

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Spring Comes To Ainsworth!!
(Photo courtesy of Dave Walters)

Serving the Community
www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

May 2021

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

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

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

To join us on Facebook, follow this link:

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

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

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

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

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, our Scouting and Guiding groups have begun meeting face to face, Mid-Week Praise is up and running again, I have had my second jab (in common with many others), and the pandemic restrictions are loosening. Yippee!

So, when can we return to 'normal'? I am beginning to hear this question a lot.

The honest answer is, "I don't know!" Indeed, I have my doubts whether we will ever return to things being as they were in late 2019. Why? Well, my degree is in Politics and History and, something that has stayed with me from my studies is that, following major shocks to the system, societies never revert to the way they were. Edwardian England died on the Somme, to be succeeded by the Roaring Twenties.

I suspect we will still be subject to restrictions, even when most of the population has had two jabs and we reach the end of the Government's recovery roadmap (21st June at the earliest).

For example, will we still be obliged to wear a mask on public transport, inside shops, churches etc? Even if we are not obliged to, will people continue wearing masks anyway, as was common in Far Eastern countries prior to the pandemic. After all, being cough and cold free last Winter was a pleasant departure from my normal experience. Maybe for you too.

What about Communion? I have my doubts whether, in future, many will be happy sharing the chalice with others. Certainly, we will never return to a situation where those with a cough or cold can dip their wafer into the wine. So, I suspect clergy, with hands well gelled, will continue dipping wafers in wine for the foreseeable.

We have responded well to the challenges that have come our way since the beginning of last year. Now, with the situation beginning to relax, we are in recovery. With recovery comes an opportunity to reimagine and reshape what we do with a view to better serving the spiritual needs of parishioners in the emerging post-pandemic reality.

Over the next few months, it should become obvious which of those things previously second nature to us during worship can return. It should also become obvious which temporary adaptations have become permanent. Likewise, it should become obvious which long-standing aspects of parish life have survived. For example, will the Spring and Christmas Fayres be feasible going forward?

Many tell me they long to return to worshipping in church but are waiting until things revert to the way they were. If that applies to you, then you might have a long wait.

Hopefully, social distancing will be relaxed in the next couple of months, but it would need to be removed completely to have a discernible impact upon the capacity of our church building. A reduction from 2 metres to 1 metre would only increase our capacity downstairs from 30 to 36 and do nothing for us upstairs.

Likewise, I hope congregational singing will return soon, and that it will be possible for everyone to enjoy a good chat with friends both before and after (but not during) services. Unfortunately, neither can be guaranteed.

Despite the restrictions, after a year of fine-tuning what we do, we worship authentically both online (12 noon on Sundays via our Facebook Page) and in church (Sunday mornings at 10.30am and Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm). So, come and join us!

God Bless

Dave

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the May 2021 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine. As Spring approaches and we all begin to appreciate the great outdoors again, there is a part of me that wonders where this

year is going to. I don't feel as if many of the usual things have happened due to the Covid restrictions, and yet already we are in May!

Once again there are lots of fab and interesting articles and reports in this month's magazine, plus information about forthcoming 'events'; there is a huge amount of online activity going on both in the Manchester Diocese and further afield. Taking part usually just involves finding your way to the relevant facebook page at the allotted time – the wonders of modern technology ...

Our Uniformed organisations continue to meet via Zoom, but have recently progressed to including some meetings outside (together but apart as they say) and will hopefully be able to meet in the Church And Community Hall once again soon.

Talking of Zoom, don't forget that the APCM and Vestry Meeting are being held via Zoom this year, follow the link at the allotted time to hear what's been happening, find out what's planned, and maybe even have your say.

Don't miss the next installment of the 5 Steps To Wellbeing article, which has some great 'get active' ideas; remember you don't have to run a marathon or join a gym to get active, and if you can 'buddy up' with another participant you can tick off 'Connect' as well.

As we continue along the Government's 'road map to recovery', it will eventually become possible to return to some more of the 'In Church' services which we enjoyed pre-lockdown; make sure you keep an eye on the weekly pewsheets for updates.

