

# Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



A Host Of Dancing Daffodils!

(Photo courtesy of Jane Holden)

**Serving the Community**

[www.ainsworthparish.org.uk](http://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk)

April 2024

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# Parish Diary April 2024



Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Funeral of Dorothy Gore
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>		<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee & Conversation ( <i>Ainsworth Church &amp; Community Hall</i> )
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>		<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>		<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	10.30am	Holy Communion followed by APCM
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>		<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion ( <i>followed by refreshments &amp; Lucky Lotto draw</i> )
MAY		
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>		<b>THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer



## Interregnum Update

*“There’s only one way to eat an elephant; one bite at a time.”*

These words are attributed to Desmond Tutu, and remind us that the best way to tackle the things that threaten to overwhelm us, is to make a start and then keep going at a steady pace.

It seems that this is also the approach of choice for dealing with a time of mass interregnums; those who receive the Manchester Diocese ‘e-news’ will have noticed that the first of the clergy vacancies within our Mission Community has now been advertised – a full time post to work between the Churches of Christ Church Walshaw and St. Andrew’s, Radcliffe; having taken that first step, let’s hope and pray that it will not be too much longer before the Diocese are in a position to advertise other vacancies.

A number of people have asked why it is taking so long to get clergy in post; the reality is that there are a number of factors at play. We have known for many years that the number of Clergy allocated to our Deanery would be gradually reducing, but the fact that a number of vacancies have arisen within our Mission Community in quick succession has created an opportunity for the allocation of Clergy posts to be reviewed by the Diocese. This is new ground for our Churches and it’s important that the decisions that are made are the right ones for the Churches involved, and also for the Clergy who will be coming into post.

Yes, it’s frustrating when it seems that ‘nothing is happening’, however the timescale on the recruitment process is not something that we have any control over at Parish level; as posts are likely to be shared between different Churches, inevitably the process becomes more complex.

What we can do at Parish level (and have done from the start of our interregnum), is work together as a team, keep positive, and respond promptly and proactively each time we are asked to provide information to feed into the discernment process.

In the meantime, we will continue to work our way through the many things that have to be done and dealt with ‘one bite at a time’, to ensure the continued smooth running of our Church.

*Alison Hartley – Churchwarden (on behalf of the PCC)*

## Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the April 2024 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine. After the flurry of Lent and Easter initiatives and Services, April looks set to be a little quieter, but there are still plenty of things going on and lots to look forward to.

'Save The Dates' include a Quiz Night on 20<sup>th</sup> April; the Church Spring Fair on 18<sup>th</sup> May; our annual Whit Gathering on 9<sup>th</sup> June and the inaugural Christ Church Ainsworth Summer Prom Concert on 6<sup>th</sup> July – busy times ahead!

Judging by the various reports, our Uniformed Organisations and groups have been as busy as ever, although most sections are currently enjoying a well earned break over Easter.

As always, many thanks to those who take the time to send in their reports and articles each month – enjoy the read and feel free to share our Magazine with others if you wish to. *Alison*

## From The Registers

Funerals

7<sup>th</sup> February

9<sup>th</sup> February

23<sup>rd</sup> February

We commend to God's keeping:

William White

Tony Allen Ainsworth

Bryan Shaw

## Flower Rota

14<sup>th</sup> April – Miss A Hartley

28<sup>th</sup> April – Scout Group

There are currently a few dates available on the church flower rota; if you would like to join the rota to mark a special date or simply to make sure our Church continues to look bright and welcoming, please contact Gwen White on 01204-595378 for further details.

## Private Prayer

Did you know that our Church is open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons between 2.30 and 4pm? Please feel free to call in for a few moments of calm and tranquillity.

## Just A Thought ...

"If God asked you to do it, God will get you through it."

## The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto!

The February Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March, with the lucky winner walking away with £23-00!

This fabulous fundraiser runs each month; tickets cost £1 each and are available at the back of Church; you can enter as many times as you like!

The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto is drawn in Church on the last Sunday of each month, when the winner receives 50% of that month's ticket sales!!

To enter simply fill in a '50/50 Lucky Lotto' ticket, then place it in the box at the back of Church; all proceeds to Church funds.

We're aware that not everyone carries cash with them, so to make it even easier, you can now enter the Lucky Lotto via direct payment, either monthly or annually. For more details, please email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)

*And Remember ... You have to be in it to win it!!*

## EcoChurch – Green Lent



As Christians, we all have a responsibility to take caring for God's world seriously. The EcoChurch pathway isn't just about how we can improve the 'green credentials' of our Church, it's also about encouraging people to consider their own impact on the earth.

Throughout the 6 weeks of Lent, we suggested one small thing each week for you to try doing (or not doing) in a bid to improve your 'green credentials'.

