

## A few words from the Vicar ....

*All you inhabitants of the world, you who live on the earth, when a signal is raised on the mountains, look! When a trumpet is blown, listen! Isaiah 18:3*

At the time of writing there is still no real news to relate to you regarding the possibility of our forming a team with St Andrew's, St Thomas & St John's and St Mary's. Feedback is still awaited from the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee. Please continue to pray that the eventual outcome from our discussions best serves the building of God's kingdom in all four parishes.



*The Smoke Signal,*  
Frederick Remington, 1905

What else is happening?

Well, in addition to Twitter and a parish website, we now have a Facebook page called, with all the originality I could summon, 'Christ Church Ainsworth'. I appreciate that some of our readers won't have a clue what I'm on about (nothing unusual in that you might say!) but rather than my attempting to explain what Twitter and Facebook are, if you're not sure, can I recommend you ask a grandchild or another young person!

Not that I'm suggesting maturity (notice I'm careful not to say 'age') and the internet / social media don't mix. I'm no spring chicken myself but it is obvious that we have some active silver surfers within the congregation who are very active on Twitter and Facebook.

Our website ([www.ainsworthparish.org.uk](http://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk)) has been operational since 2011 and contains some basic information about our church – weddings, services, forthcoming events, my magazine articles, pewsheets and that sort of thing. Most of the information posted to our website doesn't change very often but it's worth checking periodically for anything new.

The Twitter account (Dave Thomson @vicar\_dave) is my personal account and is used by me to post very short messages and thoughts (140 characters or less) for anyone to read. The things I Tweet about are mostly to do with the church and church life in general, so you are more than welcome to follow me on Twitter as, indeed, some of you already do!

Finally, as some of you have already discovered, our Facebook page is an online bulletin board upon which we post prayer requests; information about forthcoming services and events; up to the minute news and anything else that might be of interest – some of it very serious, like news of the terrible situation faced by Christians and other minorities in Iraq and Syria. As I receive updates, these are posted to our Facebook page in a moment.

Some of the stuff though on our Facebook page is light hearted, like a recent online discussion about possibility of introducing Liturgical Dance during worship at Christ Church. Don't panic! My views on the subject of Liturgical Dance are filed under the heading, 'over my dead body!' This would be a step too far even for me! And, in fairness, it was never a serious suggestion from anyone but if any of you would like to indulge in it, then please ensure I'm away on holiday before you do so! [For those who don't know, Liturgical Dance originated in the USA during the Flower Power era of the 1960s and is a sort of elegant

dancing to emphasise something or other during worship; sometimes choreographed, sometimes spontaneous. Participants normally dress in tight fitting Lycra – perish the thought!]

Anyway, I decided to set up our Facebook Page after attending a workshop about using social media at the recent Diocesan Clergy Conference. As I thought about the possibilities, it struck me that we all take in information differently; some read the pewsheet in detail, others just skim it; some need to be told (which is why I draw attention to key items already on the pewsheet during the notices); some read the magazine cover to cover, others prefer their information in bite sized chunks via Twitter and Facebook.

So, at the end of the day it's all about communicating effectively using all the means, new and old, at our disposal, whether it's the weekly pewsheet, posters, announcements in Church, the parish magazine, our website, Twitter or Facebook.

Anyway, if you're on Facebook, search for Christ Church Ainsworth and like. If you're not on Facebook you can access our Page via the parish website or by typing [www.facebook.com/christchurchainsworth](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchainsworth) into your web browser.

Every Blessing

*Dave*