortnight will highlight the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade works with.

To get involved and support their work, join Fairtrade's online festival with your friends, family and members of your church. You can expect to find fascinating and fun events featuring all parts of the global Fairtrade community, including Fairtrade farmers and workers, other climate campaigners and of course the amazing grassroots network.

The virtual festival which will feature:

- Farmers and workers from around the world explaining **why they need to earn more to survive a climate crisis** that is already hurting their communities
- Discussions between farmers, other experts and famous faces about **what we need to do to choose a better future**
- **Music, art and entertainment**, from all corners of our passionate and talented global Fairtrade community
- Fun **interactive workshops** on sustainable living here in the UK

You will need to sign up to receive information and resources about what will be taking place, simply visit <https://action.fairtrade.org.uk> or follow the link at www.manchester.anglican.org

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Lenten Devotionals

Tuesday evenings throughout Lent at 7.30pm on our facebook page; to join us simply follow the link

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth/>

Lent Discussion Group via 'Zoom'

Wednesday evenings throughout Lent at 7.30pm. For more info e-mail vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk

BCP Services

The Prayer Book Society lists some churches livestreaming BCP services:

<https://www.pbs.org.uk/churches-and-services/-1>

Missed Any Of Our Livestreamed Services?

Some of them can be found on our website

<https://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk/online-worship.html>

or our YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1kRCPBlymPoDSyhH9CZYrw>

Porch Boxes

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

Daily Hope

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



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

Around The Organisations ...

Ainsworth Scout Group

Having just completed the Annual Census figures and Annual capitation details, we have on record 84 6 – 18 year olds, plus Leaders. This is a pleasing sign for us on the strength of the group, when we hear of other groups that have not been meeting in any way over the last year and have no members at all on record.

Over the weekend of 12 – 14 February we held a ‘Virtual Camp’ for over 55 Beavers Cubs and Scouts as well as several siblings, with a variety of ages from 3 years upwards. As the GSL I would like to congratulate Stacey and her team of Scout leaders for all the hard work and effort they put into the camp; it was rewarded by the happy faces and enjoyment clearly had by all who took part. Well done!

Bill White

Group Scout Leader

Cubs

We regularly have 20 – 25 Cubs online on a Friday evening working on badges, playing games and generally have fun for about 45 minutes.

The latest badge work has been to complete the Chef, Artist and World Faiths Activity badges and World Challenge badge. The result being that I now have 67 badges to present when we can arrange it! The wonderful “Virtual” camp organised by Stacey and her team was fantastic. It has given the 55 youngsters a good start to half term with lots of parents plus younger brothers and sisters also joining in the fun. Seeing dads jumping about as Chinese dragons was a great sight.

Everyone is looking forward to us meeting face to face in one form or another as soon as it is possible.

Gwen White - Baloo

Scouts

Over the past month or so the Scouts have been working hard towards their Naturalist badge and have been looking at conservation. In 4 groups they have looked at Elephants, Bees, Sloths and Plastic waste. They have all decided they want to adopt some

animals to help with the conservation effort. We have also had a few fun nights, playing daft games like "Beans".

As I write this, I am recovering from our first (and hopefully last) virtual camp of 2021. This last weekend has seen 58 young people, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Young Leaders, Brownies, Guides, little brothers and sisters partake in the camp which included 11 activities based around both Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