The children from MidWeek Praise embraced this, coming up with novel ways to save water and 'reduce, reuse and recycle'; they also grew their own cress and peas; tried to reduce the amount of plastic used each week; took part in 'Earth Hour' and were encouraged to litter pick.



## **Eastertide**

Easter is arguably the most important time in the Christian year; our preparations begin on Palm Sunday, as we recall Jesus, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey; the crowds welcomed Him, shouting 'Hosannah! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!', but already there were those who were looking for a reason to condemn Jesus and were plotting His downfall.

For Christians, Easter is not just one day - it's a season of 50 days, derived in its length from the fifty days between Passover and Pentecost (which means fiftieth) in Judaism. Easter season begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends with Pentecost, the day on which we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Easter season is more than an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a season when persons who wished to become Christians were learning how to live the way of Jesus and preparing for baptism on Easter Sunday.

Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what we mean when we say Christ is risen and that we, as the church, are the body of the Risen Lord. It's a season for focusing on the core doctrines and mysteries of the faith and for preparing for the ministries the Spirit has empowered us to undertake in Jesus' name.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Vestry Meeting**

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting will be held in Church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of April following on from the 10.30 morning Service.

At this meeting we will elect our Churchwardens for the coming year, plus appoint / reappoint PCC members, but we will also report on the activities of our Church and the various groups, organisations and committees that operate in conjunction with our Church.

All Parishioners are encouraged to attend this meeting, but please note that you must be on our Church Electoral Roll if you wish to vote or hold any office within our Church.

Nomination forms for the election of Churchwardens and appointment of PCC members are available at the back of Church.

## Raising Awareness – Emmaus, Bolton



Emmaus is an international humanitarian movement concerned with helping those who suffer injustice, deprivation and oppression. Since taking root in the UK in 1991 its main focus has been on the alleviation of homelessness, but it tackles this problem in a unique way. Emmaus creates Communities that offer to all, but particularly those who are homeless or otherwise marginalized, friendship and a place to live and work and support themselves. Moreover, it provides them with the opportunity to serve others who are suffering. This solidarity action, as it is known in Emmaus, is an important part of the wider restoration of Companions (Community members) as they see their efforts helping those less fortunate than themselves.

Companions come referred by statutory and voluntary agencies or in person. Some suffer from multiple and complex problems such as mental illness, addiction and relationship breakdown. Some have been in the armed forces and some in prison. Communities generally accept anyone fit for work including those whose physical and mental health issues are being managed. Companions sign off all benefits and work as volunteers to the best of their ability for five days per week in the Community business. This mainly consists of the repair and resale of donated household goods, diverting these from landfill. The business provides the income for the Community to sustain itself without external funding and any surpluses in cash or kind are given to those more needy in the wider-community. Companions work in and run most aspects of Community life and the business. In addition to domestic duties this includes much of the building work. The staff are mainly there as enablers. Community life, work and personalised training aim to prepare Companions for their return to main-stream living.

Emmaus Bolton offers a home, family and work to formerly homeless people, in a residential community setting. People can live and take part in work opportunities, sharing a life together, but retaining their own dignity and independence. At Emmaus, everyone is accepted for who they are now, not judged on what they might have been in the past.

There are no rules about how long someone may stay at Emmaus, provided they abide by the principles of Emmaus and the spirit of the community.

For more information visit [www.emmaus.org.uk](http://www.emmaus.org.uk)



## Christ Church Ainsworth Spring Fair

This year our Church Spring Fair will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 11 – 2pm in Ainsworth Church & Community Hall. Stalls, games, café and much, much more – make sure you save the date, then come along and join the fun!

The Church Fair is organised by a very small team of volunteers; if you would be willing to help out on the day, or might be available to lend a hand setting the room up the day before, please contact Jan on 07950-960468.

## Easyfundraising



If you're thinking of booking a holiday this year, please consider doing so through the Easyfundraising portal; using this site allows you to raise a donation for our Church each time you shop online, at no extra cost to you.

There are great donations available when you book hotels, flights, accommodation, even on some cruises!

If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. Almost 6,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping, book holidays, book trains tickets, book flights, purchase car or home insurance, plus many other online! To get started simply visit:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-rbd21-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1)

## Bible Reading Fellowship

For over 100 years, The Bible Reading Fellowship has been working to share the knowledge of the Gospel with as many people of all ages as possible. BRF offers a wide variety of books and resources to enrich your spiritual journey; Daily Bible Reading notes such as 'New Daylight', are particularly helpful and are generally published 3 x per year, thus each edition provides 4 months of daily readings and comments from a regular team of contributors, drawn from a variety of Church backgrounds.

These sets of notes are ideal for anyone wanting an accessible, yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of Scripture.

