

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Lest We Forget ...
(Photo courtesy of Mike Watson)

Serving the Community
www.ainsworthparish.org.uk

November 2021

Price 50p

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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>



Parish Diary November 2021

- Sun. 7th Nov **THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**
 10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
- Wed. 10th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
- Sun. 14th **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
 8:00am COVID-secure BCP Communion (in Church)
 10:30am Remembrance Sunday Service (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
 6:30pm Service to Remember Departed (in Church)
- Wed. 17th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
- Sun. 21st **CHRIST THE KING**
 10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
- Wed. 24th 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
- Sun . 28th **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 8:00am COVID-secure BCP Communion (in Church)
 10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
- December:
Wed. 1st 6:30pm Mid-Week Praise (in Church)
- Sun. 5th Dec **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 10:30am COVID-secure Communion (in Church)
 12 Noon Midday worship (Facebook page)
 4:00pm Christingle Service (in Church)

Planning to attend our church building for worship?

The following COVID-19 Secure restrictions apply:

For your comfort we are operating three zones, offering different levels of security. The Zone you choose to sit in depends upon YOUR assessment of personal risk. For example, if you have few concerns and are not bothered about being pinged by the NHS Test & Trace app, then sit in Zone 1. If you are clinically vulnerable, you might prefer Zone 3.

Zone 1 (right hand side of the aisle and first 4 rows at the front on the left):

- You are advised to wear a facemask, but it is your decision.
- There is no requirement to remain socially distant.

Zone 2 (Remaining pews on left hand of the aisle – 1m+ social distance):

- Please wear a facemask
- Please sit in the designated pews, sitting in the space indicated by arrows.

Zone 3 (upstairs left & centre pews and the back Choir pews - 2m social distance)

- Please wear a facemask
- Please sit in the designated pews, sitting in the space indicated by arrows.

Singing: We now sing in church (hymns and The Gloria). There is no need to join in, but if you you are welcome to wear a facemask if you choose to.

Communion:

- Clergy will continue to preside in a COVID Secure manner.
- For now, we will not be sharing the Common Cup. Instead, after gelling their hands, clergy will carefully dip your wafer in the wine before safely dropping it in your hands.
- Zone 1 – we will distribute to you from the Communion Rail. Please mask and line up as directed.
- Zones 2 & 3 – remain seated, clergy will come to you.

General:

- We will leave the doors open to enhance air circulation.
- Please gel your hands as you enter and leave the building.
- There is a collection plate on the font, but this will not be passed around.

- Although we shall now stand at various points in the service (e.g., for the Gospel), you are at liberty to remain seated throughout if you wish.
- To avoid handling service books, a PowerPoint version of the order of service is projected in church. However, if you struggle with this, there are a few printed orders of service available on request (please take them home with you afterwards).
- If you are in Zone 1, please allow those in Zones 2 and 3 to exit first as they need to maintain social distance.

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 in church due to the risk to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately and arrange a PCR test. Likewise, please stay at home if you have been pinged by Test & Trace.

A few words from the Vicar

Before I turn once again to the Mission Communities, a few words about this year's Season of Remembrance.

On Remembrance Sunday we host two important annual services; the Remembrance Parade service at 10.30am, and a service for remembering departed loved ones at 6.30pm.

Although this means we have two special services in one day, by doing so we achieve a balance between community and the individual. In the morning we recall and honour the communal sacrifices made during two world wars and remember those who have been killed or injured due to warfare since. Then, in the evening, we lift our tears to God as we remember our departed loved ones.

Last year during the Season of Remembrance, which begins on All Hallows Eve (31 October), we introduced a 'Cairn of Remembrance' at the front right-hand corner of the church. I have left this in place deliberately and, once again, everyone is welcome to place a stone (painted if you wish) on the cairn in memory of a departed loved one. Poppy crosses can also be placed there.

So, turning to Mission Communities

To recap, grouping parishes into Mission Communities is Manchester Diocese's response to falling attendance and years of budget deficits. Each grouping will be led by a stipendiary priest, and each parish will have a focal leader – a stipendiary priest if there is one, otherwise a self-supporting minister (SSM) or even a lay leader. The expectation is that this will help parishes to work together in mission across the whole of the Mission Community area.

In Ainsworth we have always been happy collaborating with neighbouring parishes and have done so for many years. So, when these proposals were first floated in outline our PCC was happy to go along with them. Collaboration is in our blood, and this seemed to be a reasonable initiative to arrest decline!

The documentation published by the Diocese is light on detail, with the expectation that Mission Communities will determine their own governance structure as they begin to collaborate in mission. There is no one size fits all model presented, which is how it should be. Unfortunately, this also means that everything has a back of a fag packet, it will be alright on the night feel about it, which does not inspire confidence.

Other concerns have been expressed, for example, about the extent to which SSMs and lay leaders really are deployable outside their home parishes and whether this central pillar of the Mission Communities strategy is realistic.

The latest development is a proposal for Ainsworth to become part of a grouping stretching from Walshaw in the North to Whitefield in the South. We have no say in the matter so, at first, when the PCC met in October, members were understandably reluctant to spend valuable time discussing what is obviously a done deal.

Although we enjoy good relations with all the parishes concerned, from the PCCs perspective, describing a collection of distinct communities spread across such a large area as a 'community' is questionable. The grouping only begins to make sense when seen through the lens of plans to significantly reduce the number of stipendiary clergy deployed throughout Manchester Diocese.

As you might expect, despite our reservations, all members of the PCC are determined to adapt to our new situation and intend doing our best to make this grouping work.

God Bless

Dave

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the November 2021 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is – as always – packed full of reports, articles and useful information.

Regular readers may notice that this month, for the first time since March 2020, we've been able to include a 'Parish Diary' in the magazine – a sure sign that things are a little more settled than they have been. It's great to see the 8am BCP Communion Service making a comeback, also the Services of Remembrance and the Christingle Service; it's even better to see so many people now returning to 'in church' worship on a regular basis – and it's good to be back!

The various groups and uniformed organisations are all now back in full swing – many thanks for all the reports and updates. Thanks are also due to the various leaders and co-ordinators who have done their best to keep group members informed, in touch and supported throughout the months when face to face meetings weren't possible.

