

# Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Daffodils, in Christ Church Ainsworth Churchyard  
(Photo courtesy of Jane Holden)

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March 2026

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# Parish Diary March 2026

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer  
 Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.15pm Lent Reflection  
 Weds 4<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Mission Community Lent Service followed by refreshments  
 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 8.00am Celtic Morning Prayer  
 10.30am Church Parade & Family Service  
 Tues 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Coffee & Conversation (*Ainsworth Church & Community Hall*)  
 7.15pm Lent Reflection  
 Weds 11<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

- Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 Tues 17<sup>th</sup> 7.15pm Lent Reflection  
 Weds 18<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 8.00am BCP Communion  
 10.30am Holy Communion  
 Tues 24<sup>th</sup> 7.15pm Lent Reflection  
 Weds 25<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm MidWeek Praise  
 Sat 28<sup>th</sup> 10-12noon Big Spring Clean In Church

## PALM SUNDAY

- Sun 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Palm Sunday Procession (with donkeys!)  
*Joint service with Ainsworth Methodists, meeting at Ainsworth Methodist Chapel for family service at Christ Church (followed by refreshments)*  
 6.30pm BCP Evensong (*followed by drawing of the Lucky Lotto*)  
 Tues 31<sup>st</sup> 7.15pm Holy Week Reflection

APRIL

Weds 1 <sup>st</sup>	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion & stripping of the Altar
Fri 3 <sup>d</sup>	7.00pm	Good Friday Reflection

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	6.15am	Easter Dawn Service in the Churchyard <i>(followed by light breakfast in Church)</i>
	10.30am	Holy Communion

## **Interregnum Update**

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

*Romans 12; 12*

As another year of interregnum has been and gone, Archdeacon Rachel attended our February PCC meeting to discuss the ongoing situation.

On the surface it seems that little has changed since we last had this conversation with our Archdeacon back in 2023 – there is still a shortage of stipendiary clergy; the preferred model for recruitment continues to be ‘multi-church’ appointments ie. members of clergy will be appointed to have oversight of more than 1 Church, although the individual Churches are often held ‘in plurality’ rather than coming together as a ‘United Benefice’; the 0.5 Incumbent post at Christ Church Ainsworth has been advertised on 3 separate occasions now & has yet to attract a single applicant ...

Which could all seem a bit disheartening.

But ... Throughout the Bible and in our own lives, we often come across situations which feel a bit hopeless; times when we can’t see a way forward from the rut that we seem to be in ... and then something unexpected happens which changes things, even though it may not give us an instant solution, it allows us to begin to move forwards again.

St Paul’s letter to the Romans 12; 12 offers us a roadmap for Christian living by anchoring us in future hope, sustaining us through present difficulties, and maintaining a constant connection with God.

Things are changing all the time; in our lives; in the lives of others around us; within the wider Diocese. Who knows what that small change will be that makes a huge difference to our current situation,

or when it might happen. Our job isn't to try to predict, but to continue to look forward with hope & work together, so that when that change comes – whatever it looks like – we are ready.

Alison Hartley – on behalf of Christ Church Ainsworth PCC

## **Editor's Spot ...**

Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is once again crammed full of news, reports, updates & reminders – Lent is always a busy time of year, with additional Services being held, so as always, make sure to check the Parish Dairy & Weekly Pew Sheet for specific details to avoid disappointment!

Alongside our usual reports & articles this month, you'll find an lots of information from our Generosity & Thankfulness Team who have been working hard to bring in some new initiatives & also update the information we currently put out to our wider community; reports from our various family activities; another update from this month's 'MidWeek Praise Reporter'; and details of our APCM which will be held following the 10.30am Service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of April..

Hopefully there will be something for everyone in this month's magazine, so enjoy the read, & if you or your organisation has an event or write up that you would like us to include in a future edition, please get in touch at [ainsworthparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishmagazine@gmail.com)

*Alison*

## **Flower Rota**

No flowers in Church during Lent

## **Just A Thought**

It doesn't matter how slowly you go, as long as you don't stop.

## **Don't forget ...**



The clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

## MidWeek Praise Reporter

On the last Wednesday of the month we have started having a fundraising cake sale as part of us learning to be generous. Each month someone picks what the money will be for then they bring cakes for us to buy.



In January it was raising money for our Church and there was £62-50. The cakes were yummy and I got an extra one to take home with me.