Enjoy this month's magazine, do your best to keep safe and well 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 | We commend to God's keeping |
| March 3 rd | William Heys |
| March 9 th | Brian Crook |

Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Annual Vestry Meeting

Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions, this year's APCM & Annual Vestry Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 4th May via Zoom.

Technically this is two meetings: the annual Vestry meeting to elect two Churchwardens; and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to

elect PCC members, receive reports, think about the future, and your opportunity to raise anything you like about church life. If there is an easy way and a complicated way of doing things, why does the Church of England always seem to choose the latter?

Nomination forms are available in church or from vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk .

The PCC's Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2020 are available via this link:

https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aurx6pWvMgOaiZEcijqQZk-eJ_5hCw?e=Uzi5hp

And here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85643553818?pwd=RnVRdGRySy9CWGI0dGF1L0tVVDh4UT09>

Meeting ID: 856 4355 3818

Passcode: 209776

Church Electoral Roll

In preparation for our annual meeting on 4th May, it is necessary to give notice that the Electoral Roll will be closed to additions from 19th April until 5th May. If you were on the Electoral Roll last year, you will still be on it but, if you would like to be certain, or if you want to join the roll, email vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk . Please note, you need to be on the roll to vote or stand for election.

To join the Electoral Roll you must be baptised and aged 16 or over then either a) live within our parish or, b) if non-resident, have habitually worshipped with us during the last 6 months.

Situations Vacant!

Buildings Officer: This is about arranging and overseeing (but not necessarily undertaking personally) the care and maintenance of our church building and its contents. Examples range from simple tasks (e.g., arranging for the gutters to be cleared or the fire extinguishers to be tested annually), through to projects such as our new sound system and overseeing the next phase of our building maintenance project (e.g. completion of the repointing external walls, redecoration etc.). This sometimes includes obtaining necessary permissions from the Diocese, and liaising with volunteers, contractors, and our Parish Architect. This could be undertaken as a 'job share'. If you feel you can help, contact Revd Dave for a chat.

News From The Diocese - Thy Kingdom Come 2021

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Christians from more than 170 countries and 65 denominations have taken part.



Thy Kingdom Come runs between Ascension and Pentecost, and **in 2021 will take place from 13-23 May**

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

There are a number of really useful resources available to support this initiative, including a detailed prayer journal written by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. Visit the Manchester Diocese website or search Thy Kingdom Come 2021 for more details.

The Great Ainsworth Easter Chick Hunt

The first ever Great Ainsworth Easter Chick Hunt was a hugely popular event, with an impressive number of participants; families on foot, on bikes, with prams, pushchairs, pets – all turned out to hunt down the elusive chicks and claim their prize.

A big thank you must go to the Ainsworth Village Day Team for organising such a fab venture; also to all those who donated prizes, those who displayed the chicks in their windows, and of course the children and staff of Christ Church Ainsworth School for producing such a fantastic array of 'Chick pics'.

If you didn't take part, you definitely missed a treat! Let's hope this becomes an annual event.

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

The Great Ainsworth Easter Chick Hunt

Many thanks to the organisers and all who took part in this fabulous, fun filled event.

Vestry Meeting & AGM

Tuesday 4th May, 7.30pm via 'Zoom'

For more info or joining link e-mail vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk

Climate Sunday

9th May 2021

Manchester Diocese will be holding a special Climate Sunday service on Sunday 9th May, the service will be streamed on the Manchester Cathedral Facebook page at 2pm

Monthly Diocesan Prayer With Bishop Mark

The Diocese of Manchester invites you to walk with us in prayer as we champion hope during this time of transformation and uncertainty. Check out the Manchester Diocese – Join Us In Prayer Facebook page for more info.

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.

16th Radcliffe Brownies

The Brownies have been busy this half term; we made some lovely Mother's Day cards and hanging signs, then we celebrated Easter with an evening of crafts, where we painted pottery egg baskets, followed by our Easter egg hunt around the village. This was the first time we have seen the girls face to face in ages. I think they all enjoyed following clues to pick up chocolate treats and Easter activities from around the village.