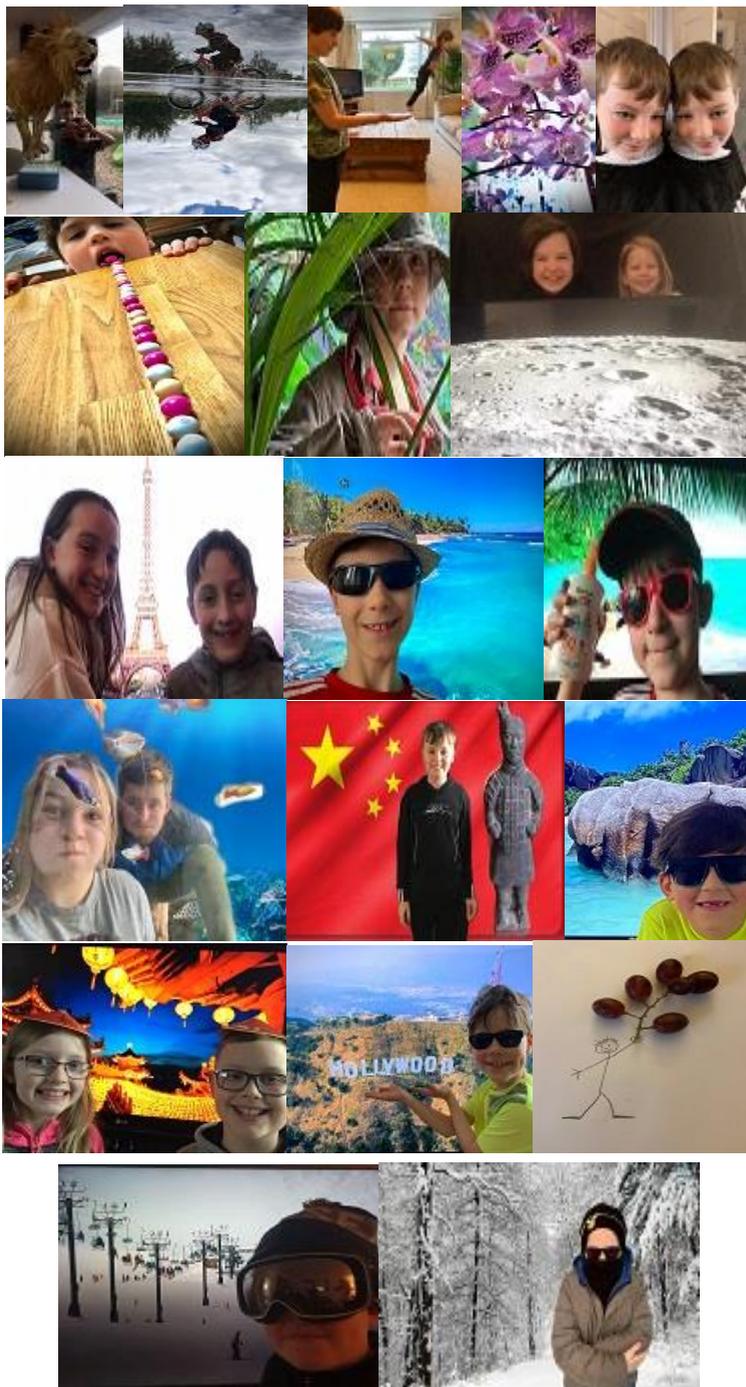
Saturday was themed around Chinese New Year, and the young people were set 5 tasks:

- 1) Great Balls of Fire - each child had to create their own Chinese lantern.
- 2) Fitness Art - they had to go out and spend 30 minutes trying to create a picture using their fitness apps and maps. We had some great results.
- 3) Holiday Snap - they had to take a holiday photograph whilst at home. We had some folk travelling to the moon, some to China, and a couple of Scuba divers (see pictures at the end).
- 4) A to Z - they had to find things beginning with each letter of the alphabet in their house.
- 5) How to train your dragon - they had to build and decorate a Chinese dragon that moved, then send us their videos. Wow we have some really good artists in the group.
- 6) They had to build a den to sleep in. If they didn't sleep in their bed they earned themselves 1 night away. We only had a few who retreated to their beds instead of their dens.

On Sunday they had 5 more challenges all to do with Valentine's Day:

- 1) Design a T shirt - it had to be scouting related.
- 2) Natural Heart - they had to make a heart out of natural materials.
- 3) L.O.V.E. - they had to do a video to the L.O.V.E bit of Michael Buble's song. They were brilliant, some brought tears to our eyes, both with laughing and emotionally.
- 4) Fancy Photo - they had to take something ordinary and make it extraordinary (see photo's at end).
- 5) Roses are Red - they had to write their own version of the roses are red poems. Again, they were really good, although I'm not sure the Poet Laureate has anything to worry about!!

Saturday night also saw us have a family quiz and games night.



What a fantastic weekend, it was so nice to spend the weekend with the young people again, even though it was on line, but we cannot wait to be getting back to face to face Scouting and camping. Parents may not see their children for lots of weekends as we will be off in tents enjoying the fresh air.

Thanks to the other leaders who helped me run the weekend, you know who you are.

The next month or so sees us working towards our World Challenge and Communicators badge.

Stacey

12th Radcliffe Brownies

We started the term with a number of presentations to the Brownies. Fourteen Brownies raised money for Children-in-need and Girlguiding and gained a badge to recognise their efforts; Erin was awarded her Baking Interest badge; Amelia, Eloise, Isabelle, Isla, Izzy, Lily-May, Polly and Scarlett gained their Local History Interest badge, and Eloise and Lily-May their Charities Interest badge. The girls have been working on their Reflect Skills builder and Amelia, Beatrice, Eloise, Emelia, Izzy, Lily-May, Polly, Poppy, Poppy, Scarlett and Sofia gained their badge. As well as all this, Eloise and Isabelle were awarded their Be Well theme award and Amelia, Eloise, Izzy, Polly and Scarlett their Know Myself theme award.

