

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Palm Sunday Donkey
(Photo courtesy of Danny Sowden)

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April 2025

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Parish Diary April 2025

Tues 1 st	7.00pm	Lent Reflection
Weds 2 nd	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Fri 4 th	9.30am	School Easter Service
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT		
Sun 6 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.15pm	Baptism Of Scarlett Richardson
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Tues 8 th	10.30am	Coffee & Conversation (<i>Ainsworth Church & Community Hall</i>)
	7.00pm	Lent Reflection
Weds 9 th	2.30pm	Mission Community Lent Service
PALM SUNDAY		
Sun 13 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Palm Sunday Procession (with donkeys!) <i>Joint service with Ainsworth Methodists, meeting at Ainsworth Methodist Chapel for family service at Christ Church (followed by refreshments)</i>
Mon 14 th	7.00pm	Holy Week Reflection
Tues 15 th	7.00pm	Holy Week Communion & Healing Service
Thurs 17 th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion & stripping of the Altar
Fri 18 th	7.00pm	Good Friday Reflection
EASTER SUNDAY		
Sun 20 th	5.40am	Easter Dawn Service in the Churchyard (<i>followed by light breakfast in Church</i>)
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Weds 23 rd	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Sun 27 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion (<i>followed by refreshments & drawing of the April Lucky Lotto</i>)
	11.45am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Weds 30 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY

Sun 4 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	12.15pm	Baptism of Millie Commins
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer

Interregnum Update

“Church isn’t something you go to; it’s a family that you belong to.”

A Church family is a community of people that attend church together. More than that, a church family shares in the fullness of faith and life together, provides support during the hardships of life, and also celebrates life’s greatest milestones together.

There are many places in the Bible where believers are described using family language. This is exactly how early Christians acted as they spent a lot of time dwelling together and living out their faith like a family; they ate together, they worshipped together, and they spent time with one another in fellowship.

Just like in any family, each person in the Church family is important, each person has their own role to play, and their own work to do. Just like in any family, roles and tasks will change and alter according to an individual’s circumstances and time of life; those who were once in need of guidance and teaching, become the leaders and teachers, the voice of experience. So too those who at one time actively supported and encouraged those who were less able, become the recipients of that support and encouragement from others.

St Paul’s letter to the Romans, chapter 12, v 4-5 tells us; *“We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body.”*

Each one of us has a part to play in our Church family; none of us are able to do everything, but we are all able to do something, and all of the individual ‘somethings’ come together to form the whole.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in Church on Sunday 27th April, following on from our 10.30am Service; this is in effect, the annual meeting of our church family – an opportunity to give thanks to God for all that has happened in the life of our church in 2024, to discuss things like finance, and to get a clearer idea of God’s good plans for us over the next 12 months. At this meeting we will also elect / re-elect our churchwardens and some members of our

PCC. This meeting is a public event and anyone can attend, however, only those who are members of our Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. If you haven't previously attended our APCM, why not make this the year that you join us; share in the joys and challenges of the past 12 months and help to envisage what the next 12 months might look like – after all this is your Church, we are all part of the Church family at Christ Church Ainsworth and each one of us has a part to play.

Alison Hartley – Churchwarden (on behalf of the PCC)

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the April 2025 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is full of updates, reports, and interesting information.

There are so many things going on in our Church in the coming month; our Lent Reflections continue, there are a wide range of worship opportunities starting on Palm Sunday and continuing throughout Holy Week, then Easter Sunday Services, followed swiftly by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting the following week – busy times!

Alongside all of the 'seasonal' information you'll also find information about spotting the scammers, things to look out for when you're out and about during April, a blast from the past in our 'From The Archives' article, and a fun Easter Quiz to test the old grey matter.

Many thanks, as always, to those who put finger to keyboard each month to keep us up to date and informed. Enjoy this month's magazine; if your group or organisation has something to report, or you'd like to include an article in a future edition, please get in touch at ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com *Alison*



Notice is hereby given that the AGM will be held on
Thursday 3rd April 2025 at 7.00pm
In The Unitarian Schoolroom, Knowsley Rd

ALL AINSWORTH RESIDENTS ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

From The Registers

We welcome to the family of God:

23rd March 2025

Elsie Margaret Cropper

Elizabeth Anne Cropper

Flower Rota

No flowers during Lent

20th April

Stacey White

Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Vestry Meeting

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting will be held in Church on Sunday 27th 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.

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EcoChurch



Caring for our environment isn't limited to our church-based activities; we can all make small changes to our lifestyles which, collectively, would undoubtedly make a difference.

In the coming months we'll be giving you a 'Make a difference' idea each month, letting you know what we're doing to implement these ideas in Church, plus suggesting small changes that you might like to try to incorporate into your own home or daily routine.