Thanks to Dr Sparke who came along to lead the Brownies to gain their first aid badge.

We welcomed two new Brownies - Freya and Lily-Rose.

We have awarded lots of the Brownies with their Theme Awards. For each award, the girls have to complete an Interest Badge, a Skills Builder and 4 hours of Zoom/unit meeting activities. Here are pictures of Grace Sparke and Amber Bolton who have both gained 4 Theme Awards during our year on Zoom.



Some girls also took part in a Thinking Day ceremony with 199 other girls and leaders, which was lovely ... and got a badge too.

Aoife Gaskell, Lilly-Mai, Amelia and Maeve also gained these 4 awards which are:

Brownie Skills For My Future

Brownies Take Action

Brownies Be Well

Brownies Express Myself

Almost all girls achieved their First Aid Badge and Lead Stage 2 this term and their Brownies Express Myself Theme Award.

Well done to Lydia, Erin, Lana, Serena, Lily Rose and Freya; I hope I haven't missed anyone - lots of hard work and parent support which is always appreciated.

A big thank you to our leaders, Little Owl and Glow Worm for Zooming every week.

We hope you are all well. The Brownies cannot wait to get back to some village activities starting with some gardening on the Delph. Say 'Hi' if you see us!

Yours in Guiding – Sarah McAnulty



Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

'Connected' will soon land at your door.

Exciting news! Your new membership magazine 'Connected' has hit the presses and should already have arrived at your door (please let Jean or me know if you haven't received it). You can read about Mothers' Union work all over the world, what we do at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), how we tackled Covid-19, discover what 2 Bishops think about foodbanks, how we can learn to love life online and what other members think about faith books.

In the April edition of Mothers' Union e-news our CEO Bev Julien reflects after a year like no other, tough almost beyond endurance for many,

"The pandemic has in many ways shown communities at their best – supporting one another with a quiet helping hand, and unprecedented numbers volunteering, for example, to collect prescriptions, do shopping for others or helping with the roll-out of the vaccine programme ... Mothers' Union members have helped throughout – often, the seemingly small things that really add up ...

COVID has shown that, as a nation, we are deeply divided into haves and have nots, and the latter have suffered deeply, too many reduced to queuing round the block to access foodbanks. Some groups have been disproportionately affected, the elderly, the poor and BAME communities, and gender-based violence has escalated ...

As members of Mothers' Union, let us prayerfully reflect on what we can continue to do, or start to do differently, to create a "new normal"

– *sustaining the new togetherness across boundaries, and speaking out and taking action to end violence, poverty and injustice.*”

I apologise to you all that I completely forgot to mention in last month’s magazine about the Wave of Prayer from 23rd to 25th April. However, it’s never too late to put some time aside to pray for our Link Dioceses in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo and Papua New Guinea. I also hope that we are still supporting our Prayer Partners with prayer. Personally, it’s been a joy to receive cards from my anonymous supporter throughout the year. The only thing that I’ve surmised from these cards is that he/she is very loving and caring and has a great sense of humour.

Have you watched Manchester MU Thursday Prayers online on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 12 noon? They are worth 20 minutes of your time. By the wonders of modern technology and YouTube, you can watch anytime at your leisure. I have been asked if any member would like to record a reading or a prayer. The words are provided, you record on your own computer, tablet or phone then email it to whoever is arranging the service. If you are interested, either phone Jean, me or Andrea in the MU office on 0161 828 1427.

Jennifer White
(Hon Sec)

From the Archives – May 1996

Whilst the front cover of the Parish Magazine remained the same throughout 1996 to keep printing costs down, the sketch on the inside front cover was different each month; in May 1996, a fabulous sketch incorporating a globe reminded folk that Christian Aid Week was fast approaching; further details of planned activities were reported within the magazine – collections at various locations, a coffee evening and Bring & Buy event to name but a few.