Alongside our usual reports and updates, this month sees the first of a new series of articles, entitled 'Hidden Gems', looking at some of the fabulous places that folk have visited in recent months; first up is Leighton Hall near Carnforth. Also in this month's magazine you'll find a raft of interesting information about the work of the Royal British Legion, a moving poem which was originally found in the pocket of a soldier who was mortally wounded in the troubles in Northern Ireland, and some fascinating facts (and fabulous photos) about rainbows.

As always, any ideas or suggestions for future articles are greatly appreciated and can be forwarded to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Enjoy this month's magazine, do your best to keep safe and well, and as we move through the season of Remembrance and approach Advent and Christmas, don't forget to check the Parish Diary and weekly newsletter for an update on forthcoming services

Alison

Coffee And Conversation

The next Ainsworth Community Coffee and Conversation will be held on Tuesday 9th of November. Coffee and Conversation is held in Ainsworth Church and Community Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10.30 – 12 noon; "A cup of coffee shared with others is happiness tasted and time well spent" – why not come along and join us.

From The Registers

HOLY BAPTISM	We welcome into the family of God
September 5 th	Archie Harry Brocklehurst
12 th	Henry John Wainwright
19 th	Erin Mae Brocklehurst

FUNERALS	We commend to God's keeping
September 14 th	Barbara Kowalski
20 th	Ann Jennings

Treasurer

We are once again looking for a voluntary Treasurer to manage parish finances, ensure our financial records are up to date, produce financial statements, and undertake allied tasks. This role is essential to the mission of our Church. You do not need formal accountancy qualifications to do this, just a degree of financial literacy. Please contact Revd Dave to discuss.

Church Notice Boards

Both of our Church Noticeboards are in a poor state of repair, so we are seeking a volunteer(s) with the necessary practical skills to repair (or replace) and repaint one or both them. Signwriting skills are not required as we have a solution for that part of the project. Contact Revd Dave if interested. (N.B., unfortunately, CofE red tape means that if replacement rather repair proves necessary, we will need to seek permission from the Diocese.)

Bible Reading Fellowship

"The Bible is a precious gift, which is always in dialogue with us. Through its pages we get to know God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit and also ourselves".

The Bible Reading Fellowship can be a big help in many areas of life. It can support us in caring for our children with Parenting for Faith, assist in later life with Anna Chaplaincy and with many areas in between. They are offering a new Christmas book at low cost for families to share. Explore their website brfonline.org.uk for details of publications and their range of Christmas cards and everyday cards.

Update From The Children's Society

As Autumn begins in earnest, it seems only right to take stock of what has been happening over the last few months.

Back in the Spring, I was happy to travel the length and breadth of the area collecting houseboxes and donations to The Children's Society from all those people who kindly have a collection box in their home.

It was wonderful to meet everyone and have a chat at the door (socially distant of course), and to catch up on news, having not seen many of you for over a year. Thanks to the generosity of these individuals, £373.55 was raised for the Society, and I thank them very much.

Like lots of other charities, The Children's Society has suffered a huge impact as its fundraising was cancelled during the lockdowns, and this has had a knock-on effect over the last 18 months. Amazingly, thanks to the donation of some digital equipment, the Society was able to distribute laptops, tablets, phones etc to some of the most vulnerable children and young people, and therefore continue to help and support them either online or virtually or by phone calls.

As we know, the pandemic has had an overwhelming impact on children and young people, with NHS data showing children's mental health referrals 72% higher than before the pandemic. Children have returned to school, but they have missed out on education, friendships, play and simply being a child, and their welfare has suffered as a result.

The pandemic has also made it much harder to identify children experiencing exploitation and abuse, as they have in effect been hidden from view for large periods of the last 18 months.

The Society's services have been transformed by necessity during this extended period, and they have been trying to continue to reach out to young people at home and deliver the vital one to one support they need. Staff have worked very hard to keep going on the "front line" in challenging circumstances and they are proud that they have been able to help many of the children referred to them.

Christingle Service 2021

Put the date in your diary or on your calendar; this year's Christingle Service will be held on the 5th December 2021 at 4pm in Church.

As we were unable to have a Church service last year, and barring any new changes to Government policy, it will be lovely to meet again in our beautiful Church for this friendly joyful service full of hope.

There are some new resources available this year, and some changes to the way donations can be collected, but more about this next month.

I am hopeful that collection candles can be distributed to the Brownies, Beavers and Cubs, and collection envelopes to guides, Scouts and Explorers. I shall also try to invite other organisations to become involved in raising awareness of and funds for the Society. There will also be a supply of Children's Society envelopes in Church for members of the congregation to place their donation.

Keep safe and well,

Susan Campbell (Local secretary for The Children's Society)

The following poem was written by Tonika, who, at 16 was helped and supported by a project worker for The Children's Society. The poem was inspired by her experiences of being bullied and how it impacted her life. She says, *"I'm sure many young people can relate to this or a similar situation where they don't feel they belong. The main message for my poem is that it doesn't matter if you don't feel you 'belong' in a certain group, as long as you know that you belong within yourself that is absolutely fine"*.

Belonging

Primary school.

This is where it started,

Where I felt torn and parted.

Bullying is where I felt broken hearted.

I used to go to school with fear,

My heart beating out of my chest every time I entered the classroom.

Then it affected my work, missing days off school,

My tears become my comfort,

My comfort was home, home was where I felt safe.

Bullying became all I saw and knew.

I wanted it to stop, never knowing how.

For so long I never felt like I belonged.

Secondary school is where it fell apart.

For so long I never wanted to belong, being scared of repetition.

Despite this it all restarted.
Bullying was my life again; my emotions were scattered.
I was screaming for help but being silenced by my bullies.
I wanted it to stop, never knowing how.
Truth is the pain was shared. I was never alone.

Days had passed, months had gone, years are to come
but I reached for support, for a better way, in hope for better days.
Bullies don't control your life, you do.
Be who you are, not who they want you to be.
Now I know it's not about wanting to feel like I belong.
It's about feeling belonged within yourself.
Sometimes I don't feel like I belong
but that doesn't matter anymore.
Remember you are worthwhile, and you belong here without any fear.