Make A Difference - April:

Helping Nature – *At Church we have a number of nesting boxes & bird feeders out and about in the churchyard; as the weather becomes warmer and the nesting season gets underway these will be well used.*

Do you have anywhere in your garden where you could install a nesting box, bird feeder or bird table? If not, could you commit to supporting a charity that helps birds eg RSPB? Alternatively, could you donate a bag of bird seed to the churchyard team to help to keep the feeders in the churchyard stocked up?

Sharing Eco-Tips – When it comes to 'Eco', many of us will have our own ways of 'making a difference'. If you have an 'Eco-Tip' that others might be able to try, why not jot it down and add it to our Eco-Tips board in Church.



Holy Week & Easter

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 - 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.

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 not everyone was happy about all this; the Chief Priests and Pharisees 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.

Maundy 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; 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 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. Early the next morning, Judas went with the Guards to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was praying with His disciples, Judas walked straight up to Jesus and kissed Him (a sign agreed by Judas and the Guards to make sure they got the right man), 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."

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. Then 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 had been persuaded to think the worst of Jesus, and they continued to demand that Pilate should have him put to death.

Pilate 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.

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; the soldiers nailed Jesus to the one in the middle; 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; it was almost the Jewish Sabbath, and they were not permitted to do any form of work on that day, so the plan was for them to return after the Sabbath was passed. They wrapped Jesus's body in 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.

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 oils with them, intending to anoint Jesus's body and prepare Him for burial. When they reached the tomb, they saw that the boulder had been moved, and the tomb was open.

The women were upset and 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 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, 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 women went quickly to share this news with the disciples. The disciples quickly made their way to Jerusalem, they gathered in an

upstairs room, nervously wondering what to do next, when Jesus walked into the room and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Even though the disciples had heard that Jesus was alive, they were still shocked to see Him standing there.

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 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 is the greatest story of all times. Jesus died to save us all; 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!

Prayer Changes Things



"When I pray, coincidences happen. When I don't, they don't."

Archbishop William Temple

Prayer is an integral part of Christianity; it isn't a magical formula for getting what we want, and it isn't reserved for 'holy' people, or for special times or places. Prayer is talking to God.

Christians believe that God created everyone to be in relationship with him, and that he loves to hear from each one of us as often as possible.

There are many reasons why we might pray; thanking God for what he has given us, praising God for who he is, asking God for help, or telling him that we're sorry and asking for forgiveness. Or we might simply want to tell God what's on our hearts.



Prayer Opportunities At Christ Church Ainsworth:

Prayer Tree – feel free to write a short prayer on 1 of the paper leaves you'll find in church, then hang your leaf on our Prayer Tree.

Praying With Purpose – on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm, members of Christ Church Ainsworth School Worship Group will join us in Church for a time of purposeful prayer, during which we will also offer up the prayers from our Prayer Tree; anyone is welcome to join us at this time.

Transforming Prayer Community – a diocese-wide community that seeks to connect and reconnect us with this simple vocation to pray. For more info or to sign up, visit www.manchesteranglican.org

Quiet Prayer Time – our Church is open most Wednesday afternoons between 2.30 – 4pm for quiet prayer & reflection.

Jesus Prayer Hour – via Zoom on the 4th Tuesday of each month

Candlelight Prayer – via Zoom each Friday at 8pm

For more info email ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

Bible Reading Fellowship Ministries

BRF Ministries offers a wide variety of books and resources, plus a great range of Easter cards. For more information visit brfonline.org.uk

BRF Ministries also produce a range of daily Bible Study notes & reflections which are suitable for all; these booklets are produced 3 times a year & typically cost around £5-00. If you would like to know more or would be interested in receiving a set of notes, please contact Alison on 07952-709041.

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The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto!

The January Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 30th March, with the lucky winner walking away with £19-50!

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

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



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We understand that many people no longer carry cash, however thanks to the wonders of modern technology, we can accept online donations to support the work of our church.

Online giving is done via a website called 'Give A Little'; you can access our page by clicking on the following link:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/4e852de9-3667-426f-ae72-1747784eda0c>

Or by scanning the following QR code with your mobile phone:



Once you've done that, choose the amount you wish to donate – the suggested options are £5, £10, £20 or £50, but there is also an option to click and choose your own amount. Next, simply follow the on screen instructions - fill in your personal details, (if you are a tax payer you can choose to add Gift Aid to increase

your donation), then enter your card details. When you're finished, you'll get a 'Thank You' message on screen and you can request a receipt via email for your own records – simple!

Just A Thought

“It's often the small steps, not the big leaps, that bring about the most lasting change.”

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Please sign up to support us on easyfundraising today:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/ainsworthpc/ivcmuo/c2s/FzJmq30s/CE014/facebook/>

We currently only have 27 people who have registered to support our cause through Easyfundraising, although there must be many others who shop / order goods online. Anyone who shops online can support us in this way; it's a really simple way of raising much needed funds for our Church.

Our current Easyfundraising total is £931-04; with more supporters, could you help us to get this total to £1,000 by the end of 2025?