A couple of interesting additions to the normal routine of worship were highlighted in the Parish diary for that month – the Archdeacon’s Visitation was to be held at St. Thomas and St. John, Radcliffe (everybody welcome); meanwhile back at Ainsworth, the Bishop of Bolton was to Preach at the family and parade service on Sermons Sunday, with the Archdeacon of Bolton officiating at the 6.30 Communion Service.

A report from the Easter Vestry and AGM of 1996 stated that Mr. P. Hinchliffe and Mr. J. Maudsley had been re-elected as

Churchwardens, with Mrs. M. Jones taking on the role of Deputy Churchwarden; 6 new PCC members were also elected.

There was a request from the Church and Community Hall Committee for the donation of a second hand piano to be used by Sunday School and also potentially at social events; plus a note that the Committee were once again looking to appoint a new caretaker for the Hall.

Elsewhere, in May 1996, Ainsworth Community Association had held their AGM; it was reported that Mrs. Ann Hallworth was stepping down after her 3 year term as Chairperson, to be succeeded by Mr. Peter Guthrie. The Church Women's Fellowship were about to embark on a 'Mystery Coach Tour', the Mothers' Union were planning a 'Stroll For Your Supper', the American Breakfast hosted by Georgina Hood and family had gone down a storm, and Mr. Roy Turner, the Sexton at that time, was the brave interviewee in the 'Face To Face' column.

In May 1996 there were 4 Baptisms recorded from the previous month and 1 funeral, but no weddings. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 422 and the collections totalled £1267.

On Reflection

This series of reflections was written during the 1st Lockdown by Elizabeth Spiers, a member of the CYFChurches.org Benefice in West Sussex.

Reflection 1 - Solomon: *God grounds us for a purpose higher than ourselves, by Elizabeth Spiers*

I read that Solomon was probably having a mid-life crisis when he wrote Ecclesiastes. That the King who had everything was completely fed up with it all. He had more money than you can imagine, as well as worldly fame, power and God-given wisdom but he also shouldered great responsibility for the welfare of a nation. And he had to keep a close eye on would-be enemies.

Somewhere along the way, he lost sight of God and in order to relieve the sheer boredom and weight of it all, he tried to find satisfaction in a whole lot of things you might not expect a man so completely blessed by God to try, including heavy drinking, massive building projects and women.

Difficult problems often come together in life - the loss of a job, divorce, serious illness. I think all of us can identify with that. It's stressful. And it's very tempting to blame God or do what Solomon did and try and find consolation in other things. When it happened to me, I decided that God had failed in His care of me and for a long time I

tried to ignore Him. Instead of taking it all to God, seeking His help and His peace, I blamed and rejected Him. But in the end, it all became meaningless for me too. Outside of God, I found no point to life at all. I kept going, but without purpose.

This may have been how Solomon felt. He had seen good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people, he had seen the good die young, the criminal get off scot-free and there just didn't seem to be any point to it. It was meaningless, he repeatedly said.

But after all this, Solomon couldn't find any point to life without God either. He concluded that it was better to obey God's word because God will judge everything we have done, whether good or bad. God grounds us. When we live with and for Him, we do things for reasons bigger than ourselves. We have a purpose higher than ourselves. And for me, like Solomon, it makes all the difference.

Five Steps To Wellbeing



Research has shown that there are 5 simple things you can do as part of your daily life to build resilience, boost your wellbeing and lower your risk of developing mental health problems. These five simple actions are known as the five steps to wellbeing, they are:

- Connect
- Be active
- Take notice
- Learn
- Give

The general principal of the five steps to wellbeing approach is that all of the five elements are essential to achieving and maintaining a

sense of wellbeing, however, the focus / intensity of need for the different elements may vary from one person to another and also from one situation to another.

As the weather improves and the daylight lengthens, it's the perfect time of year to look at **Be Active**.

Regular physical activity improves physical health and can improve mood and wellbeing and reduce stress, anxiety and depression. Being active is associated with lower rates of depression and anxiety across all age groups. Being active doesn't have to mean running marathons or hitting the gym, the important thing is to find something that works for you and your physical abilities; trying something new and pushing yourself to achieve a bit more is great and ticks lots of wellbeing boxes, but forcing yourself to do something that is too difficult or that you don't enjoy isn't pleasurable or helpful - *do what you can and enjoy what you do*.

