**Update 28/06/20 – THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Join us at 11am on Sunday on our Facebook Page for morning worship (****https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth/****). Also join us at 6.15pm on Wednesday for Mid-Week Praise.**

***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 at the bottom)***

**Bible Reading** for 11am Sunday 28th June: Jeremiah 28:5-9

**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/UC1kRCPBIymPoDSyhH9CZYrw**

**The Prayer Book Society lists some churches livestreaming BCP services: (note the new address)** **https://www.pbs.org.uk/churches-and-services/-1**

**Locally, St Andrew’s livestream regularly:** **https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsChurchRadcliffe/**

**Prayers:** The Church of England has issued a prayer booklet for use during the outbreak. A pdf version is available online https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer

***New or Amended Notices:***

**Returning to our church building for worship (Message from Revd Dave)**

You will know by now that the Government is allowing places of worship to reopen from next weekend.

This is excellent news, but we must await detailed guidance (expected next week) before I can finalise planning and prepare church for reopening. This means, if we do manage to open on 5th July, I expect to be rushing around at end of next week getting everything ready. So, remember, patience is a virtue! Things will by no means be perfect, not least because there remain several areas of uncertainty.

For example, what does 1m plus mean in a church context. What additional precautions will be necessary if we are to reduce distancing from 2m to 1m? This is a huge unknown and, if we cannot comply with the conditions set by the Government or the CofE, distancing will remain at 2m. Whether it is 2m or 1m plus, expect seating to be restricted until the lockdown is relaxed further.

There is further uncertainty around Holy Communion. We do not know whether we will be allowed to take Communion yet, but, if we are, we can expect to follow strict instructions. For example, care will be needed around queuing, we will probably stand to receive, and receive the bread only. Unfortunately, the compact layout of our church building combined with the social distancing restrictions, will impose serious practical restrictions upon us. Therefore, if we do manage to open for worship on 5th July, to give the clergy team time to plan properly, we will begin with a Service of the Word on that day.

One thing we know for certain is that we are required to either clean between services, or refrain from using the building for a minimum of 72 hours afterwards. This is to allow any patches of COVID-19 left on surfaces to degrade. Consequently, until we have enough volunteers to clean between services, we can only host one service on Sundays (the mid-morning service).

We also know that, initially, no singing will be allowed in church (to avoid droplet spread), those who are shielding or otherwise at risk are strongly advised not to attend, and anyone with COVID-19 symptoms must stay away.

As for Mid-Week Praise, restricted social distancing, difficulties around the distribution of Communion and the ban on singing mean that this lively service would be no more than a faint shadow of its pre-lockdown self. Therefore, reluctantly, the Clergy Team have decided to delay restarting M-WP until the lockdown restrictions have been relaxed further. Debra will, of course, continue posting M-WP on our Facebook page.

I appreciate all of this will be a disappointment for some, especially those who were hoping to return to things just as they were before lockdown, but we must face reality.

In the meantime, I plan to continue livestreaming for all those who are unable to return to physical worship for now, or for whom mid-morning on Sundays is not ideal. Of necessity, this will need to be at a different time.

I will make a special announcement next week as soon as I have clarity about our reopening arrangements.

God Bless, Dave

**Radcliffe Online CAP Job Club** begins on July 9th and runs for seven weeks. Sessions last and hour and are at 1.15pm, repeated at 7.15pm.

Using Zoom, participants will watch a great video course, “Steps to Employment,giving opportunity for people to discuss the ideas and ask questions. Trying to bring a sense of community and encouragement. The course covers the subjects of:

* Finding your motivation.
* Overcoming obstacles
* Discovering your strengths.
* Writing CVs and applications.
* Succeeding in interviews.
* Getting ready for work.

Christians Against Poverty have a good track record. Interested? contact Julie on 07592 482 442 or juliemacauley@capjobclubs.org

***Previous Notices:***

**Face Masks:**During lockdown Barbara Clarkson has been making face masks.   They are of double thickness cotton, with a third pocket which contains a disposable filter, and a stiffener at the bridge of the nose to make a close fit. Barbara makes them from material left over from dressmaking, so there are several different colours and patterns.  If you would like one, she is happy to pop it through your letterbox. They are free, but donations to Church are welcome. Please contact Barbara on theclarksonhouse@talktalk.net or 07530 413149.

**Giving (amended notice):** Although Christ Church is closed for public worship, there are still significant bills to pay. Not least of these is the Parish Share. This is the common fund to which all parishes contribute, and from which most clergy receive their stipends, including our vicar. Because giving to this and other churches has declined significantly since the lockdown began, payments into the common fund have almost dried up. Yet, despite this situation, all clergy continue to minister, and all are committed to doing so. None have been furloughed.

Ministry is not cost-free. Therefore, if you normally make your offering via the envelope scheme or by placing cash on the collection plate, please consider setting up a standing order or making a bank transfer (contact Geoff Whittle on 01204 385452 or geoffreywhittle@btinternet.com). Otherwise, if you can do so safely, please drop your offering through the Vicarage letter box. (NB setting up a standing order or making a bank transfer **does not** involve giving us your bank details.) And, if you can afford to make a special donation, please consider doing so!

*‘The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.’ (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)*

**Church Magazine** – There isn’t a paper copy as Church of England COVID-19 guidelines prohibit hand delivery. However, a pdf version of our July issue is on our website and on our Facebook page. Please tell anyone you think may be interested so they can access it. Unless the guidelines change, we plan to issue the August magazine in the same way.

**Phoneline:** The Church of England has launched a free phoneline for the 'digitally disconnected'. If people call 0800 8048044 they will be able to hear music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services. Please share this number with anyone you know who is 'digitally disconnected'.

**Porch Boxes (updated notice):** Whilst 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/**

**Community Hubs (updated notice):**  hubs have been established by Bury and Bolton Council to support vulnerable residents for the duration of the pandemic. Anyone wishing to volunteer should phone (Bury) 0161 253 5353 or (for Bolton) register online

 https://www.boltoncvs.org.uk/urgent-volunteer-webform-2 .

**Scout Summer Coach Trip to Buxton & Bakewell (Saturday 18th July) has been cancelled**

**Please hold in your prayers:**

**The sick**: all who are ill, especially for: Mike Hayden, Deborah Sandercock-Pickles, Margaret Turner, Jacqueline Livsey, Stella Burkey, Louise Singleton and Ron Garside.

**The bereaved:** All who have lost loved ones, especially the family and friends of Carol Ainsworth. May they find healing, peace, strength and courage to face the future.

***“The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)***

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**