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 transactions - at no extra cost to you! These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ainsworthpc/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1

News From The Diocese - General Lay Training Courses

Applications for the 2025 General Lay Training courses are now open! Each course on the Authorised Lay Ministry pathway is now available as a standalone option. These courses are ideal for anyone looking to deepen their calling and enhance their gifts for Christian ministry and service.

You can view the courses and find application guidance by clicking the following link: [General Lay Courses](#).

Raising Awareness – Pay It Forward Day 28th April



Taking inspiration from author Catherine Ryan Hyde's Pay It Forward movement, Blake Beattie started Pay It Forward Day in 2007, as a celebration of how one small act of kindness can make a big impact in the world. After beginning in Australia, this initiative now spreads love and happiness in over 85 countries across the globe.

Pay It Forward Day is not associated with any organisation or foundation, it's free to participate in, and exists to encourage people to stand for kindness out of the goodness of their hearts and create a ripple of good will that continues throughout the year!

For more info visit [Pay It Forward Day - Pay It Forward Day](#)

Mission Community News – Prayer Journey 2025

This year's Mission Community Prayer Journey will be held on Ascension Day, Thursday 29th May; with walkers once again moving from Church to Church, ultimately arriving at St. Thomas's, Radcliffe for lunch and a Service of Holy Communion to be led by Bishop Matthew.

We appreciate that many of our congregation won't be able to walk the entire route, but it would actually be really helpful to have a few 'drivers' on the route to make the return journey a bit easier! Please feel free to join us at any stage of the Prayer Journey either on foot or by car, everyone is welcome.

The Prayer Journey

10am – Meet for Celtic Morning Prayer at Christ Church Walshaw

11am – Prayer & refreshments at Christ Church Ainsworth

12.15pm – Prayer at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe

1.15pm – Lunch followed by Holy Communion at St. Thomas's, Radcliffe.

Licensing of Revd Adele McKie

Congratulations to Revd Adele McKie, who was licensed as Associate Priest for the Radcliffe Team Churches (St. Mary, Radcliffe and St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe) at a Service held at St. Thomas & St. John on Thursday 27th March.

Please pray for Revd Adele, her family, and members of both of these local Churches as they begin this new and exciting stage on their journey of mission and ministry.

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.*



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Ask us about.....Funeral Plans

1875 – 2025; Celebrating 150 Years!!

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Diary



April 2025

1 st	We give thanks for those who will be part of the Prayer & Spirituality Group meeting this evening; we pray that there will be someone from each Church who feels called to be a part of this group.
2 nd	During this 'Volunteers Month' we pray for & give thanks for everyone who volunteers within our Churches & wider communities.
3 rd	We pray for those who will be leading & taking part in the Lent Service at All Saints, Stand this afternoon.
4 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
5 th	We pray for & give thanks for the work of the Food Pantry Team at St. Andrew's, Hillock; praying also for all of the individuals & families who access this service.
6 th	We pray for those Churches that remain in vacancy, & for the people who are leading them.
7 th	We pray for those who will be attending 'Spring Harvest' this week; praying that they will find spiritual refreshment & renewal.
8 th	We pray for those who will be leading & taking part in the Lent Night Prayer Service at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe this evening.
9 th	We pray for those who will be leading & taking part in the Lent Service at Christ Church Ainsworth this afternoon.
10 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
11 th	We pray for all of the Churches that have begun their EcoChurch journey; that their congregations & wider communities would be inspired & supportive of new initiatives.
12 th	We pray that the Lent and Easter Services held at All Saints, Stand, will provide comfort and challenge, love and inspiration to all who attend.
13 th	We pray for everyone who will be part of the Ecumenical Palm Sunday procession & All Age Service at Christ Church Ainsworth today; that those who attend would be encouraged & inspired.
14 th	On National Gardening Day, we thank God for gardens and the diversity of plants and flowers. We give thanks for all who tend the garden areas around our Churches & in our wider communities.
15 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.
16 th	We pray for & give thanks for all who provide Pastoral Care; members of Clergy, Pastoral Visiting Teams, Anna Chaplains & Anna Friends.
17 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
18 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
19 th	We give thanks for & pray for our Church Officers, Lay Leaders & Volunteers.
20 th	We give thanks for the many Easter Services which will be held today; we pray for those who will be leading them, & that those who attend may be filled with the joy of the Resurrection.
21 st	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints Stand.
22 nd	We pray for & give thanks for all who provide Funeral Ministry throughout our Mission Community.
23 rd	We pray for those who will be involved with the Forest Church meeting at Christ Church Ainsworth Primary School today; that the discussion would be fruitful & productive.
24 th	We pray for the Baptism Team at All Saints, Stand, and for the families that they will be involved with in the coming months.
25 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
26 th	We pray for those who lead & participate in the prayer groups & Bible study groups which are run by our Churches; may they know God's presence & grow in faith.
27 th	We pray those who will be involved with the APCMs to be held at St Thomas & St John, Radcliffe, & also at Christ Church Ainsworth today. We pray for Churchwardens, PCC members, and all those who volunteer or hold Office within our Churches.
28 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
29 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
30 th	We give thanks for the congregation, volunteers & community at St. Mary, Radcliffe.