For more information visit [brfonline.org.uk](http://brfonline.org.uk)

## Mission Community News – Exploring Prayer



The next "Exploring Prayer" sessions will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April from 7.30 - 8.30pm at St. Andrew's, Hillock, with the same session repeated on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April from 2 - 3pm at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe,

The sessions we've had so far have been really interesting and helpful; whether you are 'new' to praying or an experienced 'prayer warrior', these sessions are for you! Why not join us as we journey together through the 'whys' and 'hows' of prayer, experience different types of prayer / ways of praying, and find the styles that work best for you and your lifestyle.

No need to book – just turn up! For more info contact Alison on 07952-709041 or email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)

## Mission Community Lent

A huge thank you to everyone who represented Christ Church Ainsworth by supporting the Mission Community Lenten Services; those who were able to take part enjoyed a variety of well prepared Services, some deeply moving reflections and a whole variety of refreshments.

All in all, a great opportunity for members of the different Churches to come together in friendship and fellowship.

## Mission Community Prayer Journey – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Those who took part in the Radcliffe and Whitefield Mission Community Prayer Walk last year thoroughly enjoyed themselves; the sun shone as a small but intrepid group from Christ Church Ainsworth set off to join up with other members of our Mission Community, ultimately all meeting at St. Thomas's, Radcliffe.

This year's event has been termed a Mission Community 'Prayer Journey'; rather than just walking through our local communities, the plan is for walkers to move from Church to Church, ultimately arriving at St. Thomas's, Radcliffe for lunch and a Service of Holy Communion.

The Prayer Journey will be held on Ascension Day, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May. More details coming soon.

## Mission Community Prayer

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church  
In the burning fire of your love,  
We lift before you the churches of our mission community and the  
communities where we live and serve you.  
Grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of your gospel,  
Bearing with one another in love as You build us together into one  
community.  
Always abiding in You, may we be found steadfast in faith and active  
in service.  
Open our eyes to see the opportunities you have prepared for us to  
work together in mission in new ways;  
Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen

*Please pray for all of the Churches within our Mission Community –  
Christ Church Walshaw, Christ Church Ainsworth, St. Andrew's,  
Radcliffe, St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, St. Mary, Radcliffe, All  
Saints Stand, St. Andrew's, Hillock and St. George's, Unsworth.*

## Manchester Diocese – Church Officers

Church Officers are people who volunteer to take on specific roles and duties, all of which are essential to the smooth running of our Churches. As part of a 'recruitment drive', Manchester Diocese has launched a new video offering some insights into the various different roles.

If you want to know more, visit:

[Church Officers - Diocese of Manchester \(anglican.org\)](http://www.anglican.org)

## Be That One!

One tree can start a forest,  
One smile can begin a friendship,  
One hand can lift a soul,  
One word can frame the goal,  
One candle can wipe out darkness,  
One laugh can conquer gloom,  
One hope can raise your spirits,  
One touch can show you care,  
One life can make the difference,  
So, be that one today!



# **CHRIST CHURCH AINSWORTH 50/50 LUCKY LOTTO!!**



- Only £1/ticket
- To enter simply fill in your '50/50 Lucky Lotto' ticket, then place it in the box at the back of Church.
- Lucky Lotto will be drawn in Church on the last Sunday of each month; the winner will receive 50% of that month's ticket sales!!
- Tickets available at the back of Church or by contacting Alison on 07952-709041

The next Lucky Lotto draw will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, all proceeds to Church funds

***And Remember ...  
You have to be in it to win it!!***



# *Coffee and Conversation*

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.30 – 12 noon**

**Ainsworth Church and Community Hall**

*"A cup of coffee shared with others  
is happiness shared and time well spent."*



# Quiz Night

**Everyone's welcome, so come join  
the fun - No brainiacs needed!**

**SATURDAY 20TH APRIL**



**Quiz starts 7pm**

Doors open 6:30pm



**Ainsworth Church  
& Community Hall**

**£7** per person with **hot pot supper** included!

Come along and join a team of up to 6 people!

Please bring your own drinks and snacks

To book please text or phone Jan - 07950960468



## *Candlelight Prayer*



*An oasis of calm at the end of a busy week;  
why not join us for 10 minutes of quiet prayer and  
reflection, each Friday at 8pm on Zoom.*

*Simply click the following link to join in:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFoZz09>

*Or for more info contact Alison on 07952-709041*

*"As the shadows begin to lengthen, be guided by the  
light that shines within you."*





CHRIST CHURCH AINSWORTH

# SPRING FAIR



**SATURDAY 18TH MAY**  
*11am - 2pm*

**Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

Cafe Serving Lunch



## **Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements**

### **Coffee & Conversation**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

'A cup of coffee shared with others is happiness tasted & time well spent'

Everyone welcome

### **Mothers' Union April Meetings**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**2.30pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

Starting with Easter Themed Worship.

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm at Bradley Fold Garden Centre**

All are welcome at both of these meetings.

### **Quiz Night!**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**7.00pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

£7 per person; teams of up to 6 people, includes hot pot supper.

