**Update 25/04/21 – THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Our Church Building is COVID-secure, so you can either attend worship physically or worship with us on Facebook**

**(*Worship in Church is allowed during Lockdown*)**

**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 on Facebook later)**

**To join us on Facebook, follow this link:**

https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth

**Bible Reading** for Sunday 25th : John 10.11-18

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 (updated 10/1/21):**

* **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.
* Worshippers are expected to remain 2m socially distant from each other, unless from the same household / bubble. This means sitting down promptly (where the paper is on the pew) and no gathering in the aisle or immediately outside the main door for a chat.

**(NB School bubbles do not apply in church.)**

* **When worshippers enter, they must sit in the next available pew, filling from the front and from the wall, taking care not to touch any part of the pew as you move along. There must be no heading for that favourite pew!**
* **Everyone (except the presiding priest) will remain seated throughout each service. Unfortunately, this means any children attending must also remain seated throughout the service.**
* There is no singing.
* A PowerPoint version of the order of service is projected in church.
* A 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.

Some will feel that it is currently better not to attend in person. Indeed, the Church of England advises that certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Whether you attend worship in church with others, or prefer to join with us on Facebook, is entirely your decision. Our responsibility is to ensure you have the choice.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not join us in church 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:***

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

**Annual Meeting (7.30pm 4th May on Zoom):** Technically this is two meetings: the annual Vestry meeting to elect two Churchwardens; and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect PCC members, receive reports, think about the future, and your opportunity to raise anything you like about church life. If there is an easy way and a complicated way of doing things, why does the Church of England always seem to choose the latter?

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

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

https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aurx6pWvMgOaiZEcjjgQZk-eJ\_5hCw?e=Uzi5hp

And here is the Zoom link:

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

Meeting ID: 856 4355 3818 Passcode: 209776

It is not too late for groups and organisations to send a short report of their activities / experiences during 2020 to vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk for inclusion in a separate report. This will be made available at the Annual Meeting.

In preparation for the annual meeting, our church Electoral Roll is now closed to additions until 5th May. All adults who worship with us regularly are encouraged to join our Electoral Roll. To join, you must be baptised and aged 16 or over then either a) live within our parish or, b) if non-resident, have habitually worshipped with us during the last 6 months.

***Previous Notices:***

**Parish Treasurer:** Geoff has now moved to pastures new, so we need a volunteer to be our new parish Treasurer. You do not need to be an accountant; an aptitude for finance or bookkeeping is all you need. Geoff has left detailed instructions and left things in good order, so whoever takes over need have no fears about inheriting a mess. Far from it! If you think you can help, contact Revd Dave for a chat.

**Giving:** Although public worship at Christ Church is restricted, there are still significant bills to pay. The good news is, regular giving at Christ Church via standing orders and planned giving envelopes has, to a large extent, been sustained. **A big thank you to everyone for this fantastic effort.**

Unfortunately, other sources of income have reduced significantly or dried up completely (e.g., there will be no Spring Fayre again this year). 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 Revd Dave). 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)*

**Scouts:** https://www.facebook.com/cooperscraftz are selling key rings and compass pieces to support the Scouts trip to Austria in 2022.

**Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs)** We are looking for volunteers to become ALMs. ALMs are lay people active in church life, who have been identified by their parish as having a particular gifting, vocation or calling to lay leadership. They work collaboratively alongside the Vicar and the wider ministry team, with a distinct focus on growing, nurturing, and serving the wider parish community. Areas of ministry include: Children & Families; Community Outreach & Social Action; Digital Church & Online Media; Ecology & Creation; Mission & Evangelism; Parish Admin, Finance & Governance; Pastoral Outreach & Listening; Prayer & Spirituality; Worship & Liturgy; Youth Work. Further details can be found by clicking on this link: Diocese of Manchester | Authorised Lay Ministry (anglican.org) Interested? Simply contact the Vicar to start the ball rolling, with a view to applying for the 2022 course.

**Porch Boxes:** During lockdown it is not possible to receive donations for Porch Boxes in Church. However, if you shop at any of the following, they have somewhere to receive donations: ASDA (Radcliffe; Pilsworth & Bury); MORRISONS (Whitefield & Ramsbottom); TESCO (Bury & Ramsbottom) **OR we can still support Porch Boxes through a donation: A cheque made payable to “The Porch” sent to Michael Perrin, 14 Kenmore Avenue Bury BL8 2DY or Bank transfer to Account number 81643089  sort code 09-0155  account name The Porch or Online** **https://porchboxes.wordpress.com/**

**Please hold in your prayers:**

**Wedding prayers:** Jennifer and Jonathan, as they prepare for their wedding on 1st May at All Saints, Elton.

*Lord,*

*the source of all true love,*

*we pray for Jennifer and Jonathan.*

*Grant to them*

*joy of heart,*

*seriousness of mind*

*and reverence of spirit,*

*that as they enter into the oneness of marriage*

*they may be strengthened and guided by you,*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

**The sick**: all who are ill, especially for: Barbara Aspin, Alan Clifford, Betty Lawrence, Nora Tudge, Deborah Sandercock-Pickles, Margaret Turner, Stella Burkey and Louise Singleton.

**The Queen and Royal family,** and all who mourn the death of HRH Prince Philip.

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

**Risen Christ,**

**faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep:**

**teach us to hear your voice**

**and to follow your command,**

**that all your people may be gathered into one flock,**

**to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

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