"What wings are to a bird, & sails are to a ship; so prayer is to the soul."



Palm Sunday



Come and meet our Palm Sunday donkeys! Sunday 13th April



10.30am. Meet & greet plus outdoor worship at Ainsworth Methodist Chapel, followed by Palm

Sunday procession & family service at Christ Church Ainsworth - Everyone welcome!!





RECYCLE FOR CHARITY

Did you know, many of your unwanted items could be recycled?

Do you have any of these items stuck in a drawer or cupboard?

Please bring along your glasses, hearing aids, foreign currency, stamps, keys, ink & toner cartridges (branded only) & bra's & place them into the boxes provided in church.

All items will be collected at the monthly Mission Community Task Group meetings where they will be sorted and sent to where they are needed most.

Thank you



RADCLIFFE & WHITEFIELD MISSION COMMUNITY



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
- You can also enter by BACS payment or standing order, for details email ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com
- All proceeds to Church funds

The next Lucky Lotto draw will take place on Sunday 27th April.

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



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 8th April

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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



Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Lent 2025

✦ **Friday 14th March, 12 noon – Lent Prayer**

St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe. M26 2UD

(Please feel free to bring a packed lunch to enjoy after this Service)

✦ **Monday 17th March, 10am – Morning Prayer**

St. George's, Unsworth. BL9 8JJ

✦ **Wednesday 19th March, 10am – Celtic Lent Service**

St. Mary, Radcliffe. M26 2QA

✦ **Monday 24th March, 7.30pm - Taize**

Christ Church Walshaw. BL8 3FS

✦ **Wednesday 26th March, 7.30pm – Compline**

St. Andrew's, Hillock. M45 8NA

✦ **Thursday 3rd April, 2.30pm**

All Saints, Stand. M45 7NF

✦ **Tuesday 8th April, 7.30pm – Night Prayer**

St. Andrew's, Radcliffe. M26 4HU

✦ **Wednesday 9th April, 2.30pm – Lent Reflection**

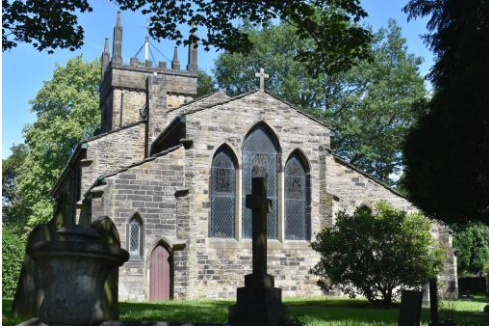
Christ Church Ainsworth. BL2 5RU

***Please come and join us at any, or all, of the above
Services.***

HEALTHY BODY ... HEALTHY MIND

Exercise Isn't Just For The Gym!

Doing something active is a form of exercise.



Being active with others is good for social and mental health.

There are many local opportunities to get active through volunteer work;
Ainsworth Churchyard

is one opportunity.

Every Wednesday, volunteers come together to help tidy the churchyard – clearing leaves, mowing grass, tidying the graves. There are jobs for any age or capacity.



Tea, cake and a chat split the session into two halves. All are welcome.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

COME RAIN OR SHINE!

9:30 – 11.45 A.M.

Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall, Greenside

Cuppa, Cakes & Company

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Welcome

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£2



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@thegardenshed.arthurlane

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 8th 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 Meetings

Tuesday 1st April

2.30pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Tuesday 15th April – time & venue to be confirmed

New members always welcome; please come along to any of our meetings to find out more.

Cuppa, Cakes & Company

Thursday 3rd April

2 – 3.30pm Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall

Participate in board games, dominoes, table tennis & jigsaws or just come for a chat. Cost is £2.00 payable on the day.

Save The Date!!

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Journey 2025

Thursday 29th May

More info coming soon.

Christ Church Ainsworth APCM & Vestry Meeting

Sunday 27th April 11.45am

Christ Church Ainsworth

All Parishioners are encouraged to attend this meeting

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=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFoZz09>

Ainsworth Community Association AGM

Thursday 3rd April 7pm

Ainsworth Unitarian School Room

All Ainsworth residents are entitled to attend this meeting.

Around The Organisations ...

16th Radcliffe Brownies

The Brownies have had a busy few weeks; we enrolled Beth, Elsie, Ailsie, Lily, Layla and Hope - we hope they enjoy their time as Brownies.

We have been working on our Castaway Adventures Badge, and have learnt how to prepare food, strike a match, build a shelter, tie knots, and played a survival challenge based on strength, skill and survival.

We are making gifts for Mothers' Day and Easter to round off the term.

Yours in Guiding - Sarah McAnulty

Join Us & Join In!