Tonika



Easyfundraising

Our cause is registered as Ainsworth Parish Church, Bolton and currently has 24 supporters registered. Many thanks to everyone who has used the easyfundraising platform to raise donations, our current fundraising total to £778-93. A huge thank you to everyone for raising donations via #easyfundraising!

As folk start to think about Christmas shopping, it's a great time to raise even more free donation via easyfundraising; over 5,700 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop online - at no extra cost to you! These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 9th November

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

*"A cup of coffee shared with others
is happiness shared and time well spent."*



Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Ainsworth History Society Meeting

Monday 1st November

7.30pm, Duke William, Well Street

Everyone welcome.

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 9th November

10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome

Churchyard Leaf Clearing

Saturday 13th November

An extra churchyard session to get the leaves cleared. Everyone welcome – no need to book, just turn up!

Christingle Service 2021 – Save The Date

Sunday 5th December, 4pm

Christ Church Ainsworth

Why not join us for this family friendly, fun and joyful service, which supports the incredible work of The Children’s Society; everyone welcome.

Royal British Legion Lamp Post Poppies

Many thanks to all who were involved in organising the lamp post poppies which can be seen throughout the village, and all who so generously sponsored them – Ainsworth Remembers.

ABC Is Back!

Friday 5th November, 10 – 11.30am

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

For parents, grandparents & carers with children up to school ages; come along & join us – play with the toys, sing nursery rhymes & songs then enjoy a snack together. 1st child £1.50, 50p for each additional child, adults free!

Porch Boxes

We are now able to receive donations for Porch Boxes in Church again; we will also be supporting Porch Boxes again this Harvest.

It’s also still an option to 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/>

Around The Organisations ...

Beavers

This month the Beavers had a fantastic day at Giant's Seat Camp Site for our Pirate themed fun day. We completed lots of Pirate themed crafts along with learning some camp craft skills such as den building. We managed to avoid the rain for long enough to build a campfire and toast some marshmallows. Everyone had a fantastic day and worked hard towards their badges.

Congratulations to Scarlett who was presented with her bronze award badge at the October Church Parade.

Rikki

Cubs

The lads have had a busy few weeks working on their Team Challenge and the Air Activities Badge and most have been successful – well done! Good that one of our leaders, Thomas, could organise these air-based items – a first time task since turning 18 to run an activity organised by him alone.

Seven Cubs have been working hard with me to achieve their Silver Award before they move to scouts after Christmas. We have been trying to catch up with all the tasks they would have done over the last 18 months, but due to “you know what” it has not been possible. A big thanks to Stacey and the Scout Leaders who have agreed to take them on their November Camp so they can finish off all the outstanding Outdoor Activities.

Bill and I were very proud to receive our Silver Wolf from the County Commissioner at our first parade service for what seems like a very long time. It was good that Ann Chapman could join us, as her church, New Jerusalem, has recently closed.

Great attendance at this service with over 70 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, and Leaders in Scout uniform filling our side of the church – first time in months I suspect. Thanks to all who supported the McMillan Coffee evening and the Coffee Morning after the parade service.

We are now back working at capacity, so anyone wishing to join who is not already one of our Beavers will have to go on a waiting list.

Baloo

Scouts

We now have 38 Scouts every week, so as you can imagine it is busy (and quite noisy).

Over the past few months, the Scouts have been working hard towards their Air Activities, Air Research and Camper Badge. We have had a visit to Runway Visitor Centre at Manchester Airport where the Scouts got to walk underneath Concorde, sat in the cockpit of a DC10 and learned all about all the different roles at an airport.

They have learnt about the tail logos of many airlines and completed a project on different types of aircraft.

The older Scouts recently completed their Expedition Challenge by walking from Ainsworth to Bolton Station, catching the train to Chorley and then walking to Bibby's Farm Camp Site. They all slept in hammocks for the night and completed service team type work on the site. They cleared drainage gutters and moved bark around the site to soak up the rainwater. This now means that they have all completed their Chief Scout Gold award which will be being presented in December.

We have lots of plans in place before Christmas, including 2 camps (in tents!!!). We will keep you informed as to what is going on each month.

May we as a Section also pass on our congratulations to Bill and Gwen on the presentation of their Silver Wolf awards. I know I have mentioned this previously, but Harvest Service saw them being awarded by the County Commissioner at Church Parade. It is excellent to see their hard work over the last 60 years being recognised. On a personal note, it makes me extremely proud to be their daughter, and yes, there were several tears shed during the service.

Thanks

Stacey on behalf of the leaders

12th Radcliffe Brownies

We had our long awaited "Magic-and-Mayhem-sleepover-that-wasn't", which was a combination of Zoom and meeting in the Church Hall. Because we couldn't sleepover, the girls made a den at home and slept in that instead and we joined together on Zoom for breakfast! But everything else was as we planned for the sleepover – we put

tents up (and took them down!); made teddy zip wires; clown bookmarks, circus masks; dance ribbons; sun catchers and sticker pictures. The Brownies baked cakes and decorated them as clowns; learned magic tricks and how to tightrope walk; collected items in a scavenger hunt; played fairground games and sang round a pretend campfire – and as we couldn't light it, we used battery lanterns to provide the light. Then we finished all this off by getting wet doing a water run game! The weekend activities also meant that we were able to award the Camp skills builder badge to Harriet, Lucy, Jessica and Serena.



And our activities didn't stop there - as part of our Clever Cogs Engineering Badge we have done a "planets and stars" activity and have made a boat using a washing-up sponge (which surprisingly floated and didn't sink!).

This term, we welcomed three new Brownies, Grace, Hattie and Tayah, into our unit and hope they enjoy their time with us.

.Polly, Brown Owl

Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

It is with sadness that we hear of the death of 3 former Mothers' Union members. We offer our condolences to the families and friends of Kath Wardle, Barbara Kawolski and Marion Woods and pray that they will find courage and hope to face the future. I have many personal and happy memories of Barbara as we worked together at Bealey Maternity Home and I know that Marion especially enjoyed the fellowship and fun that we all enjoy.