And, we were really pleased to be able to present the Brownie Silver Award to three of our Brownies - Amelia, Eloise and Izzy - the first ones in our unit. Well Done to all the girls!



The Brownies have been quite busy! We marked Braille Day by using our other senses to identify sounds and to make a sandwich when blindfolded – and while there were some interesting combinations of fillings, most of the girls did this more successfully than Brown Owl, who mixed up the butter and cream cheese part way through and ended up with a butter sandwich and a cheese and jam one!



Using a variety of craft items, the Brownies made some amazing worry monsters, though trying to follow instructions to make a copy of other Brownie's monsters was quite a challenge and gave some interesting results! Using a bottle and a balloon the girls made a vortex, learned a bit about the Big Bang theory, then, to finish off the theme, made a planet coaster. And, with Shrove Tuesday, Chinese New Year and Thinking Day all occurring over the half term break, we made a tortilla pancake, a year of the ox bookmark and a Chinese fan, and, as well as remembering our shared Brownie promise, we tried out some activities that Brownies used to do. What a jam-packed half term it has been!

Polly, Brown Owl

16th Radcliffe Brownies

The Brownies were disappointed to still be 'Zooming' but pleased to see each other after a Christmas break. We are working on our Pead challenge and also our First Aid badge. The girls also have unit meeting activities to complete to ensure they get their theme awards. We've had to get creative with these via Zoom, but the girls helped

our Young Leader, Georgina, celebrate her 16th birthday with lots of challenges based on 16!!!

The girls have received activity packs with crafts for Easter and Mother's Day and amazon prime is also being used to send goodies. We celebrated Chinese New Year by making scratch art dragon magnets and our first lead challenge was to design the world's best Zoo!!!

All girls should get their Bronze award by Easter but some are ahead of the game thanks to their hard work over summer ... well done Grace, Aoife, Seren, Maeve, Lily Mae, Erin, Lydia and Amelia. We cannot wait to present these and more in Church!!!

Yours in Guiding

Sarah



Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

I'd like to start by saying a big 'Thank You' to Barbara Clarkson for not only supplying members of the church with face coverings but also making them for projects within the Manchester Diocese supported by Mothers' Union. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated, Barbara.

Mothering Sunday March 14th - I hope that many of us will be able to worship that day, either in the church building, online via the church Facebook page or by listening to the Daily Hope telephone line on 0800 804 8044.

Mothering Sunday is a special time to say thank you to all mothers and caregivers for the selflessness with which they nurture, love and help us to flourish.

This year, you can celebrate or remember someone special by giving a gift of togetherness. At a time when the chance to come together has been more precious than ever before, your donation can help to strengthen kinship in communities and empower women and girls to flourish. We will, as usual be sending a donation from the branch to the 'Make a Mother's Day' Campaign to support family projects at home or abroad. Some members might like to send their own gift to add to the branch one. Cheques should be made payable to Make a Mother's Day and sent to Barbara Standing by the end of March for her to forward to London.

Over the years, we have heard many stories of how Mothers' Union has helped families in Africa learn to read and write, become financially stable educate girls etc. but here are a few stories from the UK.

Paul, a police child protection officer, told us that he gave a teddy knitted by members to a child, just before he started what he referred to as a 'child victim interview' with a little girl. At the end of the interview, the child went to give Paul the teddy back, but he explained that she could keep it. This little girl beamed at Paul, thanked him, and told him that her daddy had pulled the arms off her own teddy, and thrown it away.

A mother who went with her family on an Away From it All Holiday wrote afterwards to the Mothers' Union to say: This holiday meant so much to us - we can finally start living our lives with recharged batteries and a new outlook on life. I just hope you understand how much happiness you have given to us.

A parent who went along to a parents group told us how much it helped her: She said: "It was nice because when you listen to the other mums you realise your children are normal and that other parents have problems and bad days too. I know now that there is no such thing as a perfect parent, and I learnt that how you speak to and treat your child now will influence how they treat and relate to people as they grow up."

These are just some of the ways that people's lives have been touched by Mothers' Union.