Thankyou Andrew, for leading our meeting at the beginning of March. You guided us so well through lively discussions about Love, using the MU theme for March of 'The Power of Love through Christ'. The breadth and depth of our thoughts were diverse and kept us busy.

The theme for our meeting on April 1st at 2.30pm in the Church Hall is 'Love Blooms' and we will reflect on this in our opening worship.

We will also welcome a member of the staff team from Fortalice who will briefly talk to us about their work and receive the gifts of Easter Eggs that we have bought for them. As usual, everyone is welcome at this and any other of our meetings. However, if you are coming on April 1st, please could you tell Jean, Andrew or me so that we can be sure of having enough chairs available.

For our meeting on the 15th April, we are still intending to 'go visiting'. We will confirm this much nearer the time.

The Wave of Prayer is a continuous time of prayer that ensures we are praying for the work of Mothers' Union and its members every hour and day of the year. April 23rd - 25th is Manchester's turn and we should have some leaflets available for you to use in your own home. On those days, we pray for our Link Diocese of Sunyani in Ghana, Kisangani in DR Congo, Kagera in Tanzania, Awka in Nigeria, Popandota in Papua New Guinea, and ourselves in Manchester.

By the time you read this, I expect that we will have celebrated Mothering Sunday. Thank you to Revd. Debra for allowing us to take part in the Morning Service. However, the Make a Mother's Day appeal will carry on for another month. Jean has received this letter from Mary Sumner House, our London H.Q., the majority of which she shares with you.

*"For many of us, Mothering Sunday is a time of love, gratitude and remembrance but for too many families in the **Solomon Islands, home is a place of fear instead of peace.***

*More than **85% of children experience violent discipline.** Parents desperately want to raise their children with love but without the right support, they struggle to break the cycle."*

*[a mother speaking of the MU Worldwide Parenting Programme]
Before the training my husband and I didn't know another way. We argued, we struggled, and our children lived in fear. But through Mothers' Union, I learned how to teach with kindness instead of punishment. My children have learned how to share, and my husband has even given up drinking."*

Our Worldwide Parenting Programme is helping families break the cycle of violence, build strong relationships, and create homes and families filled with love and understanding.

However, because the course is so effective, we are overwhelmed with demand for the Parenting Programme. Your gift today could be lifesaving for a family in need.

www.makeamothersday.org

Every child deserves a home filled with love, not fear.

A child's future is in your hands. Let's give peace where it's needed most.

Jennifer White.

From the Archives – April 2000

The sketch on the inside cover of the April 2000 Parish Magazine depicted Jesus and his disciples partaking of The Last Supper; Easter fell even later in that year, with Mothering Sunday on 2nd of April and Easter Sunday the 23rd of April.

As you would expect, in addition to the regular Services, the Parish Diary for April 2000 included details of the last couple of Lenten Devotional Services to be held at Christ Church Ainsworth, plus Holy

Week Reflections, 'Follow The Cross' – a silent procession of witness in Radcliffe on Good Friday, An Easter Eve Vigil, and 2 services on Easter Sunday, followed by the APCM & Vestry meeting on Easter Monday – busy times indeed!

Other news from the parish included mention that 8 candidates had been Confirmed by the Right Reverend James Roxburgh (Area Bishop of Liverpool) in a Service held at Christ Church Ainsworth, and a reminder that a coffee morning and Bring & Buy Sale were being planned as part of the Christian Aid Week fundraising efforts.

The Uniformed Organisations had been hard at work making Mothering Sunday cards and working towards various badges; Beavers had held a number of topical evenings – for St. David's Day they had made daffodils, for St. Patrick's Day they had done potato printing and for Shrove Tuesday they had made and eaten pancakes.

Elsewhere, Sunday School reported the exciting news that they had started a Christian Youth Group aimed at the 11+ age group, and a group of young people had taken on the role of 'Servers' within the main Sunday morning Service and were assisting at Communion each week.

In April 2000, the 'Face To Face' interview was with Rachel Fawcett, age 14yrs "one of our recently appointed Servers". In April 2000 there was 1 Baptism and 1 Wedding recorded from the previous month, but no Funerals. The number of Communicants for the previous month was listed as 423, collections were listed as £1576.

Church Traditions – Maundy Thursday; Foot Washing

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter and marks the day in Holy Week that Christians commemorate the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as a sign of his humble service to all mankind.

The story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet is recorded, in John 13:1-17, as having taken place during the Passover supper, before Christ's arrest. During Jesus' time, foot-washing was an expression of hospitality and was done by the 'lowliest' household servants. This, perhaps, explains Peter's disconcertion to Jesus washing his feet - because it was a servant's job. Peter did not want Jesus his 'Master' to wash his feet and would have been concerned about the differential of power.

However, Jesus insisted on washing the feet of all of his disciples to show that nobody is above serving their neighbour.