Kath was an ever present member of Mothers' Union for many years. She was exceptionally generous with her involvement in all our activities and projects at branch, Diocesan and Worldwide level.

We are now becoming more confident in getting out and about and meeting with friends and family. I joined many members from across the Diocese in a Service of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral to mark the end of the Triennium. It was lovely to catch up with old friends and share in worship.

We were able to use part of that service at our first afternoon branch meeting, giving thanks and also celebrating our differences. I must admit that on a wet and windy day it was lovely to find that the heating was on in the Church Hall. It was so welcoming!

We will continue to meet at 2.30pm in the Church Hall on the 2nd and 16th November.

The **30th November** is the first Tuesday in Advent and we will meet in Church at 2.30pm for our Advent Carol Service. Everyone is welcome to join us, both for this Service and at any of our meetings.

We are starting to plan our Christmas celebration meal. Watch this space though we will make sure that all members are kept informed. This is the time when we will also give a gift as we reveal our identities to our Prayer Partners. Time to begin Christmas shopping!

News from York Province (to which Ainsworth belongs)

On **Saturday 6th November** the End of Triennium Provincial Service will take place in Liverpool Cathedral at 3.00pm. Bishop Paul Bayes will preach

News from Mary Sumner House.

We come together in November to focus our prayers for those living with Gender Based Violence and those making a stand for change, as

well as improving our understanding of the impact of GBV across society.

A special Prayer diary will be available for the 16 Days of Activism sent out with this year's second issue of Connected.

On **Saturday 27th November**, we will come together for Global Day, marking it by wearing a purple scarf, a special one of which which will be available from the online shop.

We are also asked, if possible, to observe a three minute silence at 1.03pm to fit in with the 1 in 3 theme. It is a disturbing statistic that 1 in 3 women around the world have been the victim of physical or sexual abuse

Jennifer White (Hon Sec)

Ainsworth History Society

Ainsworth History Society meets on the first Monday of each month. The next meeting of the Ainsworth History Society will be held on Monday 1st November in the covered are at The Duke William on Well Street – **please note the earlier time of 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome.

From the Archives – November 1996

In November 1996 as in November 2021, there was a large focus within the Parish on Remembrance. The Parish Diary for that month included details of the Remembrance Sunday Family and Parade service, and also a joint Remembrance Communion Service with members of the Methodist Church on the Sunday evening. Amongst other small sketches surrounding the Parish Diary, there was a 'Remembrance Sunday At The Cenotaph' picture.

It seems that the pace was 'hotting up' as people began to look forwards to Advent and Christmas, with a number of preliminary notices and 'save the dates' for Christmas fairs, Advent Services and Christingle.

The various groups and organisations were fully back in the swing of things after the summer break; some of the ladies from Cockey Moor Women's Institute had been on a visit to Buckingham Palace; a number of coffee mornings and jumble sales were being planned, and

Young Families had an action packed programme which included making Harvest biscuits, jumping teddies and binoculars no less!

The Guides continued to work towards their Silver Challenge; Ventures had taken part in the 'Silver Clog' competition and were preparing to attend Venture North Camp at Ashworth Valley, and 16th Brownies were thrilled to have raised enough money to fund a Guide Dog Puppy. Meanwhile, Sunday School were pleased to welcome Mrs. Fawcett who joined their team of teachers

The 'Holiday Church' featured in the November 1996 Parish Magazine was St. Nicholas and St. Giles, Sidmouth, with an interesting write up provided by Miss Joyce Batty.

In November 1996, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Marjorie Jones, who was Deputy Churchwarden at that time and former Secretary of the PCC.

In November 1996 there were no Baptisms recorded, but 1 Wedding, and 2 Funerals recorded from the previous month. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 399 and the collections totalled £1585.

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 6 - Ezra: *Allow God to do the rest, by Elizabeth Spiers.*

Ezra is a book about the Israelites returning to God and to their homeland after being in captivity for many years. God 'put it into the heart of King Cyrus' says Ezra to let the Jews go; to return all the artefacts that had been confiscated from them and give them additional gold and silver so they could rebuild the temple and start again. Approximately one in 40 Jews chose to travel the arduous 900 miles on foot to return.

One commentator likened it to a reconciliation between a separated couple. After all, Israel had been adulterous in one sense, worshipping other gods instead of the God of Israel, despite His goodness to them. Reconciliation is a very difficult process but can ultimately be very rewarding if both parties are committed to working it through.

Where do you start after being apart for so long? Well, the Jews started by building an altar. Today we would start by going to the

cross and acknowledging our part of the breakdown, our sin, our failure and asking God to forgive us and to give us a fresh start. God will always forgive us if we are sincere.

Next the Jews began building a temple as a sign of God's presence in their midst. And immediately they found opposition. Their enemies offered to help with the building, but they were insincere - undercover operations was more like it. In any reconciliation attempt there will be those who seem to be offering support but are hoping for failure. We need to be on our guard. These enemies sent a letter to the King making a case against them and the building work was stopped forcibly for many years.

Then valuable support arrived in the form of two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah. These men began teaching that God's word had more authority than 'royal interests' (*Ezra 4:22*) and, leading by example, they helped with the rebuilding.

A second letter was sent to the King, full of accusation. But King Darius checked the records carefully and found that King Cyrus, all those years before, had authorised the return of the people and rebuilding of the temple. In his reply, not only did Darius endorse the Jews, but he also ordered that their enemies paid their taxes directly towards the building expenses. Sweet.

Maybe you are separated from God. It doesn't matter what happened. If you are willing to admit your mistakes, ask for forgiveness and be reconciled, God will help you. He wants to be in a relationship with you. Just watch out for the opposition and ask for the support of someone you trust. God will do the rest.