Why not challenge yourself to try some of the following:

- Dance to your favourite song – go on, turn the music up really loud and go for it. If you're physically less able why not try an armchair boogie instead.
- Walk a dog – some people feel a bit strange heading off for a walk on their own; offering to walk a neighbour's dog gives you a reason to head out, company on your walk and is probably also really helpful to your neighbour – that's 3 wellbeing boxes ticked, and if you take notice whilst you're out and about, it's 4!
- Consider learning a new activity, or revisiting something that you used to enjoy – can you still Hula Hoop??? Lots of wellbeing boxes ticked again here, and even more if you link up with a friend.
- If you are fit and active, why not consider joining a local sports team – again you get extra 'marks' for connecting with others.
- If you're fit and active, why not consider making local journeys on foot rather than automatically getting the car out or jumping on the bus.
- Gardening is a great wellbeing activity and one that's very easy to scale up or down depending on physical ability.

Once you start to think about it, you'll find loads of ways to be active, and don't forget that adding a social element, or incorporating learning or giving gives your wellbeing an extra boost.

In the next few articles there will be lots more ideas and suggestions of things you could do or get involved with as part of your wellbeing balance / review. You can also find lots more at www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/mental-wellbeing or www.mind.org.uk

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 have a chip on your shoulder...” This phrase dates back to the 19th century, when a person who was looking for a fight would walk around with a chip of wood on their shoulder. If another person wanted to take them up on the challenge to fight, they signalled this by knocking the wood off their shoulder.

Through The Seasons – Ainsworth In April

*“Crazy weather, I’m at the end of my tether,
Tell me when can I depend on you;
First it’s cloudy, then Mr. Sun says ‘Howdy’;
Never know just what you’re going to do.”*

Those of a certain age may remember this catchy little jingle that was in fact part of a British Gas advert in the late 1980’s, but these are the words that have repeatedly come to mind throughout the past month, when we have experienced some truly ‘crazy weather’.

March may have brought more than its fair share of bitterly cold winds, but early April saw the temperatures soar to a crazy 17c – pretty impressive when 3 days previously we had a frost heavy enough to freeze the puddles! This unseasonably glorious weather brought us a series of spectacular sunsets, a whole host of wildflowers, butterflies and garden bugs, and, on the 3rd of April, the first sighting of the Swallows returning, swooping joyfully in the sunshine and presumably feasting on the various flies and midges that had also come out to enjoy the fine weather, oblivious to what the crazy weather had in store for us next!



There is an old Yorkshire saying, “Ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out”. Clout is from an Old English word for cloth or clothing, and the saying was a reminder not to be too quick to discard the winter woollies before the chilly days of May were over. Sure enough, after those balmy early April days, the temperatures began to drop once more, and this was the sight that met the residents of Ainsworth when



they awoke on Sunday 12th April – crazy weather indeed!!

Thankfully, by lunch time the sun had melted the worst of the snow and the temperature began to rise once more, as the latter part of the month made an attempt at ‘the driest April on record’ title – seriously crazy weather!

As always, nature continues in spite of the ups and downs in the world; Spring is such a wonderful and hopeful time as everything slowly begins to wake up after the long, hard months of winter; it’s almost as if an old painting is gradually being restored with the faded colours once again becoming vibrant and the detail sharp.

The Hawthorn hedgerows are now well and truly green and will soon be white with blossom, the grass has lost its tired, grey tinge and everywhere the daisies and dandelions are peeping out. The cattle are back out grazing after a winter spent indoors; lambs can be seen and heard in the fields; an early brood of ducklings has hatched on the pond near Ainsworth Hall; the Canada Geese are definitely in full ‘nesting mode’ around Whitehead Lodges – there’s no sign of frog spawn just yet, but I’m sure there will be before much longer.

Interesting sightings this month include Pheasants, Sand Martins, Swallows, Bats, Deer, a Stoat and a Buzzard.