A Mothering Sunday Quiz

1. What food is most associated with Mothering Sunday?

a) *SundayRoast* b) *Eggs* c) *SimnelCake*

2. In Ancient Greece, which Goddess was celebrated on Mothering Sunday?

a) *Goddess Artemis* b) *Goddess Hestia* c) *Goddess Rhea*

3. 'Mother's ruin' is a common British name for which alcoholic drink?

a) *Gin* b) *Vodka* c) *Brandy*

4. In which Indian city did Mother Theresa found her missionary?

a) *Mumbai* b) *Varanasi* c) *Calcutta*

5. How many cards are sent for Mothering Sunday in the UK?

a) *10 million* b) *45 million* c) *30 million*

6. In which year did Marie Curie become the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize?

a) 1925 b) 1903 c) 1910

7. Mother of Pearl is a common name for?

a) Nacre b) Jewel c) Stone

8. Who was the mother of Queen Elizabeth I?

a) Anne Boleyn b) Mary Queen of Scots c) Mary II

9. Which popular Mothering Sunday flower do Christians believe were made from the tears of Mary when she wept for Jesus on the cross?

a) Carnations b) Daffodils c) Sunflowers

10. When did women get the parliamentary vote in the UK?

a) 1918 b) 1917 c) 1916

Answers on Page 19.

Jennifer White

(Hon Sec)

From the Archives – March 1996

In addition to the regular weekly services, the Parish Diary in March 1996 listed a number of seasonal extras; Lent Devotional Services were being held in church each Wednesday evening, there was also a Mothering Sunday Service listed, plus a date for the Easter Vestry and AGM.

A note from the Treasurer thanked everyone for their regular giving and also for the huge support given to the various church fundraising initiatives that had been held over the previous year. It was noted, however, that available funds still hadn't been sufficient to cover the cost of the Parish Share; with an overall shortfall of around £5,000 it was estimated that regular giving would need to increase by around £120 / week to make up the shortfall in the coming year.

Elsewhere, in the March 1996 magazine there was a thankyou from 'nice and cosy sidesmen' for the heater which had kindly been donated for use in the Vicar's Vestry; a thankyou from the Children's Society for monies raised from House Box Collections and also from Christingle; and a 'save the date' for a number of social activities – American Breakfast, Treasure Hunt and Spring Fair.

Around the organisations, Mothers' Union members were planning a Jumble Sale and seeking donations of items to sell; members of the

WI had been having a go at Line Dancing; Sunday School had held a successful Coffee Morning and were starting to prepare for Sermons Sunday, and the Day School were rehearsing for a summer production of 'Joseph'. Cubs reported that Stacey and Brian had been presented with their Wood Badges by then D.C., Dr. Brian Rushton, and thanked Joan Arrowsmith, who was retiring as their Treasurer after 20+ years in the role.

In March 1996 there were 3 Baptisms recorded from the previous month and 2 funerals, but no weddings. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 353 and the collections totalled £1099.

Why Do We Say That Then ... ?

Have you ever wondered where some of the more diverse phrases we use in general conversation come from?

To "Beat around the bush..." This was originally a phrase to describe the practice of hunters who would beat around bushes to flush out birds for the sport of others. We use it now to describe when someone is going all around the edge of what they need to say or do, but not actually getting to the point.

Space To Share A Prayer

Loving God,

As I stand at the beginning of each new day,

Bless me with the vision to see the best of things to come,

The wisdom to make good decisions,

And most of all, faith that you are walking beside me every step of the way.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Answers to Mothering Sunday Quiz:

- 1) Simnel Cake, 2) Goddess Rhea, 3) Gin, 4) Calcutta, 5) 30 million, 6) 1903, 7) Nacre, 8) Anne Boleyn, 9) Carnations, 10) 1918

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

Time Out

It had to come
This time of plague
We were too vague
On global warming
Ignored the warning
Nor did enough
To rebuff
The profiteers
Too many fears.

What's there for me our constant plea?
No thought of others, our sisters, brothers.

We're in disgrace our human race!

What must we do when this is through?

Be more caring
Be more sharing
This time of testing
and of resting
Reassessing
A time to think
Back from the brink
A second chance
To join the dance
Leave selfish ways.

These precious days

We'll volunteer to do our most
For those who can't we'll shop and post
Keep our distance, smile and wave
That is the new way to behave.

Keep our chins up as we say
"With luck we'll live another day".

And when at last this trouble ends
We'll know the value of true friends.

Shirley Fry

*(I wonder if it is intention or 'coincidence' that this verse loosely forms
the shape of a cross ... Ed)*

Through The Seasons – Ainsworth In February

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty winds made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone ...

After the storms of January, I was hoping to be able to include a short verse about nature reawakening in this month's article, but to be honest, the words above, written by Christina Georgiana Rossetti (1830 – 1894), perfectly sum up the first half of the month of February.

The second line of Sara Coleridge's poem 'The Garden Year' reads, "*February brings the rain, thaws the frozen lake again.*". This was very clearly not the case, as Storm Darci brought with it biting winds and sub-zero temperatures. Over night, the paths that days previously had been ankle deep in mud turned to solid, ankle breaking ruts (off with the wellies and back on with the walking boots and thermal socks!), and far from the lake thawing, on one particularly cold morning all three of Whitehead Lodges were very much frozen; Canada Geese, Coots and even a part grown Cygnet walked confidently along the ice nearest to the middle dam.