For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone. (Lamentations 3:31-33)

Through The Seasons – Ainsworth In October

*Autumn leaves are falling down,
Leaves of red and gold and brown,
Fluttering, fluttering, fluttering down.*



The words of this traditional song seem very appropriate just now; there's been a subtle change in the weather and the autumn leaves are most definitely falling down, leaving many of our local paths and walks now carpeted with fallen leaves. It's interesting to notice though, that this doesn't

happen across the board at the same time or in the same way; the Ash trees drop large bracts of still green leaves quite early on; meanwhile, the leaves of the Oak, Sycamore and Horse Chestnuts are looking distinctly 'rusty' but are still hanging on in there, whilst the leaves of the Willow trees are as yet unchanged.

But it's not just the trees that have begun to change, many of the grasses and reeds have also gone to seed and are



beginning to look a little tired – compare this picture taken across Cuckoo Woods earlier this month to the one taken across Paddock Leach



back in the summer, the lush greens are slowly now becoming yellows and browns.

You may have noticed that the hedge cutters have been hard at work throughout the village this month, cutting back the excess summer growth, tidying overgrown verges and generally getting things ship shape ready for the winter months – walking down Ainsworth Hall Road it's amazing to see how much wider the track now looks, so too the pavements on Bradley Fold Road! It's incredible how much wildlife our local hedges and verges support, and it never ceases to amaze me that, even when the hedges are almost leafless, there can be a cacophony of bird song coming from them, yet not a single bird can be seen!

As the seasons progress so too the birdlife has changed once more; Swallows, Swifts and Martins have now long gone; large flocks of Canada Geese can be seen (and heard), also making their way to warmer climes for the winter months; Common Gulls are now regular visitors to fields and farmland; large flocks of long tailed tits and sparrows are busy in the hedgerows, whilst Goldfinches, Dunnocks and Starlings are all making the most of the last of the various seeds. There seem to be Robins everywhere just at the moment too, or are they always there, but just becoming more noticeable as their surroundings become less colourful?

Birds aren't the only creatures that are 'seasonal', in the past few weeks the Deer, Foxes and Badgers have all made a reappearance; although possibly they are also simply more obvious as the greenery begins to die back.

Once again, a number of interesting sightings have come from various people this month, including:

Jays, Pied Wagtails, Song Thrush, Starling flocks, Jackdaws, Barn Owl, Dunnocks, Long Tailed Tits, Robins, Kingfisher, Bullfinches, Chaffinches, Green Finches, Heron, Kestrel, Bats, Foxes, Badgers, Deer,

The next verse of Sara Coleman's poem, "The Garden Year", reads, "Dull November brings the blast, Then the leaves are whirling fast."

Watch this space for an Ainsworth in November update, and please keep e-mailing your own nature discoveries to ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

Rainbows

The unsettled weather at the start of October seemed to bring with it endless rainbows, some of which were captured on camera.



There is something rather wonderful about a rainbow; maybe it's because they take us by surprise, appearing almost magically, often amidst gloomy skies or unsettled weather, maybe it's the myths and folklore that surrounds them, but from small children to grown



adults the sight of a rainbow can make many of us stop and stare.

The ability of a rainbow to bring joy to so many people may explain its popularity on cards, birthday cakes, wrapping paper and as part of the mascot for so many good causes. Rainbows feature in songs, poems and other writings in countries all around the world. Most recently we saw the rainbow adopted as a symbol of hope during the Covid-19 pandemic; in the early days of the 2020 lockdown rainbows appeared in people's windows, on bunting and flags, on stickers in cars, and even painted on the roads and pavements around the country.

According to Wikipedia,

"A rainbow is a meteorological phenomenon that is caused by reflection, refraction and dispersal of light in water droplets resulting in a spectrum of light appearing in the sky. It takes the form of a multicoloured circular arc."

There are many myths and tales about rainbows, but did you know ...

Some fascinating rainbow facts

Rainbows caused by sunlight always appear in the section of sky directly opposite the Sun.

Rainbows can be full circles, however, the observer normally only sees an arc formed by illuminated droplets above the ground. (Occasionally it's possible to see the full circle of a rainbow from an aeroplane).

The order of the rainbow spectrum is red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet.

In a primary rainbow, the arc shows red on the outer part and violet on the inner side.

In a double rainbow, a second arc is seen outside the primary arc, and has the order of its colours reversed, with red on the inner side of the arc. This is caused by the light being reflected twice on the inside of the droplet before leaving it.

A moonbow or lunar rainbow is produced by light reflected by the moon.

Earth is the only planet in the solar system where rainbows are possible.

Rainbows appear in many different cultures and traditions the world over:

A rainbow appears in Genesis 9, in the story of Noah, where it is a sign of God's covenant never to destroy all life on earth with a global flood again.

In Norse mythology, the rainbow bridge Bifröst connected the world of men (Midgard) and the realm of the gods (Asgard).

In Greek mythology Iris, a beautiful young maiden, was believed to come with the rainbow as a bridge between the heavens and earth.

In one Japanese myth, the creators of the world descend on a rainbow – known as the Bridge of Heaven – to create land from the ocean of chaos.

Some Indonesian societies believe that a rainbow is a celestial river used by souls as they journey to the spiritual realm.

But not all cultures see rainbows as a positive, for some, a rainbow is a bad omen or something to be feared;

In parts of Burma rainbows are thought to be child eating demons; when a rainbow appears all the children are quickly hidden away.

Some Aboriginal tribes believe that rainbows are sent by their enemies to prevent the rain from falling, leading to drought.

In some parts of Bulgaria, it's believed that walking under a rainbow can cause gender change!

As adults most of us accept that we're unlikely to find a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow; we've also come to terms with the fact that *'Somewhere over the rainbow, dreams come true and troubles melt like lemon drops ...'* may not be strictly accurate, but as a symbol of hope, however old you are, you can't beat the sight of a good rainbow.

The Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion (RBL) was established in 1921 and celebrates its centenary this year. The RBL is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community. It is the country's largest Armed Forces charity, with 180,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a network of partners and charities, providing support wherever and whenever it's needed, to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.



The RBL works with politicians and officials at all levels to represent the interests of the Armed Forces community; championing the interests of serving and ex-serving personnel and campaigning on key issues to help improve their lives and make their voices heard, and often calling on members of the public to add their support and make a real impact.

Every year since 1921, the RBL has led the nation in commemorating and honouring those who have served and sacrificed; remembering those who lost their lives on active service in all conflicts; from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day, as well as all those who have served and their families.