The next verse of Sara Coleman’s poem, “The Garden Year”, reads, “May brings flocks of pretty lambs, Skipping by their fleecy dams.”

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

ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

(Photos for this month’s article were kindly provided by Dave Walters)

Just A Thought ...

The difference between ‘try’ and ‘triumph’ is just a little ‘umph’.

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

Five Little Flowers

Five little flowers growing in a row,
The first one said, "I'm purple you know",
The second one said, "I'm as pink as can be",
The third one said, "I'm as blue as the sea",
The fourth one said, "I'm a very red fellow",
The fifth one said, "Look, my colour is yellow",
Then out came the sunshine, all golden and bright,
And the five little flowers all danced with delight.

Author Unknown

Space To Share A Prayer

Thy Kingdom Come Prayer

Almighty God, your ascended son has sent us into the world
to preach the good news of your kingdom:

Inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love,
That all who hear your word may be drawn to you,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

Olde Worlde Weather Lore – May

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

Mist in May, heat in June,
Makes the harvest come right soon.

Did You Know ... May Facts

1st May – On this day in 1707 the Act of Union between Scotland and Britain came into force and the kingdom of Great Britain was established.

2nd May - on this day in 1961, the QE2 made her maiden voyage to New York.

3rd May – On this day in 1830, the first regular steam passenger train service began.

4th May – On this day in 1776, Rhode Island declared independence from Great Britain.

5th May – On this day in 1944, pacifist and spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi, was released from prison.

6th May – On this day in 1840, the Penny Black postage stamp was first used in Great Britain.

7th May – On this day in 1840, the composer, Tchaikovsky was born.

8th May – On this day in 1945, Victory in Europe was celebrated.

9th May – On this day in 1671, Thomas Blood attempted to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London.

10th May – On this day in 1994, Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president.

11th May – On this day in 1812, British Prime Minister Spencer Perceval was assassinated by John Bellingham in the lobby of the House of Commons,

12th May – On this day in 1820, Florence Nightingale was born..

13th May – On this day in 1995, British woman, Alison Hargreaves, became the first woman to conquer Everest without Oxygen or the help of Sherpas.

14th May – On this day in 1796, Dr, Edward Jenner administered the first Smallpox inoculation.

15th May – On this day in 1602, Cape Cod was discovered by the English navigator, Bartholomew Gosnold.

16th May – On this day in 1220, King Henry II laid the foundation stone for a new Westminster Abbey building in London.

17th May – On this day in 1916, British Summer Time (daylight saving) was introduced.

18th May – On this day in 1991, Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman, blasted off into orbit.

19th May – On this day in 2018, Meghan Markle and Prince Harry were married at Windsor Castle.

20th May – On this day in 1609, Shakespeare's Sonnets were first published in London.

21st May – On this day in 1981, Francois Mitterand became President of France.

22nd May – On this day in 1570, the first modern atlas was published.

23rd May – On this day in 1785, Benjamin Franklin announced his invention of bi-focals.

24th May – On this day in 1738, John Wesley converted, launching the Methodist movement.

25th May – On this day in 1914, the Home Rule Act for Ireland was passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

26th May – On this day in 1868, the Capital Punishment Act Amendment was passed leading to the end of public executions.

27th May – On this day in 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge was opened to pedestrians.

28th May – On this day in 1908, Ian Flemming, the creator of ‘James Bond’ was born.

29th May – On this day in 1917, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was born in Massachusetts.

30th May – On this day in 1821, James Boyd patented the rubber fire hose.

31st May – On this day in 1859, Big Ben first began ticking.

Time For A Smile

A large city church held a dinner evening to celebrate the success of a fund-raising campaign. They were delighted when the bishop agreed to attend. The young people in the church were asked to be waiters for the event. One boy delivered a main course to the top table with his thumb on top of the steak. The embarrassed rector said to the boy, “You shouldn’t be serving the bishop holding the plate like that.” The boy replied, “Sorry sir, but I assumed you wouldn’t want it to fall on to the floor again.”

