**Update 13/09/20 – THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

**Join us at 12 noon on Sunday on our Facebook Page for midday worship (****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)***

**Join us in church at 10.30.am on Sunday for Holy Communion**

**or 6.30pm on Wednesday in church for Mid-Week Praise.**

**However, please be aware that:**

* **Seating is limited to 30,**
* **There is no singing,**
* **On Sunday the communion is bread only**
* **There is no communion on Wednesday.**

**Further details of the restrictions are given below.**

To ensure we are COVID-19 Secure, rather than hand out service books, we use PowerPoint. If you prefer, you are welcome to print and bring along your own order of service, taking it with you at the end. For the 10:30 Sunday service, follow the link and download: https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aurx6pWvMgOaiNZNBNpZlmHCaA33oQ?e=ogCVL6

**Bible Reading** for Sunday 13th September: Matthew 18.21-35

**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**

**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 limited to 30.
* 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.
* **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 not available to collect on the way in.
* Worshippers are expected to complete a registration form each week. This is for Track and Trace and 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.

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 wish to accept the increased risk attached to attending worship with others, or prefer to continue joining with us on Facebook, is entirely your decision.

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.

***New or Amended Notices:***

Our**Church Annual Meeting** is on Sunday 27th at 12.45 pm on Zoom (immediately following livestreamed Sunday Worship). Delayed from March, the meeting provides an opportunity to discuss church life ,but includes some formal business - receiving the annual report and financial statements and electing churchwardens, deanery synod representatives and PCC members.

Zoom link, nomination forms and a copy of the annual report are available from Revd Dave ( vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk ).

**Our Confirmation Service** has been rearranged for 7pm on Sunday 29th November. Assuming the COVID-19 restrictions remain in force, seating will be restricted. We have 5 candidates signed up already, all of whom will be in Year 7 from September. There is space for other candidates, whether Year 7s (or above) or adults. Adults interested in being Confirmed should email Revd Dave, as should the parents of any youngsters who are interested.

Confirmation preparation will be via Zoom. The adult course, ‘Christianity Explored’ utilises videos and provides an opportunity for participants, should they wish, to ask questions. Based upon Mark’s Gospel, it is also suitable for anyone interested in exploring the Christian faith further, including those who have been Confirmed already. Email Revd Dave if interested. The preparation sessions for Year 7s and above will follow a different course; ‘Youth Emmaus’. The timing of these will be announced in due course.

***Previous Notices:***

**Bernard Sharples:** Marjorie would like to thank the members of Ainsworth Parish Church who came down to Euxton Close on the day of Bernard's funeral and for the generous donations to the Church in memory of Bernard. The amount given to the Treasurer from Silletts was £970 from family, friends, and Bury Chess Club. Bernard would have been delighted. Thank you all.   Marjorie

**Church Magazine** – There isn’t a paper copy as Church of England COVID-19 guidelines prohibit hand delivery. However, a pdf version of our September 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 October magazine in the same way.

If you have a magazine subscription, please note that we hit the pause button with the April edition and, to ensure you get a full 12 editions, will only restart the count once we are able to distribute printed copies again.

**Giving:** Although public worship at Christ Church is restricted, 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)*

**Porch Boxes:** 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/**

**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 theclarksonhouse29@gmail.com or 07530 413149.

**Please hold in your prayers:**

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

**The bereaved:** All who have lost loved ones, especially the family and friends of Tom Crankshaw. 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.**