The next week we had a Treasure Hunt when we had to find clues in Church to get the letters and make a bit out of the Bible – it was really good fun and we got all of the letters right.

When we were going home, Debra gave us all a crocheted angel that a lady in a Care Home had made for us all.

From your young MidWeek praise reporter (Year 5)

## CCA Litter Pickers



On a bitterly cold afternoon early in February, 5 intrepid litter pickers and their parents braved the arctic wind to head out on our first CCA litter picking expedition of the year.

The wind was so wild that much of the litter had been blown away, (possibly into the next County!), but we still managed to collect 3 good bags between us, before heading back to Church for a hot drink and chocolate biscuits.

Each month we have a little competition to see who can find the most random or crazy item of rubbish; the good folk of Ainsworth are always losing socks and gloves, but on this occasion we also had a woolly hat and a pink party banner!

A big thank you to everyone for coming out on such a very cold afternoon – our next CCA Litter Picking afternoon will be Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

## CCA Quiz Sheet Quiz League

A huge thank you to everyone who bought a copy of our very first Quiz League Quiz Sheet – there were some really imaginative answers! The list of *actual* answers is below.

This month's winner – the only one with full marks plus both tie breaker points - was Jennifer Pearce.

March quiz sheets are available in Church; don't forget that the scores will accumulate throughout the year feeding into our overall CCA Quiz League Winner at the end of the year.

The total amount raised from the February Quiz was £36-00!

1. Fruit found in the Garden of Eden	Adam's Apple
2. Tall exotic tree with fan shaped leaves	Palm
3. Pirate's receptacle	Chest
4. A building for religious worship	Temple
5. A young bovine	Calf
6. Fish found in Dover perhaps	Sole
7. Rose makes these berries into jelly	Hips
8. Those seeking education / learning	Pupils
9. A type of shipping vessel	Navel
10. Household items heading for landfill	Waist
11. Item of luggage	Trunk
12. An imperial measurement	Foot
13. Weapons	Arms
14. Edible bivalve molluscs	Muscles
15. Recover or mend	Heel
16. Type of spring flower	Iris
17. Crest of a hill	Brow
18. Something to chew on	Gum
19. Edges or rims	Lips
20. Punishes with a whip	Lashes
21. As used by a carpenter	Nails
22. Personal pronoun	Eye
23. Part of a comb	Tooth
24. A small oar used by a single rower	Skull
25. Negative responses	Nose
26. Mammal belonging to the genus Lepus	Hair
27. Playful rudeness	Cheek
28. Used to measure horses	Hands
29. One stage of a journey	Leg
30. Pull a broken vehicle perhaps	Toe

- Tie break a) The bones of the inner ear used to transmit & amplify vibrations from the inner ear to the ear drum  
b) Malleus – hammer; Incus – anvil.

## Prayers & Promises

On Ash Wednesday afternoon a number of families gathered in Church to learn about the season of Lent. We began by finding out about the origins of Lent and what it means for Christians today, before having a game of ‘matching prayers’ – the children were significantly better than the grown ups at remembering which card had which prayer on it – or perhaps there was a tiny bit of cheating going on ...



Craft activities are always popular, and our tasks for the day were to create a ‘Lent Promise Jar’, a ‘Sorry Bin’ (because we all mess up from time to time), and a ‘Blessings Box’ – there were some wonderful designs and some really thoughtful promises going into the jars. A short break for refreshments was followed by a time of family friendly Ash Wednesday worship. Revd Bob explained why ashes are used and then demonstrated how last year’s palm crosses are cut into small pieces, burned and then mixed with Holy Oil to create the ash which is used.

Thank you to everyone who came along to this event & to all who helped with the organising, running & clearing away afterwards – we couldn’t do these things without you.

## Lent At Christ Church Ainsworth

**Lent Services** – A short Lent Reflection Service will be held in Church at 7.15pm each Tuesday throughout Lent, starting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – everyone is welcome to join us for these times of quiet prayer & reflection.

## Our 2026 Lent Challenge

In recent years there’s been a drive to ‘take up something positive or fulfilling’ rather than giving something unwholesome or negative up. Our 2025 Lent activities included ‘40 Days Of Kindness’, where we encouraged the children from our MidWeek Praise Service and also from Christ Church Ainsworth School to keep a Kindness Diary throughout Lent, with the aim of recording at least 1 act of kindness that they had been involved with each day.

