**Update 11/10/20 – THE EIGHTEENTH 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 (this is also posted later on our Facebook Page).**

**However, please be aware that:**

* **Seating is normally limited to 30 (but see below),**
* **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 11th October: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

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: 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 (15) 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.
* 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.
* 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 they 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 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.

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:***

**Churchwardens:** Normally, following our annual meeting, in church I announce the results of the elections. This year and for the first time in our history, with no candidates standing, we are in the unfortunate position of being without churchwardens. I could talk about the legalities but these have little bearing on the role from day to day; and I could talk about the routine tasks undertaken by previous wardens but, for example, I can easily obtain an app that generates rotas. For me, speaking as someone who was a churchwarden elsewhere for several years, the most important aspect of the role is working closely with the vicar in leading the parish.

Such leadership is more important now than ever before. We are at the beginning of a period of significant change within our Diocese and, without churchwardens, this parish could be at a disadvantage when it comes to influencing this change and shaping the future. Furthermore, we are a thriving, growing church, yet the absence of wardens sends the wrong signal entirely to those responsible for driving the change agenda within Manchester Diocese.

It is not too late to stand for election. You never know, you might be an answer to prayer. If you feel led to this important ministry, contact me to discuss further. Revd Dave.

**Harvest Sunday (today):** Government restrictions mean that our usual Harvest Parade service will not be possible this year. Instead, our 'in person' and livestreamed worship on that day will be Harvest themed, with Mid-Week Praise (6.30pm on Wednesday 14th October) being our main child-centred Harvest service. Obviously, all this is subject to whatever Government restrictions are in force at that time.

Once again, we shall be supporting Porch Boxes this year and Harvest gifts can be brought to church on the Sunday during the 10.30am service, or the Wednesday during Mid-Week Praise. If you prefer, you do not need to join us for worship, but simply leave your gifts in the porch. Alternatively, church will be open for an hour from 2pm on the Sunday. Also, Chris Maudsley (0161 764 2189), our Porch Boxes link, has kindly offered to receive your gifts at her home by appointment. Should you wish to support Porch Boxes financially, details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Season of Remembrance:** In previous years, our practice has been to remember departed loved ones before God at a special service on Remembrance Sunday evening. This year, the COVID restrictions mean we must do something different. Planning is underway for a season of remembrance from All Saints to Remembrance (1 - 11 November). Initial plans include the following:

* During this period, everyone is welcome to bring a stone in memory of a loved one and place it on a ‘Cairn of Remembrance’, which will be near the churchyard flagpole.
* People are also welcome during that period to place a ‘poppy cross’ in front of the flagpole.
* On 1st November (the nearest Sunday to All Souls) in the evening there will be a special livestreamed service of remembering for those who wish to remember departed loved ones in this way.
* On All Souls (2nd November), during a time of private prayer, the Vicar will read the names of departed loved ones aloud in church, before placing them before the Lord’s Table. It will not be possible for others to join him. If you would like your loved one’s name read out, please send an email to vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk .
* On Remembrance Sunday we gather at 10.45am in the churchyard near the flagpole for an act of remembrance. As this is classed as an act of communal worship on church premises, the rule of six does not apply BUT social distancing must be maintained, and space is limited. Also, please be careful as the flat gravestones in that area can be slippery in wet weather.

**Stepping Stones for Growth:** Our diocese is organising a series of Zoom conferences on church growth. These are sponsored by Bishop David and Mike Starkey (Head of Church Growth), and our parish has been invited to send 6 delegates to the session scheduled for the morning of Saturday 7th November. Church growth is important, so important that Bishop David is leading the Church Growth agenda in our Diocese. However, this is not a subject of concern to bishops and clergy only; Jesus calls all Christians, both lay and ordained, to spread his Good News.

Revd Dave is attending. Drop him an email by 18th October if you wish to attend too.

***Previous Notices:***

**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/**

**Please hold in your prayers:**

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

**The bereaved:** All who have lost loved ones, especially the family and friends of Bessie Neal and Jacqueline Livsey. 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.**