“Where is my Sunday paper?” the irate customer yelled after calling the newspaper office. “Madam,” said the newspaper employee, “today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow.” There was quite a long pause, followed by a ray of recognition as she was heard to mutter, “Oh, dear! I have already written to the vicar complaining that no-one turned up to open the church today for the morning service.”

Strap Lines

It is far better to be roughly right than precisely wrong.

Silence is the absence of noise, but peace is the presence of God.

Think like a person of action; act like a person of thought.

Some folk come into your life as blessings, others come as lessons.

The Extended Parish Puzzler

Alphabet Bible – Part 1

The answers to the following begin with consecutive letters of the alphabet. Part 2 next month.

- A. A father and 1 of his sons
- B. In the land of Judah
- C. Where Jesus performed his first miracle
- D. Where Saul was travelling to when he came to faith
- E. Where Joseph's brothers went to beg for food
- F. The profession of some of Jesus's earliest followers
- G. The place of the skull
- H. King who ordered the massacre of the innocents
- I. Old Testament prophet
- J. The disciple who betrayed Jesus
- K. Another name for the Magi
- L. Found between Exodus and Numbers
- M. The person chosen to lead the Israelites out of Egypt

(Answers on page 32)

How Well Do You Know Our Village?

Last month's inscription can be found carved into the stone above the upper doorway of Ainsworth Church and Community Hall, and is a throw back to the days when the building was the Village School, with separate entrances for boys and girls.

An interesting one this month – definitely one for the more observant! Do you know where the following inscription can be found? Answer in next month's mag.

JOSEPH BROOKS

Bible Word Search

Can you find 10 Biblical names in the grid below?

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

Need a bit of help? Here's the names you are looking for:

- Abraham
- Daniel
- Esau
- Esther
- Herod
- Isaiah
- Josep
- Jonah
- Moses
- Ruth

Who's Who

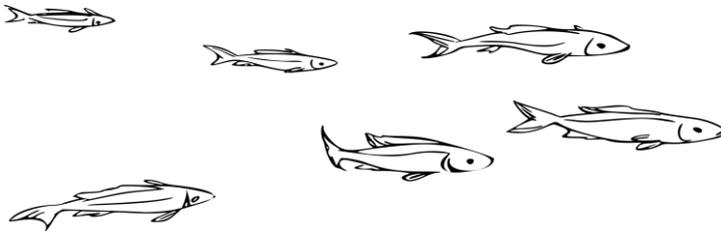
| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Vicar | Revd Dave Thomson Christ Church Vicarage Ainsworth Hall Road. Ainsworth BL2 5RY vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk Twitter @Vicar_Dave | 01204 398567 |
| OLM | Revd Elaine Larkin 1 Greenside. Ainsworth. BL2 5SE elaine.larkin.el@gmail.com Revd Debra Johnstone | 01204 388762 01204 399630 |
| Churchwarden | Alison Hartley | 07952 709041 |
| Church Treasurer | Geoff Whittle | 07976 443165 |
| Secretary of the PCC | Vacancy | |
| Organist | Jenny Johnson | 07734976978 |
| Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary | Carole Butler | 07982 316388 |
| Parish Child Protection | Peter Holden | 01204 596938 |
| Church Hall Booking | Geoff Hampson | 07910817577 |
| Church Lottery | Judith White | 07812074776 |
| Magazine Editor | Alison Hartley | ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com |
| Magazine Secretary | S Varnom | 0161 761 5686 |
| Magazine Adverts | June Brooks | 01204 527244 |
| Primary School Head | D Gerrard BA(Hons)PGCE | 01204 527484 |
| Services | | |
| Sunday | 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) | |
| | 10.30am Family Service 2 nd Sunday Family & Parade Service | |
| | 12.00pm Baptisms (Except 2 nd and last Sunday) | |
| | 6.30pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) | |
| | 2 nd Sunday Holy Communion (Book of Common Pray) | |
| | Healing Service (see Parish Diary) | |
| Weds | 6.15pm Mid-Week Praise | |

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

(Answer to Alphabet Bible: Adam and Abel; Bethlehem; Cana; Damascus; Egypt; Fishermen; Golgotha; Herod; Isaiah; Judas, Kings, Leviticus, Moses.