For tickets / more info contact Jan on 07950-960468.

### **Christ Church Ainsworth Spring Fair**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**11-2pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

More details soon – watch this space!

### **Save The Date – Summer Prom Concert!**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July; 7pm**

**Christ Church Ainsworth**

A fantastic opportunity to get together & enjoy a great evening of entertainment by Farnworth & Walkden Band. More details coming soon.

### **Candlelight Prayer**

**Each Friday @ 8pm on Zoom**

An oasis of calm at the end of a busy week. Why not join us for 10 minutes of prayer and quiet reflection each Friday evening. Simply

click on the link below to take part:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2>

[ZDMUFoZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2)

### **Mission Community - Exploring Prayer**

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 – 8.30pm, St. Andrew's, Hillock, same session**

**repeated on Weds 24<sup>th</sup> April 2 – 3pm, St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe**

Everyone welcome; for more info email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)

## Around The Organisations ...

### 16<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Brownies

Just before the half term, we celebrated Chinese New Year with the Brownies and earned the Chinese New Year badge. We made crafts including a twirling paper dragon, as well as a door hanging with the *fu* symbol, which means happiness or good fortune. We also had some yummy authentic spring rolls and prawn crackers. Thank you to the parents that helped out!

After half term we celebrated Thinking Day, and this year our theme was Brazil. Despite the scepticism of some Brownies who thought we wouldn't get through *all* the tasks planned, we made some Brazilian truffles; learnt Brazilian Portuguese; made either Brazilian Girlguiding or carnival outfits for paper dolls; and had a fun quiz. After all that hard work, the girls thoroughly earned their Thinking Day badge.



Finally, we decorated potted plants filled with daffodils for Mother's Day. Made with plenty of colourful tissue in a decoupage style, we hope the Brownie's lucky chosen recipient enjoyed their gift.

16th Radcliffe Brownie Leaders

### 12<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Guides & Brownies

Since half term we have completed another of our Influence skills builder activities - two groups put forward ideas of things they would like to do at Guides and had to try to influence the third group as to why they were good ideas - they all agreed on a spa day (surprisingly!).

To mark Thinking Day, we looked in more detail at the Guide Law, which forms part of the Guide promise. We have done an activity where the girls had to pick an act of kindness for each letter of the alphabet - some letters were quite tricky; and we have also made Mother's Day cards.



We had a noisy end to the term, when we made our shoes into tap shoes, using sticky tack and coins, and then made up short dance routines. And the term was ended with a birthday cake for one of the leaders with a wonderful card made by the girls – and of course an Easter egg!

12<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Guiding Leaders

## Transformation - Now!



What a happy time we had at our Tea and Cake afternoon. It was very much a last-minute event, and we thank the people who supported us. Special thanks are extended to Jan Burrow and Barbara Leigh who were a huge assistance in running the event. We raised £120 to be divided between the Make a Mother's Day project and Fortalice, who help families and individuals experiencing domestic abuse in its many forms. Amongst other things, they conduct education in schools and hold 1 to 1 counselling sessions for adults and children.

It was a privilege for us to take part in the Mothering Sunday Service. Revd Debra blessed the Mothers' Union banner and prayed for the work of our branch, the Diocese and Worldwide. We provided a reader for the lessons, an intercessor and a lay assistant. Once again, we gave Mothering Sunday cards to everyone. Our thanks to Judith W for managing these.

Our first meeting after Easter is on Tuesday 2nd April at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome. This meeting will be Easter - themed starting with Easter Worship time.

On Tuesday 16th we will meet at Bradley Fold Garden Centre Cafe at 2.30pm for drinks and any eats that you might like. The cakes are scrumptious. Once again, everyone is welcome to join with us. If you would like to come, and are not a member, please can you let me know, (tel:07964587694) or Jean Eddleston know by Sunday 14th so that I can make sure that there's enough seating for us all.

I received the Manchester MU Newsletter recently which told of the impact of Mothers' Union on lives in the Manchester Diocese for 2023. It totalled 6155: that's almost 513 per month and nearly 17 every day. We can't all be as active as we'd like but in our branch we can primarily, PRAY, and support other projects by raising money to help them thrive.

Our support is listed to many people and includes: Our clergy and churches, homeless people, hostels, refuges and domestic abuse organisations (our RISE UP challenge), holidays and breaks, HMP Manchester, Forest Bank and Buckley Hall and 'Out There' support for families of prisoners.

Also, we were very proud to see that a poem by Alison Hartley was accepted for publication.

The April session of A Moment with God (formerly Thursday Prayers) is on YouTube on Thursday April 11th at 12noon. The access to this can be found at [Mothers' Union Manchester Diocese](#) . It can be watched live or any time later on YouTube. Also, from April 23rd to 25th is our time for the Wave of Prayer. I will hopefully be able to get copies of the WOP leaflet which gives us information about our link Diocese around the world and their thanksgivings and needs.