But then, over the course of less than 24 hours, the temperature soared from sub-zero to a balmy +6c – now that's not normal!!

The landscape may still be very much in the grasp of winter, but the milder weather seemed to bring an instant feeling of hope; within days there were clusters of snowdrops along the path to George's Wood, the



Hawthorn hedges along Bradley Fold Road were sporting the first hint of new leaves in the most sheltered spots, and the first 'catkins' appeared – a definite sign of Spring.



As we move towards the end of the month, the mornings and evenings are certainly getting lighter, and the hedges and trees are full of birdsong and activity. Stepping outside in the early morning and hearing this wonderful cacophony of noise always brings to mind the words of Psalm 150 v6 – "*Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord ...*", it sounds as if the birds are doing exactly that!

It seems that nature and the great outdoors are an inspiration for many of our magazine readers; a number of e-mails list the wide variety of birds and wildlife that have been spotted locally over recent weeks: Blue Tits, Great Tits, Chaffinches, Gold Finches, Robins, Bull Finches, Grey Herons, a Woodpecker and even a Small White Egret, not to mention Foxes, Deer and a Stoat – in our small corner of the world we really are surrounded by nature!

The next verse of Sara Coleman's poem reads,

“March brings breezes loud and shrill, to stir the dancing Daffodil.”

Watch this space for an Ainsworth in March update, and please keep e-mailing your own nature discoveries to

ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Struggles Can Develop Strengths

One day, a man working in his garden came across the cocoon of a butterfly. He carefully avoided it and carried on working. A little later he noticed that a small hole had appeared in the cocoon. The man watched the cocoon on and off over the course of the morning and saw the butterfly labouring away in it's attempts to make its way out of the cocoon.

Midway through the afternoon, the butterfly seemed to have stopped making progress and the man decided to help it out, so taking a small pair of scissors, he snipped the remains of the cocoon away; the butterfly then easily emerged from the cocoon, however it's body seemed large and swollen and it's wings small and shrivelled. The man thought nothing of this and continued to observe the butterfly, waiting for it to be able to fly away, but that didn't happen.

What the man didn't realise was that as a butterfly struggles to leave the cocoon, the effort it makes forces fluid from it's body into it's wings, thus changing it's body shape and strengthening the wings in preparation for flight. In spite of the man's kind hearted intentions, the butterfly needed to have that struggle to develop it's strengths

Olde Worlde Weather Lore – March

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

A dry March & a wet May

Fills barns & bays with corn & hay.

Did You Know ... March Facts

1st March – St. David's Day; St David (Dewi Sant) was a Celtic monk, abbot and bishop, who lived in the sixth century and spread the word of Christianity across Wales.

2nd March- on this day in 1949, Captain James \Gallagher and a US crew completed the 1st non-stop flight around the world.

3rd March – On this day in 1931, the 'Star Spangled Banner' officially became the US National Anthem by Congressional resolution.

4th March – On this day in 1824, the RNLI was founded.

5th March – On this day in 1850, The Britannia Bridge across the Menai Strait between the Isle of Anglesey and the mainland of Wales was opened.

6th March – On this day in 1475, Michelangelo was born.

7th March – On this day in 1912, Roald Amundsen announced the discovery of the South Pole.

8th March – on this day in 1531, Henry VIII was recognised as supreme head of the Church in England by the Convocation of Canterbury.

9th March – On this day in 1522, Martin Luther began preaching his "Invocavit Sermons" in the German city of Wittenberg.

10th March – On this day in 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first ever telephone call.

11th March – On this day in 1702, Britain's first newspaper, the Daily Courant, began publishing.

12th March – On this day in 1894, Coca-Cola was sold in bottles for the first time in a candy store in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

13th March – On this day in 1781, the planet Uranus was discovered.

14th March – on this day in 1990, Mikhail Gorbachev became president of the Soviet Congress.

15th March – on this day in 44BC, Julius Caesar was assassinated.

16th March – On this day in 1892, the first FA Cup was played at the Oval.

17th March – St. Patrick's Day.

18th March – On this day in 1891, Britain was linked to the continent via telephone.

19th March – On this day in 1965, Russian Alexei Leonov became the first human to walk in Space.

20th March – On this day in 1930, the first 'KFC' was founded in North Corbin, Kentucky.

21st March – On this day in 1556, Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, was burnt at the stake.

22nd March – On this day in 1888, the English Football League was established.