Every year in November, the RBL distributes paper poppies to raise vital funds to help today's Armed Forces community. The red poppy is a national symbol of Remembrance and hope, and wearing a poppy is a way of showing appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, veterans, and their families, both past and present.

But what was the inspiration for the poppy becoming a symbol of hope and remembrance?

During the first world war, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over

repeatedly. Previously beautiful landscapes turned to seas of mud; bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow.

There was, however, a notable and striking exception to the bleakness - the bright red Flanders poppies. These resilient flowers flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, taking root where the earth had been disturbed and growing in their thousands.

In the Spring of 1915, a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was moved by the sight of these poppies and that inspiration led him to write the now famous poem, 'In Flanders Fields'.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

John McCrae, 1915

This poem was read by, and inspired, an American academic named Moina Michael, to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She campaigned to get it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Also involved with those efforts was a French woman, Anna Guérin, who was in the United Kingdom in 1921, where she planned to sell the poppies in London.

Whilst in London, Anna met Earl Haig, the founder of the RBL, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as their emblem in the UK. The RBL, which had been formed that same year, ordered nine million

poppies, and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately. That first 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000 to help veterans with housing and jobs; this was a considerable sum of money at that time.

In view of how quickly the poppies had sold and wanting to ensure plenty of poppies for the next appeal, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-servicemen. Today, the factory and the RBL's warehouse in Aylesford produces millions of poppies each year.

The nation grasped the concept of the Poppy Appeal, demand for poppies in England continued unabated and was so high, that few poppies actually managed to reach Scotland. To address this and meet growing demand, Earl Haig's wife Dorothy established the 'Lady Haig Poppy Factory' in Edinburgh in 1926 to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland.

Today, over five million Scottish poppies (which have four petals and no leaf unlike poppies in the rest of the UK) are still made by hand by disabled ex-Servicemen at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory each year and distributed by the RBL's sister charity, Poppyscotland

Remembrance in the UK today is very different from what it was 100 years ago. People take part whatever their political or religious beliefs, but the poppy remains a humble and poignant symbol of Remembrance and hope; this year, over 40,000 volunteers will distribute over 40 million poppies.

On 11th November 2021, we will once again unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth; to pay tribute to the special contribution made by families and the emergency services and to acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

We will remember them.

(The information for this article was taken from the RBL website; for more info about the RBL or the RBL Poppy Appeal, visit www.britishlegion.org.uk)

Just A Thought

Change is inevitable; progress is optional.

Hidden Gems

Leighton Hall

Leighton Hall is a Grade II listed building, situated approximately ½ a mile from Yealand Conyers in Lancashire, and about 10 minutes off junction 35 of the M6. Situated within the Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the estate comprises of approximately 450 acres of woodland and 1200 acres of productive farmland.

Leighton Hall has been at the centre of this magnificent estate since mediaeval times, and, unlike many historic houses, remains a very much loved and lived in family home; each room, from the modest Chapel through to the vast Dining Room, is still used by the family every day. Daily tours are led by knowledgeable and friendly guides and visitors are encouraged to ask questions. Whilst the Covid restrictions mean that some of the more personal areas of the Hall are currently off limits, generally there are no roped off areas and no one telling you not to touch!

Leighton Hall has a colourful history of ownership, at one point it was confiscated and burned along with the owner, Albert Hodgson's, possessions, following his imprisonment for involvement in the Jacobite Rising of 1715! The Hall also has a connection with the Townley's of Townley Hall in Burnley, George Townley having acquired the estate through marriage in the 1750s. In 1822 the estate came into the possession of Richard Gillow, the grandson of the now famous upholsterer and furniture manufacturer, Robert Gillow, and has remained in the Gillow family up to the present day.

Today the Hall houses an impressive collection of Gillow furniture alongside numerous other objets d'art.

Whilst a tour of the Hall is a must, the grounds are also delightful. The walled garden, herb garden, long lawn and wildflower garden are all accessible to the public, plus a short woodland walk gives the opportunity to check out the local plants and wildlife. For families, there is a small woodland play area and a tree trail, along with a caterpillar maze and an area to have a go at brass rubbings.

Throughout the summer months, Northern Sky Falconry team up with the Leighton Hall Estate to provide regular free flying displays; set against the backdrop of this wonderful scenery, this is an amazing opportunity to see and get up close to these wonderful birds of prey.

And after all that? A visit to the Leighton Hall Tea Rooms is definitely in order. From ice creams and cold drinks to light lunches and delicious homemade cakes – they have it covered.

For more information about Leighton Hall visit www.leightonhall.co.uk

Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

A Soldier's Last Order

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on the ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there, I did not die

Anon

This poem was found in the pocket of a soldier who was mortally wounded whilst serving in Northern Ireland; it appeared in the Ainsworth Parish Magazine in May 1996.

Space To Share A Prayer

A Prayer For Peace

Ever-living God,
We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence.
May that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all people and establish harmony among all nations.
We pray for all peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to help to keep this world secure and free.
May God give us peace. Amen.

Olde Worlde Weather Lore – November

Ice before Martinmas, enough to bear a duck,
The rest of the winter will be full of mud and muck.

Why Do We Say That Then ... ?

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

"Pull the wool over your eyes..." Back in the days when leaders, politicians, dignitaries etc wore powdered wigs, pulling the 'wool' over their eyes was slang for the times when they were seemingly blinded to the facts

Did You Know ... November Facts

1st November– On this day in 1858, Queen Victoria was proclaimed ruler of India.

2nd November - On this day in 1903, the British newspaper, @The Daily Mirror', first began publishing.

3rd November – On this day in 1957, a Russian dog named Laika, became the first living passenger to orbit the earth, when she travelled on Sputnik 2.

4th November – On this day in 1922, English archaeologist, Howard Carter, discovered the tomb of Tutenkhamen at Luxor, Egypt.

5th November – On this day in 1605, the infamous Gunpowder Plot took place, an attempt to blow up the English Houses of Parliament on the day set for King James I to open Parliament.

6th November – On this day in 1860, Republican, Abraham Lincoln, was elected the 16th President of the United States.