Finally, a reminder that Spring Council is on Friday, April 26th at 10.30am at St John's House, Bury. Come and keep up to date or find out about who we are and what we do.

Jennifer White

## **From the Archives – April 1999**

In April 1999, 'News From The Parish', contained a number of thank yous and acknowledgements – for donations made on the occasion of a parishioner's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and further donations received following a funeral. The other big news was that 17 candidates from Ainsworth Parish Church had recently been Confirmed by the Rt Revd Christopher Mayfield.

A report from the Treasurer highlighted the need for people to review their giving, to ensure they gift aided donations where possible, and to consider making use of 'regular giving envelopes'. The Treasurer and Planned Giving Secretary at the time, had given a presentation entitled 'TRIO' (The Responsibility Is Ours) to emphasise the need for everyone to play their part in supporting Church finances.

Staying with finance, in news from the various groups and organisations, the Church Hall Committee were appealing for sponsors who may be willing to donate £6/ square meter, to enable the cost of redecorating the Church Hall to be covered; there were also various requests from the different organisations for goods to be donated for the stalls to be held at the Spring Fair. In other news the Rainbows had been celebrating Chinese New Year; 12<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Brownies had been working towards their First Aid badges; 16<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Brownies had held a successful coffee evening; Ventures had enjoyed a Backwoodsman Camp at Giant Seat; whilst the Scouts were appealing for additional leaders.

In April 1999, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Tony Blomley, 'Sidesman at Church, and a very enthusiastic of many aspects of Church life'. In April 1999 there were no Weddings recorded from the previous month, but 2 Baptisms and 1 Funeral. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 330, collections were listed as £1457.



## Praying Through The Seasons – Easter ...

*'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."*

*John 11:25*

For Christians worldwide, the importance of Easter is praising and acknowledging Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and His glorious assurances of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

We celebrate Easter as a time of new life and new hope, a time of renewal; we have full confidence that no matter what happens to us on this Earth, we can experience eternal joy with God in heaven.

*God of renewal, of life and death and rebirth*

*God of promise. of all beginnings. and all endings*

*God of hope, of new growth, and harvest;*

*Renew our hearts and minds this Easter time and help us to grow in faith. Amen*

## Space To Share A Prayer – Easter

Lord Jesus, as we celebrate your resurrection, we pray for a renewal of faith, hope, and love. May this Easter be a time of spiritual growth and a fresh beginning in our journey with you. Amen.

## **You Might Like To Read ...**

*"The Art of Peace: Life Lessons From Christian Mystics", David Cole.*

This wonderful publication explores how to live a life centred on and flowing with the peace of God. Deep inner peace and peace of mind with spiritual balance is something everyone wants, but how does one attain it? More importantly, how does one maintain it in the midst of everyday life?

Moving through sections on Stillness, Silence, Solitude and Sanctuary, this book draws on the lived experience and learning of the author, as well as the wisdom of Christian contemplatives and mystics from the past, to help people walk the mystic path of peace through life.

## **Top 10 Classic Books 2023**

According to 'Penguin Classics' – the following were the UK's top 10 Classic Books for 2023:

1. Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen
2. To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
3. The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald
4. One Hundred Years of Solitude – Gabriel Garcia Marquez
5. In Cold Blood – Truman Capote
6. Wide Sargasso Sea – Jean Rhys
7. Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
8. I Capture The Castle – Dodie Smith
9. Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte
10. Crime and Punishment – Fyodor Dostoevsky

## **For All The Saints – April; St. Mark The Evangelist**

Name: Mark The Evangelist

Feast Day: 25<sup>th</sup> April

Born: Uncertain

Died: 25<sup>th</sup> April 68

Place of burial: Relics of St. Mark were moved to Venice in 828

Patron Saint Of: Venice.

Mark the Evangelist, also known as John Mark or Saint Mark, is the person who is traditionally ascribed to be the author of the Gospel of Mark, however, modern Bible scholars have concluded that the Gospel of Mark was written by an anonymous author rather than an identifiable historical figure. Mark lived at the time of Jesus, and was one of His closest followers.

While still young, Mark went with the two great saints, Paul and Barnabas, as missionaries to bring the teachings of Jesus to Cyprus and other new lands.

Before the journey was over, though, Mark had an argument with Paul and immediately returned to Jerusalem. Paul and Mark later made peace with each other. In fact, when he was later arrested and imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote to Mark requesting that he come to Rome to comfort and help him.

Mark also became a beloved disciple and was like a son to Peter, the first pope.

Mark was made a bishop and sent to Alexandria, Egypt. There, many people who heard him preach became Christians. He worked hard to spread love for Jesus and his Church. According to Church tradition, Mark founded the episcopal see of Alexandria, which was one of the five most important sees of early Christianity.