The washing of feet during Church Services on Maundy Thursday imitates Jesus' act of love for his disciples on the night before he died. It is a ritual that symbolizes the Church's participation in Jesus's mission of love and service to each other and to others in need in our world today.

A Hymn For Maundy Thursday

This is my body, broken for you,
Bringing you wholeness,
Making you free;
Take it and eat it, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.



This is my blood poured out for you,
Bringing forgiveness,
Making you free.
Take it and drink it, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.

Back to my Father soon I shall go.
Do not forget me;
Then you will see.
I am still with you, and you will know
You're very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!
You are my branches;
I am the tree.
If you are faithful, others will know
You are alive in me.

Love one another – I have loved you,
And I have shown you
How to be free;
Serve one another, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.

(Jimmy Owens & Damien Lundy)

Space To Share A Prayer – Maundy Thursday

God, whom we meet in bread and wine,
in body broken and blood outpoured,
fill us with your compassion,
that we may hear the cries of the hungry
and reach out to those in need.

Engender in us a thirst for justice,
that the hungry will be satisfied
and the rich sent empty away.

Roll away our apathy
that, with arms outstretched,
we may offer life in place of death
and hope in the face of despair.

Amen.

(Annabel Shilson -Thomas/CAFOD)

Things To Look Out For In April – Swallows



The swallow is a summer visitor to the UK and one of the latest to leave after breeding. They arrive in April, and most depart by late September, crossing the Sahara Desert to reach their wintering grounds in southern Africa.

Swallows are dark blue with a cream underside. Their characteristic tail has two distinctive streamers when in flight, and they have long blue-black wings which appear curved and slender when perched. They have a dark throat and forehead (more of a rusty-buff colour in juveniles) and a blue-black nape and crown.

Swallows produce two or three clutches of around four eggs per year. They build their cup-like nests on sheltered ledges, beams and joists in sheds and outbuildings. Each nest is constructed from mud interwoven with grasses and may be reused season after season.

Chicks fledge after a few weeks but will continue to be fed by their parents for a while longer.



Bluebells

Bluebells usually flower from late March to early May, but it does vary from year to year. They are one of the last spring flowers to bloom before the woodland canopy closes up and new leaves block out the sunlight. If spring is mild, bluebells respond by flowering earlier.

Bluebells are perennials which means they flower annually. They spend the spring soaking up energy from the sunshine and store the energy in their bulb over winter, waiting to bloom again.

Did you know that here in the UK we have more than half of the world's bluebells, and 14th April is the average date for spotting the first bluebells flowering?

Don't Get Caught Out – Spotting The Scammers

A few people have received emails recently with titles like “A favour” and “Catch up”. The email appears to come from someone we know and may well actually come from their email address. The body of the email has text like “I hope that you are well, kindly let me know if you get this. I want you to do me a favour” or “Sorry to bother, are you available on email for a few minutes? I'm unable to speak over the phone due to serious throat pain caused by laryngitis. Could you please let me know if you get this.”.

If you respond, as you might do thinking this was from the person you know, offering help, their next email asks if you can help get them some vouchers or a gift card for them or a friend as they're having trouble paying for them, and that they will reimburse you, or they directly ask for money to be transferred via some means, such as direct payment to a bank account.

At this point things get sinister as once you pass on the vouchers the money they promised to send never appears, or if you do transfer them some money, they come back saying that they need more for something else. All the while this is not your friend but the scammer. What they have typically done is either managed to get access to your friend's email account and send the original email from that so it looks genuine, but have changed the “Reply to” part of the message to a different email address that looks similar to your friend's, or they have just fabricated the original email address and it is similar enough for you to believe it is from them. When you start to respond, you are communicating directly with the scammer and your friend will be none the wiser.

If you get an email like the above that doesn't seem quite right do the following:

1. DO NOT reply to the email but instead try to contact your friend by a different means – telephone or text message using a number you know is definitely theirs, or in person. If you can't contact them directly, try to make contact via someone

else that is close to them or has their contact details. The person needs to be told about the above and to change the password on their email account immediately to ensure the scammer no longer has access. They should also try to email all their contacts to let them know anything suspicious is not from them and to not reply.

2. If you do reply and start to get further emails asking for vouchers or money, stop responding to them and definitely DO NOT send them anything.
3. If you do have the misfortune to send them anything you may need to involve the police and/or your bank to try and get any money you have sent returned.

For more information please check information on the National Cyber Security Centre website

here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams>. This has information on other sorts of phishing scams like this email one, as well as lots of other useful information on how to protect yourself when online.

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Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

What the Master wants

The Master was searching for a vessel to use –
On the shelf there were many, but which should he choose?

“Take me” cried the gold one, “I’m shiny and bright,
I’m worth such a lot and I do things just right.
My beauty and lustre will outshine the rest,
For someone like you Master, gold would be best.”

The Master passed on, with no word at all
And looked at the silver urn, narrow and tall.
“I’ll serve you, oh Master, I’ll pour out your wine
And be at your table whenever you dine.
My lines are so graceful, my shape is so true,
You need have no worries, I’m here just for you.”

Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass;
‘Twas wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass
“Try me,” cried the vessel, I know I will do,
Place me on your table for people to view.”

“Look at me,” called the goblet of crystal so clear,
“My transparency shows my contents so clear,
Though fragile and precious, I’ll serve you with pride,
I’m sure I’ll be pleased in your house to abide.

The Master came next to a vessel of wood,
Polished and carved it solidly stood.
“Use me, dear Master” the wooden bowl said,
“But I’d rather you used me for fruit, not for bread.”

The Master then looked at a vessel of clay,
Empty and broken, it helplessly lay.
No hope that this vessel the Master might choose
To cleanse and make whole, to fill and to use.

“Ah, this is the vessel I wanted to find,
I’ll mend it and cleanse it – it’s just the right kind.
I don’t need the vessel with pride in itself,
Nor the one that is narrow to sit on the shelf;
Not the one who is wide-mouthed and shallow and loud,

Nor the one who displays its contents so proud;
Nor the one who thinks it does all things just right –
But this plain earthly vessel I'll use day and night."

Then gently he lifted the vessel of clay,
Mended it, cleansed it and filled it that day.
He spoke to it kindly, "There's work you must do,
Just give out to others as I give to you."

Anon

Time For A Smile

Mrs. Gladys Dunn was a pillar of her church. She visited the sick, she greeted newcomers, she served on every committee, and substituted for the organist when necessary.

After services one day, she noticed a stranger leaving the church. She went up to introduce herself. Extending her hand, she said, "I'm Gladys Dunn." The stranger replied, "Me, too! That was the longest sermon I've ever heard!"

Just been to the gym at work because they've got a new machine in. Only used it for half an hour as I started to feel sick. It's great, though. It does everything - KitKats, Mars bars, Snickers, crisps, the lot.



Did you know it costs around £1,300 per week to run & maintain our Church?

That's around £186 per day!!

You can make a donation directly into our Church bank account: Christ Church Ainsworth PCC, Sort Code: 08-92-99
Account number: 65510959

Or by scanning our QR code



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The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

R E S U R R E C T I O N

Easter Quiz

1. When was the first Easter egg created?
2. Which country does Easter Island belong to?
3. What animal delivers Easter eggs on Easter Sunday?
4. What goes on the top of a simnel cake?
5. Judy Garland and Fred Astaire starred in which 1948 springtime film?
6. "It's not Terry's, it's mine," is the advertising slogan for which chocolate treat?
7. Who owns the factory in Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?
8. "How do you eat yours?" was the famous advertising slogan for what?
9. Which egg-shaped chocolate candy treat is banned in the United States?
10. True or false: the people of Mesoamerica used cocoa beans as currency?
11. What type of 'chocolate' contains cocoa butter but not cocoa beans?
12. Finish this famous saying: "don't put all your eggs in one ..."
13. Buying what for Easter is said to bring good luck for the rest of the year?
14. What is the filling of a Cadbury's Creme Egg made of?
15. What flower is considered an Easter symbol?

(Answers on page 39)

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
6 th April 10.30am 5 th Sun In Lent	Mags Gillman	Beryl Sixsmith	Clergy
13 th April 10.30am Palm Sunday	Barbara Clarkson Mags Gillman Barbara Leigh	N/A	MidWeek Praise
15 th April 7pm Holy Week Communion	Churchwardens	Churchwardens	N/A
17 th April 7pm Maundy Thursday Communion	Churchwardens	Churchwardens	N/A
20 th April 10.30am Easter Sunday	Sue Campbell Barbara Clarkson	Revd. Debra	Alison Hartley
27 th April 10.30am 2nd Sun of Easter	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	Peter Holden	Alison Hartley

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
6 th April 5 th Sun of Lent	Beryl Sixsmith	Isaiah 43.16-21 Philippians 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8
13 th April Palm Sunday	MWP	Luke 19.28-40
20 th April Easter Sunday	Lorraine Holden	Isaiah 65.17-25 Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18
27 th April 2 nd Sun of Easter	Peter Holden	Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21 Acts 5.27-32 John 20.19-31

Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
ALM	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
	Chris Haworth	07855 638450
Church Treasurer	David Holden	davelholden@aol.co.uk
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		bookings@ainsworthchurchhall.co.uk
Magazine Editor	Alison Hartley	ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com
Magazine Adverts	Alison Hartley	ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com
Primary School Head	Mrs L McGreavy BA(Hons)	01204 527484

Services

Sunday 8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) 2 nd & 4 th Sunday
10.30am	Family Service, 2 nd Sunday Family & Parade Service
6.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP) 1 st Sunday
Weds 6.30pm	Mid-Week Praise

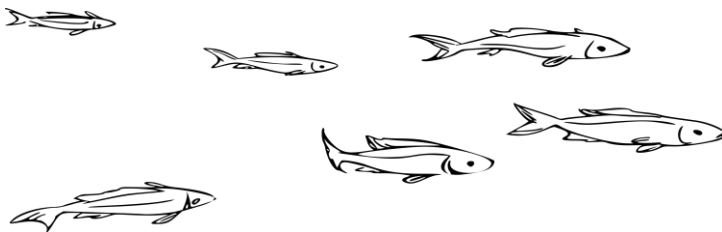
Arrangements for Baptisms, Marriages, Banns of Marriage, and Funerals
Contact 01204-398567.