23rd March – On this day in 1861, London's 1st tramcars, designed by Mr Train of New York, began operating.

24th March – On this day in 1603, King James VI of Scotland became the first king of 'Great Britain'.

25th March – On this day in 1306, Robert the Bruce was crowned Robert I of Scotland.

26th March – On this day in 1780, the first British Sunday newspaper. The British Gazette & Sunday Monitor, appeared.

27th March – On this day in 1790, the modern shoelace with an aglet was patented in England, by Harvey Kennedy..

28th March – On this day in 1866, the first ambulance went into service.

29th March – On this day in 1848, the Niagara Falls stopped flowing for 30 hours due to an ice jam.

30th March – On this day in 1858, a pencil with attached eraser was patented by Hyman L Lipman of Philadelphia.

31st March – On this day in 1889, construction of the Eiffel Tower was completed after 2 years, 2 months and 5 days.

The Great Daffodil Appeal Is More Important Than Ever!

By March throughout the UK, daffodils will be reaching their peak in parks, gardens, and woodlands. In the past, some parts of the UK, Devon for example, daffodils in bloom have been spotted on New Year's Day but as with all flowers they depend on the climate.

While daffodils are a popular choice for St David's Day (1 March) and Mothering Sunday (14 March), you can wear a daffodil every day of the month by supporting the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2021 (1 - 31 March) which this year is more important than ever.

Marie Curie nurses help more than 40,000 terminally ill people every year and recently this demand has increased enormously because of the pandemic. Marie Curie nurses are working on the 'front line' providing their huge wealth of experience developed over 73 years. The Marie Curie Charity was founded in 1948, the same year that the

National Health Service began. Its roots, however, go back to the 1930's when a hospital was opened for 'the radiological treatment of women suffering from cancer and allied diseases.' In 1944 an air raid destroyed the hospital and four years later five members of the hospital team set about rebuilding it as a separate concern from the National Health Service. They also decided to perpetuate the name of Marie Curie, the Polish-born physicist and chemist who was one of the most famous scientists of her time.

Marie, working with her husband Prof Pierre Curie, who was also a leading scientist, became the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in 1903. Together, the Curies investigated radioactivity and discovered new chemical elements such as polonium and radium. Following Pierre's death in 1906 — he was knocked down by a carriage — Marie continued their work and received a second Nobel Prize in 1911.

Their work led to the development of x-rays and during the First World War Marie drove to the front-line in an ambulance equipped with an x-ray machine. She went on to work with The International Red Cross, training medical orderlies and doctors in the new techniques. Sadly, Marie Curie died on 4 July 1934 from leukaemia, caused by exposure to high-energy radiation from her research.

Marie Curie nurses are continuing in their namesake's tradition of working on the front-line of the pandemic providing care for the terminally ill. The demand for their work has, like most charities, created a huge drain on their financial resources making the annual Great Daffodil Appeal which began in 1986 more important than ever! Please support Marie Curie nurses by donating or organising fundraising events to help them help not only those dying from the pandemic, but those living with other terminal illnesses that are being overshadowed by Covid. Fund raising resources and information about donating can be found at: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil>

Time For A Smile

A Sunday School teacher asked her class “Can anyone tell me who God is?”

After a lengthy silence a small boy suggested, “Is he the man who saved the Queen?”

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5 year-old Sammy stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Sammy inquired as to what they were for.

“People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by”, his father responded.

“Wouldn't you just know it?” Sammy complained, “the one Sunday I don't go to church and he shows up.”

As part of a plan to modernize his church, a young Priest arranged for hot air driers to be installed in the toilets. When asked why he had them removed after only two weeks he said that someone had placed a notice on one of them which read, “For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button!”

Children in a Sunday School were each given a passage from the Bible to learn by heart and recite at a special service. One boy had to learn Psalm 23, but he found it difficult to remember all the words. He brought the house down when he stood up and said “The Lord is my Shepherd” After an embarrassing pause, he then said, “and that's all I need to know!”

Strap Lines

Wisdom is choosing to do now what you will be happy with later on.

Long ago, when men beat the ground with sticks they called it witchcraft. Today they call it golf.

The secret of happiness lies in liking what you do and not in doing what you like.

A Few things That Haven't Been Cancelled Due To Covid-19

- Quiet time with God
- Reading the Bible
- Praying for each other
- Checking on friends
- Helping each other
- Worshipping on line

The Extended Parish Puzzler

Bible Quiz

1. Which is the first book of the Bible?
2. Which is the last book of the Bible?
3. Which is the longest book of the Bible?
4. Which is the shortest book of the Bible?
5. How many books make up The Old Testament?
6. How many books make up The New Testament?
7. Which language was most of The Old Testament originally written in?
8. Which language was most of The New Testament originally written in?
9. Which 4 books of The new Testament principally tell the story of Jesus' time on earth?
10. True or false – David wrote the entire book of Psalms?