Mark went through long and painful sufferings before he died a martyr for his faith in AD68. Some years after his death, Saint Mark's relics were taken to Venice, Italy; ultimately Mark became the patron saint of Venice.

St. Mark's feast day is celebrated on April 25<sup>th</sup> and his symbol is the winged lion.

## **Strap Lines**

Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes.

Does a church steeple with a lightning rod on top show a lack of trust and confidence?

Good manners can sometimes mean simply putting up with other people's bad manners.

Entertaining people is one of the easiest things to do; all you have to do is listen.

## Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

### Myself

I have to live with myself and so  
I want to be fit for myself to know.  
I want to be able as days go by,  
always to look myself straight in the eye;  
I don't want to stand with the setting sun  
and hate myself for the things I have done.  
I don't want to keep on a closet shelf  
a lot of secrets about myself  
and fool myself as I come and go  
into thinking no one else will ever know  
the kind of person I really am,  
I don't want to dress up myself in sham.  
I want to go out with my head erect  
I want to deserve all men's respect;  
but here in the struggle for fame and wealth  
I want to be able to like myself.  
I don't want to look at myself and know  
I am bluster and bluff and empty show.  
I never can hide myself from me;  
I see what others may never see;  
I know what others may never know,  
I never can fool myself and so,  
whatever happens I want to be  
valued, respected and conscience free.

*Edgar A. Guest*

### Time For A Smile

Asked what she thought about her first day at school, a little girl replied, 'Not very well; I can't read, I can't write, and they won't even let me talk!'



## The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

H O T C R O S S B U N

### Easter ... Quiz

1. How many Easter eggs are sold in the UK every year?
2. Which country started the tradition of the Easter Bunny?
3. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a Simnel Cake?
4. What is the Sunday before Easter called?
5. What is the 'flower of Easter'?
6. Where is Easter Island located?
7. Where did the tradition of the Easter bonnet originate?
8. In the bible, who betrayed Jesus before His crucifixion?
9. Which country first introduced an Easter Tree?
10. Where was the UK's first Easter Egg produced?
11. When was the UK's first Easter Egg produced?
12. In which country is dancing banned on Good Friday?
13. What do the spices in hot cross buns represent?
14. Who denied Jesus 3 times before he was crucified?
15. Which day of Holy Week honours the Last Supper?
16. How many Easter Eggs can the average UK child expect to receive?
17. Easter always falls between which 2 dates?
18. Which animal delivers Easter Eggs in Switzerland?
19. Why are Pretzels considered to be an Easter food?
20. Which country grows the most daffodils?

### Quick Bible Quiz

1. Who was the first King of Israel?
2. Who did Jesus raise from the dead, 4 days after he had died?
3. Who fought a battle at Jericho?
4. Who fought with an Angel?
5. Who Baptised Jesus?

(Answers on page 27)

## Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Lay Assistant</b>	<b>Prayers</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> April 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Easter	Mags Gillman Dennis Gillman	Lorraine Holden	Andrew Lowe
14 <sup>th</sup> April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Easter	Barbara Clarkson Jan Burrow	Chris Haworth	Jenny Johnson
21 <sup>st</sup> April 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Alison Hartley	Alison Hartley
28 <sup>th</sup> April 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	Peter Holden	David Holden

## Reader's Rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Readings</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> April 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Easter	Enid Horrocks	Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21 Acts 4.32-35 John 20.19-31
14 <sup>th</sup> April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of Easter	Peter Holden	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Acts 3.12-19 Luke 24.36b-48
21 <sup>st</sup> April 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter	Alison Hartley	Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18, 8.6-18; 9.8-13 Acts 4.5-12 John 10.11-18
28 <sup>th</sup> April 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter	Lorraine Holden	Genesis 22.1-18 Acts 8.26-40 John 15.1-8

## Bonus Chuckle ...

“Where is my Sunday paper?!” the irate customer yelled after calling the newspaper office.

“Madam,” said the newspaper employee, “today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow.”

There was quite a long pause, followed by a ray of recognition as she was heard to mutter, “Oh, dear! I have already written to the vicar complaining that no-one turned up to open the church today for the morning service.”

## Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy <a href="mailto:vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk">vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk</a>	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley Chris Haworth	07952 709041 07855 638450
Church Treasurer	David Holden	<a href="mailto:davelholden@aol.co.uk">davelholden@aol.co.uk</a>
Secretary of the PCC	Vacancy	
Organist	Jenny Johnson	07734976978
Gift Aid & Freewill Offering Secretary	Carole Butler	07379 196608
Safeguarding Officer	Peter Holden	01204 596938
Church Hall Booking		<a href="mailto:bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk">bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk</a>
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	<a href="mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com">ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com</a>
Magazine Adverts		
Primary School Head	D Gerrard BA(Hons)PGCE	01204 527484

## Services

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
10.30am Family Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Family & Parade Service  
6.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP) 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

Weds 6.15pm Mid-Week Praise

Home Communion is available for anyone unable to attend Church due to illness or frailty.