7th November – On this day in 1872, the cargo ship, Mary Celeste, sailed from Staten Island bound for Genoa. She was mysteriously discovered abandoned 4 weeks later.

8th November – On this day in 1895, German Professor of Physics, Wilhelm Rontgen, discovered the X-ray whilst experimenting with electricity.

9th November – On this day in 1989, the Berlin Wall was opened, allowing citizens from East and West to pass freely through checkpoints.

10th November – On this day in 1885, German engineer, Gottlieb Daimler, unveiled the world's first motorcycle.

11th November – On this day in 1918, the Allies and Central Power ended World War I with the signing of an armistice agreement.

12th November – On this day in 1847, English Physician, Sir James Young Simpson, became the first person to use chloroform as an anaesthetic.

13th November – On this day in 1850, Scottish author, Robert Louis Stevenson was born.

14th November – On this day in 1922, the BBC began daily radio broadcasts from the 2LO transmitter at Marconi House.

15th November – On this day in 1904, King C. Gillette patented the Gillette razor blade.

16th November – On this day in 2010, the engagement was announced between Prince William and Catherine Middleton at Clarence House, London.

17th November– On this day in 1558, Elizabeth I ascended to the English throne on the death of her half sister, Queen Mary.

18th November – On this day in 1852, the state funeral of the Duke of Wellington was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

19th November – On this day in 1926, the British Miner's strike ended after 28 weeks.

20th November – On this day in 1947, Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II) married Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten (Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh) in a ceremony held at Westminster Abbey.

21st November – On this day in 1977, Concorde made her maiden flight, from London to New York.

22nd November – On this day in 1963, US President, John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, whilst travelling in an open topped motorcade.

23rd November – On this day in 1852, the first British Pillar Boxes were introduced as an experiment in St. Helier, on the island of Jersey.

24th November – On this day in 1859, English Naturalist, Charles Darwin, published his work, "On The Origins Of Species", which radically changed the general view of evolution.

25th November – On this day in 1955, Clement Attlee resigned as leader of the UK Labour Party.

26th November – On this day in 1805, Thomas Telford's Pontcysyllite Aqueduct, carrying the Llangollen Canal 126 feet above the River Dee, was officially opened.

27th November – On this day in 1895, Swedish Chemist, Alfred Nobel's will was used to establish the Nobel Prize.

28th November – On this day in 1919, American born Lady Nancy Astor was elected as the first female member of the British House of Commons.

29th November – On this day in 1832, Louisa May Alcott, author of the popular classic “Little Women”, was born in Pennsylvania, US.

30th November – On this day in 1936, London’s Crystal Palace, originally built in 1851, was destroyed by fire.

Strap Lines

A friend is someone who listens attentively whilst you say little, or nothing.

The easiest way to become richer instantly is to desire less.

The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces.

We describe people as ‘bores’ when they spend so much time talking about themselves that we can’t talk about ourselves.

Time for A Smile

A new sister was welcomed to a silent monastery and told she must not speak until directed. After five years she was told she could say two words, so she said, “Hard bed.” A better bed was provided.

Five years later she was told she could say another two words, so she said, “Cold food.” Steps were taken to provide better food.

On her 15th anniversary at the monastery, she was told she could say another two words, so she said, “Must leave.” She was told it was probably the best thing as she’d done nothing but complain since she arrived.

A burglar broke into the house occupied by a young curate and his wife. Hearing a noise downstairs, the curate stood at the top of the stairs and shouted, “Hey what are you doing down there?”

The burglar replied very aggressively, “I’m looking for money!”

The curate said, “Wait until I get dressed and I’ll come and help you.”

The Extended Parish Puzzler

Remembrance Quiz

1. Who wrote the poem, "In Flanders Fields"?
 2. The British Legion became the RBL when it was granted a royal charter in 1925; who was on the British throne at this time?
 3. What does the word "Cenotaph" translate as?
 4. Which building was surrounded by a sea of ceramic poppies in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1?
 5. The RBL produced a limited edition poppy pin to mark the centenary of the battle of the Somme; 19,240 pins were produced – 1 for each soldier killed on the first day of battle – what was melted down to make these pins?
 6. What is the name of the memorial which commemorates the British Empire dead in Ypres, Belgium?
 7. What is the significance of remembrance on the 11th of November at 11am?
 8. Complete the following; "... Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, ..."
 9. Who was the British Prime Minister at the time of the 1918 Armistice?
 10. Where was the 1918 Armistice actually signed?
- Bonus Question!! During the 2nd world war, how much toilet paper was each British soldier allowed under rationing?

(Answers on page 35)

How Well Do You Know Our Village?

Last month's inscription can be found above the doorway to the right of Ainsworth Church & Community Hall; girls in 1 door, boys in the other!

Any idea where the following inscription can be found?
Answer in next month's mag.

**CORONATION TERRACE
1911**

Remembrance Word Search

Can you find 10 words that are linked to remembrance in this grid?

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

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

- Armistice
- Battle
- Cross
- Poppy
- RBL
- Remember
- Sacrifice
- Soldier
- Veteran
- War

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 Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Church Treasurer	Vacancy	
Secretary of the PCC	Vacancy	
Organist	Jenny Johnson	07734976978
Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary	Carole Butler	07982 316388
Safeguarding Officer	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

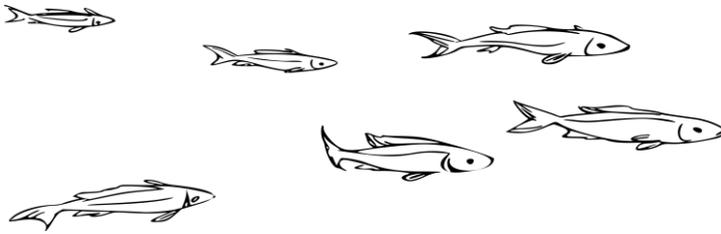
Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.30am	Family Service 2 nd Sunday Family & Parade Service
	12.00pm	Baptisms (Except 2 nd and last Sunday)
	6.30pm	Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
		2 nd Sunday Holy Communion (Book of Common Pray)
		Healing Service (see Parish Diary)
Weds	6.15pm	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 Remembrance Quiz: 1) John McCrae; 2) King George V; 3) Empty Tomb; 4) The Tower of London; 5) The brass from melted down shells found on the Somme battlefields; 6) The Menin Gate; 7) It was the date and time of the signing of the armistice agreement that ended World War I; 8) At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them; 9) David Lloyd George; 10) Le Francport, near Compiègne. Bonus Question – 3 sheets per day!!)