(Answers on page 29)

How Well Do You Know Our Village?

Last month's inscription can be found on a stone situated near to the front gates, within the wall that surrounds the Methodist Chapel. A slightly trickier one this month – do you know where the following inscription can be found? Answer in next month's mag.

**B
N * A
1773**

Books Of The Old Testament Anagrams

Can you unscramble the following letters to discover 20 books from the Old Testament?

1. T E I I S V L C U
2. G S D J E U
3. U H S O J A
4. M S P L A S
5. H A C I M
6. S K N I G
7. L E C R O H I N S C
8. K E Z I L E E
9. K K K U B A H A
10. H A A I I S
11. T I L M O N A E A S T N
12. L E N I D A
13. H I C A L M A
14. H I R Z A H E C A
15. B O J
16. S N G E E I S
17. A N H H Z P E I A
18. G S N S O
19. L A M E S U
20. I A G H A G

(Answers on page 30)

Riddle-Me-Ree

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

I kept him steady and others away,
I kept them safe and showed the way,
Once thrown down upon the ground
I came alive with a hissing sound,
I hit the rock as he was told,
And that was when the water flowed.
What am I?

(Answer on page 29)

Who's Who

Vicar	Revd Dave Thomson Christ Church Vicarage Ainsworth Hall Road. Ainsworth BL2 5RY vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk Twitter @Vicar_Dave	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Elaine Larkin 1 Greenside. Ainsworth. BL2 5SE elaine.larkin.el@gmail.com Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 388762 01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Church Treasurer	Geoff Whittle	07976 443165
Secretary of the PCC	Vacancy	
Organist	Jenny Johnson	07734976978
Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary	Carole Butler	07982 316388
Parish Child Protection	Peter Holden	01204 596938
Church Hall Booking	Geoff Hampson	07910817577
Church Lottery	Judith White	07812074776
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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

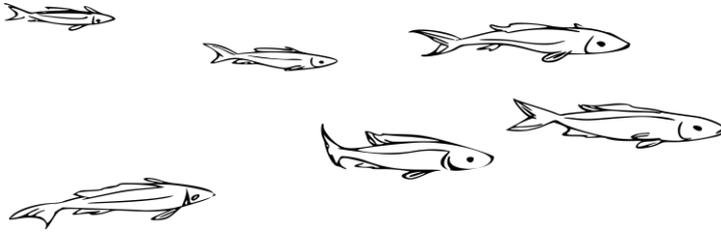
(Answer to Books Of The Bible Quiz: 1) Genesis; 2) Revelation; 3) Psalms; 4) 3 John; 5) 39; 6) 27; 7) Hebrew; 8) Greek; 9) Matthew, Mark, Luke & John; 10) False.

Answer to Riddle-Me-Ree: Moses' staff

Who's Who For Church Organisations

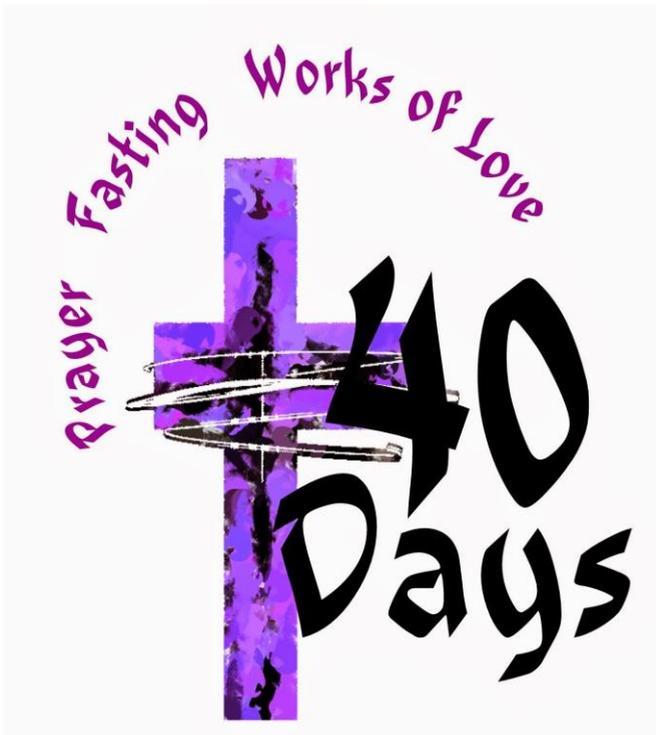
Mothers Union	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Sunday School	Sunday at 10.25am in the Church Hall Jan Burrow Vicky Howcroft Swift	0161 761 1958 07789 432103
Altar Flowers	Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
ABC First Steps Toddler Group	Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Anne Flowers Or Jennifer White	01204 382214 07964 587694
Group Leader	Bill White group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.00pm in the Church Hall Leader Valerie Watts	01204 398634
Cub Scouts	Friday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Sean Butler	07843 233056
Scouts 14 th Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Wednesdays 7.30pm in the Church Hall John Turner	01204 381590
Rainbows 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 5.45pm to 7.00pm in the Church Hall Rainbow Guider	
Rainbows 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 4.30pm to 6.00pm in the Church Hall Janet Kay	01204 525739
Brownies 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly The church's one foundation; Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Captain Emma Lee	0161 764 2243

