**Newsletter 29/08/21 – THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

**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**

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

[https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAinsworth](about:blank)

**Bible Readings** for Sunday 29th August: James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8,14,15,21-23

If you missed any of our livestreamed services, some of them can be found on our website [https://ainsworthparish.org.uk/online-worship.html](about:blank) or our YouTube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1kRCPBIymPoDSyhH9CZYrw](about:blank) The Prayer Book Society lists some churches livestreaming BCP services: [https://www.pbs.org.uk/churches-and-services/-1](about:blank)

**Planning to attend our church building for worship? The following COVID-19 Secure restrictions apply (updated 15/8/21):**

For your comfort we are operating three zones, offering different levels of security. The Zone you choose to sit in depends upon YOUR assessment of personal risk. For example, if you have few concerns and are not bothered about being pinged by the NHS Test & Trace app, then sit in Zone 1. If you are clinically vulnerable, you might prefer Zone 3.

**Zone 1 (right hand side of the aisle and first 4 rows at the front on the left):**

* You are advised to wear a facemask, but it is your decision.
* There is no requirement to remain socially distant.

**Zone 2 (remaining pews on left hand side of the aisle – 1m+ social distance):**

* Please wear a facemask
* Please sit in the designated pews, sitting in the space indicated by arrows.

**Zone 3 (upstairs left & centre pews and the back Choir pews - 2m+ social distance)**

* Please wear a facemask
* Please sit in the designated pews, sitting in the space indicated by arrows.

**Singing:** We now sing in church (Hymns and The Gloria). There is no need to join in and, if you wish, you may wear a mask when singing

**Communion:**

* Clergy will continue to preside in a COVID Secure manner.
* For now, we will not be sharing the Common Cup. Instead, after gelling their hands, clergy will carefully dip your wafer in the wine before safely dropping it in your hands (this is known as Simultaneous Communion).
* Zone 1 – we will distribute to you from the Communion Rail. Please mask and line up as directed.
* Zones 2 & 3 – please remain seated, clergy will come to you.

**General:**

* We will leave the doors open to enhance air circulation.
* Please gel your hands as you enter and leave the building.
* There is a collection plate on the font, but this will not be passed around.
* Although we shall now stand at various points in the service (e.g., for the Gospel), you are at liberty to remain seated throughout if you wish.
* To avoid handling service books, a PowerPoint version of the order of service is projected in church. However, if you struggle with this, there are a few printed orders of service available on request (please take them home with you afterwards).
* If you are in Zone 1, please allow those in Zones 2 and 3 to exit first as they wish to maintain social distance.

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. Likewise, please stay at home if you have been pinged by Test & Trace.

***New or Amended Notices:***

**Mission Communities:** Last year the Diocese published proposals to group parishes together into 'Mission Communities'. The views of parishes and others were sought, and our PCC responded although, together with other parishes, we never received answers to our questions!

Bishop David believes this is the right way forward for the Diocese so the proposals will now be implemented. Consultations regarding local groupings will take place over the next few months, with an expectation that these will be agreed in November. Mission Communities will then begin to come together gradually over the next five years. Further information about the proposals (including a video) can be found here: [Diocese of Manchester | What will mission communities look like? (anglican.org)](about:blank) Here is a link to the PCCs response to the initial discussion paper:

[https://1drv.ms/b/s!Aurx6pWvMgOaiYg8lsCIOjmBIbrsdA?e=IbvaFt](about:blank)

This will affect the way we operate as a parish. Certainly, working together in mission is common sense and a welcome development. Indeed, we had begun already to collaborate with St Andrew's Radcliffe and Christ Church Walshaw prior to the pandemic and, whatever else happens, we will continue to do so. However, in the light of recent press comments about the direction of travel within the Church of England generally, concerns are being expressed about the possible negative implications for parish independence. Judge for yourself.

Understandably, throughout the Diocese there is also a degree of apprehension within some parishes about retaining and maintaining their own distinctive traditions and worship style. Local clergy share these concerns and fully support the desirability preserving local style and traditions.

Revd Dave would love to hear your views on this.Two consultation events have been arranged (probably on Zoom) and it appears these will be open to congregation members, although that is unclear. So, for your diary, these will be on Thursday September 16th, 7.30-9pm and Saturday September 18th, 10.30-12noon. Further details will be published when available.

**Christianity Explored** is a wonderful opportunity to think about the big questions of life, discover who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to follow him. The seven-session course is suitable for everyone, whether exploring Christianity or seeking a refresher on the Christian message. The structure of each session is simple: a short Bible study, a video, and a discussion. We begin on 7th September (7.30pm on Zoom), so sign up and invite a friend. Expressions of interest to Revd Dave.

**Bible Reading Rota:** we have begun reading the Epistle at the 10.30am service on Sundays and, hopefully, will begin reading the set Old Testament passage soon. It would be wonderful if we could re-establish a Bible reading rota for the service as part of a wider return to normaility. We are also seeking volunteers to read during ‘Worship at Home’ (the 12-noon livestreamed service). Please let Revd Dave know if you would like to join the rota. Those on the midday rota will need to video themselves reading beforehand, email the recording to Revd Dave in good time for inclusion in the livestream. We are compiling the rota from scratch, making no assumptions about whether those on the pre-pandemic list wish to continue. So, if interested, whether you have read in church before or not, please email Revd Dave stating the service(s) during which you wish to read.

***Previous Notices:***

**Ainsworth Community Coffee and Conversation** is our monthly drop in for retirees. It meets on the 2nd Tuesday monthly from 10.30am until 12 noon in the Church and Community Hall, restarts from **14th September 2021**

**MacMillan Coffee Morning – *a date for your diary*.** We are hoping to hold our usual Coffee Morning on Friday 24th September from 10:30am to 12 noon in the Church Hall and Scouts are hosting theirs the same day from 7:30pm to 9:30pm so please come along to support these.

**Building Officer:** we really do need a Building Officer to take responsibility for 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., minor repairs, 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’. If you feel you can help, contact Revd Dave for a chat.

**Collection:** if you normally make your weekly offering via the envelope scheme or by placing cash on the collection plate but feel unable to return to worship in church for now, please consider setting up a standing order or making a bank transfer (contact Revd Dave). Otherwise, if you can do so, please arrange for someone to pop 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.)

**Easyfundraising** - Did you know that you can raise BIG donations for Ainsworth Parish Church - Bolton when you organise your household bills? Whether you’re looking to switch your mobile phone, broadband or car insurance, you can save and raise a donation at the same time. Raise donations up to £40 with Vodafone, £15 with Uswitch and many more when you shop via #easyfundraising. Simply follow the link to check out the latest deals:

[http://efraising.org/kRE2ieDEZX](about:blank)

**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/**](about:blank)

**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.

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