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 Jennifer White	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	Monday 7 – 8.30pm; last Wednesday of the month 7.30pm in the Church Hall Leader John Turner	01204 381590
Rainbows 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 4.30pm to 6.00pm in the Church Hall Rainbow Guider	
Brownies 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 th Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Captain Emma Lee	0161 764 2243



Little Fishes

Parables



Jesus The Teacher

A parable is a special type of story which Jesus would tell so that people could learn something from it; when Jesus told parables He was trying to get people to work things out for themselves so that they would properly understand. Sometimes when people asked Jesus a question that they hoped might catch Him out, He would answer by telling them a parable so that they and everyone else who was listening would learn, but they would also know that Jesus knew exactly what they were up to!

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 10 gives us a really good example of this; it starts off with a very clever man asking Jesus a question ...

The Parable Of The Good Samaritan

The man said to Jesus, "Teacher, what should I do so that I can go to Heaven and live forever?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Bible? What do you think?"

The man answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and love your neighbour as yourself."

"That's right!" Jesus said. "Do this and you will live forever in Heaven."

Maybe the man wanted to know a bit more, or maybe he was trying to catch Jesus out; he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

Jesus decided to answer this question with a parable to help everyone who was listening to understand.

Jesus said:

"Once upon a time there was a man walking along a road that led from Jerusalem to Jericho; this road was long and a bit lonely, and sometimes robbers would lie in wait to catch out the folk who travelled along the road. The man was walking along, minding his own business, when suddenly a group of men jumped out from behind a hill. They



took all his belongings and tore off most of his clothes. Then, to make sure that he didn't try to follow them, they beat him up very badly, and left him lying in the dirt at the side of the road.



A short while later, a priest was walking along the road and noticed the man lying at the side of the road. The priest quickly crossed to the other side of the road and hurried by, pretending not to

have seen the injured man.

A bit later still, another man came walking down the road. This man was a Levite - Levites were people who assisted priests with their work. He too quickly crossed to the other side of the road and hurried by without helping the injured man.

A short while later, another man came riding along the road on a horse; this man was a Samaritan. One thing you should know is that the Jewish people and the Samaritan people didn't like each other AT ALL. The man who lay dying at the side of the road was a Jew; the man walking along was a Samaritan. But this man didn't hurry by, pretending not to see the injured man; this man quickly went to the man, he did his best to clean his



wounds and tore strips of cloth up to use as bandages. When he had done the best that he could, he carefully lifted the injured man up on to the horse and led him along to the nearest Inn.



The Samaritan paid the Inn Keeper and asked him to care for the Jewish man until he was well; he left money to provide for anything that the man might need, and he promised that when he travelled back along the road, he would call in and pay anything else that was owed.

After Jesus had finished the story, he asked, "Which of these three men do you think was a neighbour to the man who was left beaten on the side of the road?"

The man who asked him the question at the beginning replied, "The one who had compassion and helped him."

Then Jesus told him, "You have answered your own question, now go and do the same."



So, What Does This Parable Teach Us?

In this parable a few strange things happened; the two people that we really thought would help someone who was desperately in need, were the priest and his assistant - these people were both supposed to be people who knew right from wrong - but neither of them tried to help, neither of them wanted to get involved, and so they both pretended not to notice. The person that you would have thought was least likely to help the Jewish man was the Samaritan man, but he not only did his best to get the injured man to safety, but also made sure that he was well cared for and had the best chance of getting better. The most important thing this parable teaches us, is that we should love God - a person who loves God is much less likely to do bad things, or to ignore the bad things that others may do, or the bad things that may happen around them.

The second thing that this parable tells us is that we should always try to help others who are unhappy or in a difficult situation - it shouldn't matter where they are from, what their religion or what colour their skin - God loves everyone equally so there should be no place for bullying or racism in our lives.

Being A Modern Day 'Good Samaritan'

Being a Good Samaritan in today's world isn't always easy, but it's something that we can all have a go at; you don't have to do something huge like the Samaritan man did, you could just start by noticing small things that you could do that would help someone else; maybe tidy your things up without being asked, help with a task at home or at school without being told to. The important thing is that you're not being helpful because you want people to notice or to give you something in return - you're just being kind.

Heavenly Father, please help me to try to do my best each day, help me to be thoughtful and kind, help me to look out for other people and to help them when I can. Help me to remember the story of the Good Samaritan and to do my best to be a Modern Day Good Samaritan. Amen

Kindness Quiz

The following words all contain the letters K I N D - can you work them out?

- 1) Another word for the human race? - - - - - K I N D
- 2) Someone who is mean or does mean things? - - K I N D
- 3) Make a small flame or start wood burning? K I N D - -
- 4) Another name for preschool? K I N D - - - - -

Kind Or Unkind?

Read the list below and write KIND or UNKIND next to each one.

- 1) Making sure that everyone is included when you play games
- 2) Lending someone a pen when they have forgotten theirs
- 3) Laughing at people and calling them names
- 4) Pretending not to notice when someone gets picked on
- 5) Making friends with a child who is new in your class
- 6) Helping to tidy up without being asked
- 7) Leaving someone out because they look or sound different
- 8) Picking on people who aren't very popular
- 9) Trying to help someone who is hurt or upset
- 10) Telling a grown up when someone else is being picked on

Here are the answers; how did you do?

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1) Kind | 2) Kind | 3) Unkind | 4) Unkind |
| 5) Kind | 6) Kind | 7) Unkind | 8) Unkind |
| 9) Kind | 10) Kind | | |

Here's the answers to the kindness Quiz:

- 1 - Humankind; 2 - Unkind; 3 - Kindle; 4 - Kindergarten

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