Answers to books of the Old Testament quiz: 1) Leviticus, 2) Judges, 3) Joshua, 4) Psalms, 5) Micah, 6) Kings, 7) Chronicles, 8) Ezekiel, 9) Habakkuk, 10) Isaiah, 11) Lamentations, 12) Daniel, 13) Malachi, 14) Zechariah, 15) Job, 16) Genesis, 17) Zephaniah, 18) Songs, 19) Samuel, 20) Haggai



Little Fishes

Forty Days And Forty Nights



Lent

Last month's Little Fishes was all about Candlemas, which we celebrated on Sunday 2nd of February this year. This month, as we carry on from February into March and start to think about Springtime, it's also time to think about Lent.

So What Is Lent?

Lent is the period of time in the Church calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and finishes at Easter; Lent lasts for a whole 40 days! To help us to understand what Lent means to Christians today, we need to think about what happened when Jesus was alive.

The Story Of Lent

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, and following his baptism, he was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then led Jesus into the wilderness, where He spent 40 days and nights fasting and praying. The wilderness was a like a huge desert, it was so dry and uninviting that nobody could live there - it was scorching hot through the day and freezing cold at night; there was practically no food or water, in fact the only things that did live there would have been wild animals and scorpions - not a great place to be!



Whilst Jesus was in the wilderness, the devil approached him and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, why don't you command these stones to become loaves of bread?"



But Jesus turned away and said in reply, "It is written: man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."



The devil was determined not to be beaten. Taking Jesus to the holy city, he made him stand on the very highest part of the temple and said to him, "If you really are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you lest you dash your foot against a stone."



But once again Jesus turned away and answered him, "It is written, you shall not put the Lord, your God to the test."



Finally, the devil took Jesus up a very high mountain and looking down, he showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and he said to him, "All of these I shall give to you if you will worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Get away Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

Then the devil knew that he could never win and so he left.

So How Do We Observe Lent Today?

For Christians today, Lent is a time to be quiet and thoughtful. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday - this year that was the 17th of February - when many churches hold an Ash Wednesday service which includes the vicar or priest drawing a cross with ashes on people's foreheads. The ashes remind us of Jesus and all that he gave up for us.



Lent lasts for forty days because that's how long Jesus wandered in the wilderness, fasting, while he resisted Satan's temptations. Many Christians give something up throughout Lent, a sign that they too can resist temptations, and use this time to become closer to God. Lent isn't simply a countdown to Easter, it's a chance to set aside distractions and focus on our relationship with God.

Holy Week

The last week before Easter is an extra specially important part of Lent. First of all we celebrate Palm Sunday (28th March this year); Palm Sunday marks Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when all the crowds were cheering and throwing palm leaves onto the roads ahead of him. Many churches hold Palm Sunday parades to celebrate this.



On Maundy Thursday (1st April this year) we remember that this was the night before Jesus died, and that he chose to spend this final evening having one Last Supper with his disciples.

Good Friday is the 2nd of April this year; Good Friday is a sad day for Christians, as this was the day when Jesus was crucified and died, but it is also really important to remember that Jesus died because he loved each and every one of us.



Lent Idea - Blessings Jar

Take an empty jam jar or similar and give it a good wash out. Once it's properly dry you could decorate it with ribbons, glitter or even just paint or felt tip. Next make a label to stick on the jar, write BLESSINGS on the label then stick it on the front of the jar.

Put the jar somewhere where everybody in the family can reach it at any time - the kitchen table could be a good place.

Ask a grown up to help you to cut up some bits of paper and put them by the jar with some pens or pencils. When something good happens, write it on a slip of paper and put it in the jar.

Every couple of days, open the jar when you are all together, read out the slips and say 'Thankyou' to God for His blessings.



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