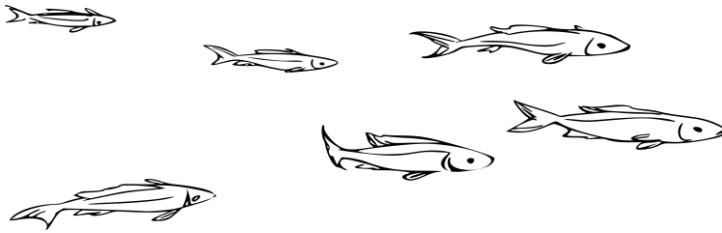
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage, and Funerals  
Contact 01204-398567.

Answers to Easter Quiz: 1) 80 million, 2) Germany, 3) 11, 4) Palm Sunday, 5) White Lilies, 6) SE Pacific, 7) Europe, 8) Judas, 9) Germany, 10) Bristol, 11) 1873, 12) Germany, 13) Spices used to embalm Jesus's body after His death, 14) Peter, 15) Maundy Thursday, 16) 8.8, 17) Between 22/03 and 25/04, 18) Cuckoo, 19) The shape looks like praying hands, 20) UK

Answers to Bible Quiz: 1) King Saul, 2) Lazarus, 3) Joshua, 4) Jacob, 5) John The Baptist.

## Who's Who For Church Organisations

Mothers Union	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Altar Flowers	Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
ABC First Steps Toddler Group	Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Jennifer White	07964 587694
Group Leader	group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscoouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall Leader	
Cub Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Scouts' 14 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscoouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Friday 7.30 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader John Turner	01204 381590
Brownies 12 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.15pm in the Church Hall Brown Owl Polly Ryder	07437 519045
Brownies 16 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 6.15pm to 7.30pm in the Church Hall Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Thursday at 7.00pm in the Church Hall Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045



# Little Fishes

The Easter Story



# The Easter Story

Over 2000 years ago, a man called Jesus, brought a message of hope and love to the world. Many people listened to Jesus as He spoke of God's love, and were inspired by what He said and by the things that He did. Jesus had a small group of friends who were especially close to Him and had begun to help Him to spread the good news of God's love - these were Jesus's disciples.

Jesus was the Son of God; He had been sent to spread the word of God and to save mankind from sin. Although the disciples didn't fully understand it, Jesus knew that the only way that this could happen was through His own death - this is what happened ...

**Palm Sunday** ... One day, Jesus and His disciples were on their way to visit Jerusalem; as they came near, Jesus stopped and asked 2 of His disciples to go on ahead, He told them,

"When you get to the town you will see a donkey tied up, untie it and bring it to me. If anyone questions you tell them that the Lord needs the donkey, and He will return it later."

So, the disciples did as they were asked and brought the donkey to Jesus. Some of them put their cloaks on the donkey's back and then Jesus rode the donkey on towards Jerusalem.



Many people had heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem - they had heard about some of the miracles that Jesus had performed in other places, and they were very excited to see Him and hear



Him themselves. When the people spotted Jesus riding towards Jerusalem they came running to greet Him; they knew that He was special, and so some threw their cloaks down onto the road for the donkey to walk on, and many others threw Palm leaves down - a bit like putting a red carpet out for someone really important to walk on!

As they got closer to Jerusalem, more and more people joined them, they waved their Palm branches and shouted out,

“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!”

But some people were not happy about all this, the Chief Priests and Pharisees were religious leaders, so you would expect them to be really happy to see Jesus and listen to Him, but actually they thought that Jesus was getting far too much attention, they didn't like what He was saying, and they wanted to get rid of Him.

Jesus didn't go right into the city that day because the time wasn't right.

### **Mauddy Thursday - The Last Supper**



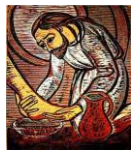
The following Thursday was the first day of the feast of Passover; Jewish people have celebrated the Passover ever since the time of Moses, when the Lord 'passed over' their houses and so saved all of the Israelite babies.

The disciples asked Jesus where they should meet to eat their Passover meal. Jesus replied to them, "Go into the city and you will find a man. Tell him that we would like to come to his house for Passover."

The disciples did as Jesus asked and prepared the Passover meal. Later that evening, Jesus met with his friends; the disciples were worried because they knew that the Chief Priests and the Pharisees weren't happy about Jesus becoming so popular; in fact, the Pharisees were trying to work out a way to get rid of Jesus once and for all!



Before they all sat down to eat, Jesus did something which surprised His friends - He took water and a towel and insisted on washing their feet; this was a job that the lowest of the servants would usually have been expected to do. Jesus was a very, very special person,



so imagine that, to the disciples, this would have been like a huge celebrity coming into your home and beginning to clean your shoes or tidy your bedroom!! Jesus did this to teach the disciples that they should all serve and help other people, no one is too great or too grand to look out for people around them.