Answers to Easter Quiz: 1) 1873, 2) Chile, 3) The Easter Bunny, 4) 11 marzipan balls, 5) Easter Parade, 6) Terry's Chocolate Orange, 7) Willie Wonka, 8) Cadbury's Crème Egg, 9) Kinder Surprise, 10) True, 11) White Chocolate, 12) Basket, 13) New Clothes, 14) Fondant, 15) Lily.

Who's Who For Church Organisations

Mothers Union	1 st & 3 rd 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.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Cub Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Scouts' 14 th Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Friday 7.30 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader John Turner	01204 381590
Brownies 16 th Radcliffe	Sarah McAnulty	07955373623
Guides 12 th Radcliffe	Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045





Little Fishes

Jesus Calls The Disciples



Stories Of Jesus

The Bible is a collection of stories that help us to learn about God and God's dealings with people, right from the beginning of the world. The first part of the Bible is called the Old Testament; this part of the Bible was written before Jesus was born.

The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament; this part of the Bible tells us all about the life and death of Jesus, about the things that He did, and about the people that knew Him.

Jesus's Disciples

As we heard last month, John the Baptist had been preaching, and praying, and baptising people in the River Jordan. When the people heard John preach by the riverside, they believed his words and they began to look for the coming of the Messiah, the King from heaven. They believed that when this person came, he would solve all of their problems and get rid of all of their enemies. They believed that the Jews would be the favoured people and that they would be blessed more than any other people.

One day, John the Baptist saw Jesus, walking along the road near the river; He cried out, "Behold the Lamb of God, who bears the sin of the world!"

Two young men from Galilee were with John that day and heard him speak. These young men had been disciples, or learners, of John, and they were very interested in the teachings of God. When they heard what John said about Jesus, and heard John call him the Lamb of God, they turned at once to follow this wonderful person. Perhaps they wanted to know more; perhaps they wondered why John had called him the "Lamb of God"; perhaps they wondered how he could bear the sin of the world.

Jesus knew these young men were following him, so he stopped and called to them; "Come and follow me!"



One of those young men was called Andrew. Andrew recognised at once that Jesus was someone very special and very much worth following! He hurried off at once to fetch his brother, Simon.

Andrew and Simon were both fishermen; each day they would take their boat out on Lake Galilee and let down their fishing nets in the hope of a good catch of fish to sell to the folk who lived in the nearby towns and villages.



The brothers were used to hearing John the Baptist preaching, but when they heard Jesus teaching, they were convinced that He was even greater than John - never had they heard such wonderful words before;

Andrew took Simon to one side, away from the crowd, he said to him, "Come with me, for we have found the Messiah!"

Later that evening, the brothers made their way to the house where Jesus was staying; when Jesus saw the two brothers coming to his lodging-place he looked at Simon and said, "You are Simon, the son of Jona; but you shall be called Peter." Simon wondered how Jesus knew so much about him, but after he listened to Jesus' words, he too believed that the long-looked-for King of the Jews had come. And he followed Jesus with his brother Andrew.

On the next day Jesus began his journey back to his home country in Galilee, and Simon and Andrew went with him. As they went, they met a man named Philip, who lived in the same town; Jesus called Philip to follow him, and Philip obeyed.

As he walked along the road with Jesus and the other followers Philip listened in wonder to the wise sayings of his new-found friend. He had longed for the coming of the Messiah, and now he, too, believed that Jesus was the promised Savior and King.



Philip had a neighbour called Nathaniel; he had often talked with him about the glorious time when the Messiah might appear. Philip hurried off to tell Nathaniel about Jesus.

As Philip came to Nathaniel's house, he shouted out, "Come quickly - we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth."

Nathaniel knew that the Bible said that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, so to begin with and he didn't believe what Philip was saying. He said to Philip, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"



But Philip answered, "Come and see." And with that, he went hurrying away again.

Because Philip was so eager, Nathaniel got up and hurried after him. When they caught up with the others, Jesus saw Nathaniel, and he said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"

Nathaniel was astonished and asked, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig-tree, I saw you."

When he heard Jesus' answer, he was filled with wonder and surprise that Jesus could know what he had been doing and where he had been staying before Philip called him. He believed that only God could see all things, and reveal them to men, so he exclaimed joyfully, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

And so, the first disciples believed and began to follow Jesus and to learn from Him, and as they travelled through the towns and villages, others heard Jesus teaching and they also believed and joined them.





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