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 |



Little Fishes

The Marriage At Cana



The Miracles Of Jesus

When something good but truly astonishing happens, you might have heard someone say, "It's a miracle!!", but what is a miracle, and what do they actually mean?

When Christians talk about miracles happening, they mean that something good has happened, but it's something that shouldn't really be possible; no one can really understand how or why it's happened - even the cleverest scientists can't explain! Christians believe that these 'miracles' are caused by God.

So why does God make miracles happen?

God makes miracles happen to show people that He is at work in the world and in our lives and to encourage us to believe in Him. During his lifetime, Jesus performed lots of miracles - you can read about them in the New Testament in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Jesus healed people who were very sick; he brought dead people back to life; he commanded storms to be still; he fed huge crowds of people even though there was hardly any food; but these miracles weren't just tricks, they were ways to help people to believe that Jesus was more than just a 'normal person', and also to help people to understand the power of God.

The First Miracle Of Jesus - Turning Water Into Wine

The Gospel of John, Chapter 2 tells us the story of the wedding in Cana. Not long after Jesus was Baptised and began to preach the



good news of God, He and some of his friends were invited to a wedding in the town of Cana; there were many people at the wedding, including Mary, Jesus' mother. After the wedding

ceremony the Groom's family had laid on a great feast with all kinds of food to eat and lots of wine to drink.

The guests were having a really good time and all enjoying themselves, but some of them were maybe enjoying themselves a bit too much - they drank so much wine that there wasn't enough left for all of the guests to have some! Mary knew that it would look really bad for the Groom and his family if people realised that they had run out of wine, so she found Jesus and asked him to help.



"They have no wine", she told Jesus.

Jesus replied "... What concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." When He said this, He was reminding Mary that it wasn't yet time for Him to start performing miracles; He wasn't quite ready for everyone to know that He was the Son of God.



Mary listened, but she knew that Jesus would do something to help, so she spoke to the servants at the wedding and said to them, "Do whatever He tells you."

Jesus told the servants to take six large stone pots and fill them with water; once all the pots were full, He told them to fill a glass from one of the pots and take it to the man who was in charge of the wedding feast. The servants did exactly as Jesus had told them; they filled the six stone pots with water and then filled a glass from one of the pots and took it to the man who was in charge of the feast.



The man took a taste, and he couldn't believe how delicious it was;



it was the best wine he had ever tasted! Usually at a wedding feast the best wine is served first, but this time the best wine - the wine that Jesus had made from the water - was served last.

Turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana was the first miracle that Jesus performed, and when His friends saw what He had done they began to realise how truly special Jesus was and put their faith in Him. However, Jesus was not yet ready to show everyone that He was the Son of God, so he told His friends to keep what he had done a secret.



Over the next few months, we'll be learning more about the life of Jesus and his friends, about some of the things that he taught us and about some more of the miracles that he performed, but in the meantime here's a fun activity to try.

How To Make Flowers Change Colour

This is definitely **NOT** a miracle because there is a perfectly simple explanation for what happens, but it's still a really fun and interesting thing to do!

You Will Need:

- 3 small plastic cups or small empty plastic bottles
- 3 white flowers - carnations or chrysanthemums work best, but you could also use daisies.
- A jug of tap water.
- 3 different colours of food colouring.

Here's What To Do:

- 1) Fill the small cups with water, up to about halfway.
- 2) Add a different colour of food colouring to each water-filled cup, 4 or 5 drops should be enough
- 3) Ask a grown up to trim the ends of the flower stems
- 4) Place the flowers in the cups, with their stems in the water.
- 5) Leave the flowers soak.
- 6) Over the next few days the petals will change colour.

It's just like when you drink blackcurrant juice and end up with a purple tongue!

A Prayer Of Thanks:

Thank you, God, for pretty flowers,
Thank you, God, for soft Spring showers,
Thank you, God, for birds that sing,
Thank you, God, for everything.

Amen.

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