**Update 16/05/21 – THE SEVENTH 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 16th: John 17.6-19

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 2/5/21):**

* **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 relatively 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 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.

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.

***New or Amended Notices:***

**Confirmations 2021:** Our next Confirmation Service has been arranged for Sunday 18th July in the evening. We cannot be certain whether social distancing in church will still be in force by then, neither can we rule out the possibility of restrictions arising from the COVID surge in some areas of Bolton. Therefore, at the moment, we are assuming seating in church will be restricted. When we announced the news at Mid-Week Praise, several candidates from year 6 and above signed up immediately but there is still space for other candidates.

Confirmation is precisely that - it is moment when, in front of witnesses and before our Bishop, we declare the faith we have already. It is about outwardly committing to the faith that is already on our hearts. Anyone ready to take this important step in their journey of faith is welcome to be Confirmed. If interested, parents of children in year 6 and above should email Revd Dave, as should any adults wishing to be confirmed.

And preparation is precisely that. The aim is to help those who feel spiritually ready for Confirmation to prepare to take that step.  Again, owing to the pandemic, we cannot be certain whether the usual youngsters Confirmation Preparation Day will take place in church. If not 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. This will run on Zoom and is open to anyone already Confirmed wishing to refresh the understanding of the Christian faith

**Thy Kingdom Come**is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. The invitation is to join in prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost (13-23 May). Various resources are available

on www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources . There are resources for all ages, including an app to download and some 'Cheeky Pandas' videos for children.

We are encouraged to pray for five people we know to come to faith in Jesus, and to hold them in our daily prayers until they do.

One creative idea you could try is prayer walking. As you exercise with family or friends (complying with the COVID restrictions) pray for the people who live and work in the area you are walking through.

***Previous Notices:***

**Annual Meeting:** At our annual meeting on Tuesday (4 May), Alison Hartley was re-elected as Churchwarden, Lillian Haworth was re-elected to the PCC, and Mags Gillman was elected to serve on the PCC for the first time.

Various reports about Church life were received, with Revd Dave providing a summary of the many ways we coped with the pandemic during 2020, together with an assessment of imminent deanery changes and the emerging shape of Mission Communities.

The PCC’s Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2020, plus other documents for the meeting are still available to view via this link:

https://1drv.ms/u/s!Aurx6pWvMgOaiZRtGbk5arJqP2Bgdg?e=3kaeyz

**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.

**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)*

**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.

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

**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:**

**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 bereaved:** All who have lost loved ones. May they find healing, peace, strength, and courage to face the future.

Risen, ascended Lord,

as we rejoice at your triumph,

fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,

that all who are estranged by sin

may find forgiveness and know your peace,

to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

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