Then Jesus sat down for supper with his friends. He thanked God for the bread and shared it with the disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body which is given for you". Then He took a full cup of wine, He thanked God for it and said, "This is my blood, which will be shed for many people so their sins may be forgiven." They all took a sip from the cup.



Just as Jesus had shared a loaf of bread and a cup of wine with His friends, he told them they should always do that in future "in remembrance of me".

### **Good Friday - The Betrayal**

Judas was one of Jesus' disciples, but he had secretly decided to betray Jesus - he promised the Guards at the Temple that he would show them where Jesus was; they even agreed a secret sign to make sure the Guards knew they had got the right man. Early



the next morning, Judas went with the Guards to the place where Jesus was praying with His disciples, Judas walked straight up to Jesus and

kissed Him - this was the secret sign, and quickly the Guards arrested him.

The Guards took Jesus to their Governor, Pontious Pilate, who asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "Yes, I am."

This upset the Chief Priests because they were jealous of him and the friends He had made.



Pilate listened to the things that the Chief Priests and the Pharisees were saying about Jesus, but he really couldn't see any




reason to punish Him, it didn't seem that Jesus had done anything so very wrong. Pilate asked Jesus lots of questions - he was actually really interested in the things Jesus said, but Jesus didn't stick up for himself - it was almost as if He knew that the people wouldn't listen anyway, even though He had done nothing wrong.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him."

But the people didn't like that at all and shouted, "Kill Jesus! Release Barabbas instead!" Barabbas was in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. That probably sounds a bit strange, but the people who didn't like Jesus had done such a good job of telling lies about Him that lots of other people had become scared and now they really believed that Jesus was a bad person!

Pilate didn't like this at all, he tried to talk to the angry crowd; he asked them what Jesus had done; he told them that Jesus didn't deserve to die and that they should release Him. But the crowd just became more and more angry. Pilate didn't want the crowd to begin a riot, so in the end he agreed to hand Jesus over to the guards and released Barabbas instead.



The soldiers dressed Jesus in a purple robe and put a crown of thorns on his head, they laughed at Him and made fun of Him, then they lead him away to a hill named Golgotha. 

There were three crosses on the hill and the soldiers nailed Jesus to the one in the middle; then once again the crowd started laughing and jeering; they made a sign that said,

### **JESUS OF NAZARETH - KING OF THE JEWS**

They shouted, "If you can save other people, why don't you save yourself?".

Jesus could have saved Himself, but He chose not to - He wanted to save us instead.

Later that same day, as Jesus hung on the cross, He cried out, "It is finished!", and then He died. At that same moment a great



darkness came over the whole land, it completely covered the sun, and the people were terrified. In the temple in the city a huge curtain suddenly tore in half, but no one could see why it had happened, until one of

the soldiers who had wanted Jesus to die, suddenly understood and said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Too late he realised he had been wrong about Jesus.

### **Easter Sunday - The Resurrection**

After Jesus died, His friends took His body away and placed it in a stone tomb, this would have been a bit like a cave.

They wrapped Jesus's body in white cloths and, before they went away, they rolled a huge boulder in front of the tomb so that nothing and no one could get in.



Jesus's friends were very sad, but they were also very scared - wondering if the crowd might turn against them next.

On the third day, which was Sunday, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went back to the tomb early in the morning, taking special oils with them. When they reached the tomb, they saw that the boulder had been moved and the tomb was open. Not only that - Jesus's body had gone too!!

The women were very scared, but just as they were wondering



what to do, an angel appeared by the tomb and said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died, but He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself,

the tomb is empty."

The women were confused; they were sure Jesus had died, so how could He be alive? They looked in the tomb - the cloths Jesus had

been wrapped in were lying on the ground and the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus, He is on his way to Galilee."

So, the women turned and hurried away, they were laughing and crying all at the same time. As they ran back down the path,



suddenly, there was Jesus! The women quickly knelt down and worshipped Him, Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, tell my disciples to come to Jerusalem - that is where they will see me."

The disciples quickly made their way to Jerusalem, they were all sitting together, talking, and wondering what to do next, when Jesus walked into the room and said to them, "Peace be with you."



The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were still shocked to see Him standing there with them.

Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me as if I am a ghost? Why don't you believe what you are seeing? Look at the scars on my hands and feet. It really is me!"

The disciples were astonished, even though Mary and her friends had told them about Jesus being alive again. They were so full of joy, and yet was it really possible? Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible."

The Easter story might seem like a really sad story, but when you read it all and begin to understand a bit more about who Jesus really was and what He did, it's actually the greatest story of all times.

Jesus died to save everyone else; He died so that our sins would be forgiven. Jesus died on the cross because He loves us, no matter who we are or what we do! Each and every one of us must try to remember that and to do our best to love Jesus in return.



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