This year our Lent Challenge is '1 Small Step'; it's easy to feel overwhelmed when we are asked to take up something new or change the way we do things, sometimes we also wonder if whatever we chose to do (or not do) really makes any difference in the grand scheme of things. But ... if everyone does 1 small thing the overall effect is cumulative, and positive outcomes tend to snowball.

Throughout the 6 weeks of Lent we're inviting you to take 1 small step each week; if you can only keep it up for 1 week that's absolutely fine, but you might find that your 1 small step is something that you want to keep up with, or maybe even encourage others to join you in.

**Week 1** – Is there 1 small step that you could take to save water? Maybe turning the tap off whilst you brush your teeth, perhaps getting someone to fix that leak? Maybe it's time to instal a rain butt to reduce using tap water in your garden throughout the summer months?

**Week 2** – Is there 1 extra item that you could recycle to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill? That could be something extra in your household recycling, or maybe you could consider donating unwanted prescription glasses, hearing aids, foreign coins, used stamps or old keys via our collecting boxes in Church? Please note that we are also now part of a candle recycling scheme; candles, tealights & tapers can all be left in the box marked 'CANDLES' which you'll find in the Church porch.

**Week 3** – If you have something that you no longer use, but is still useable, could you consider donating it to a charity shop rather than binning it? Most Household Waste Recycling Centres (we used to call these 'the tip'!!) now have containers for small electrical items, which are serviced and reused or their parts reused in some way where possible.

**Week 4** – Is there perhaps 1 journey this week that you could consider making on foot or by bus? If you have to go by car, could you give someone else a lift also?

**Week 5** – Is there 1 easy way in which you could save energy this week? Could you make sure you only light the room that you are using? Could you commit to turning all electrical devices off for an hour each day? Could you turn your heating down slightly?

**Week 6** – Is there 1 small thing that you could do this week to help nature? Could you put a birdfeeder or nest box up, or perhaps a bird bath? Could you plant some seeds? Could you designate a small area of your garden to be a wildflower area for the summer months?

These are only a few suggestions; there may be other things that you can commit to doing. Remember, even though it only seems like a little thing; 1 small step makes a difference.

## **Generosity & Thankfulness**

You may recall reading a notice on our Pew Sheet last summer, inviting anyone who was interested / felt called, to consider being part of our newly formed Generosity & Thankfulness group (G&T Group); this group aims to encourage a culture of generosity both within Church & our wider community, and also looks at how we can celebrate the many blessings that we receive.

The G&T group have worked incredibly hard to identify strengths which we can build on and promote, and also areas of need where we could possibly be 'trying harder'.

Generosity isn't just about finance; it's about sharing our time, our talents and our treasure to support and encourage one another; and as a Church, sharing our time, our talents & our treasure to support our worshipping & wider community. Collating the figures and information to feed into our Impact of Giving Report was a really interesting exercise, and identified a wide range of initiatives already in place to support & encourage various sectors of our community – from ABC to Coffee & Conversation; family events to community concerts; baptisms through to funeral ministry – as a Church we already do an awful lot. As part of celebrating what we do & promoting these things beyond our existing congregation, the G&T group have collated a leaflet which they are hoping to mail drop throughout the parish & beyond in the coming weeks – please note this could be a volunteering opportunity for those who are able & willing to be out and about delivering leaflets!

Compiling the Impact of Giving report also allowed us to identify new areas of need & things that we would like to be able to do more of or more with – if we had the time, the expertise or the funds.

Another aspect of the Impact of Giving Report is to clearly identify where our funds come from and how they are being used, to try to ensure that we have the necessary resources available for the mission and ministry that is needed.

The G&T group identified early on that many of our regular attenders are already part of our various volunteering teams, and are accessing

the various different options available to support our Church financially.

What was also apparent was that we offer very limited options to those who are non regular attenders or one off visitors to our Church, particularly those who are more technical and wish to support us but don't carry cash.

And so ...we now have a 'contactless giving device' in Church to allow us to accept donations via card, phone, Applepay etc. We also have a newly created online giving page:

<https://givealittle.co/c/5DnxUeLJmzbxirRWakUOSu>



And a brand new QR code.

Alongside these our parish has recently signed up to The Parish Giving Scheme, which allows those who wish to, to make regular or one off donations via Direct Debit.

Please be aware that no one is being asked to change what they already do in terms of giving – we are really grateful for all of the support that we receive, in whatever form that comes – the new initiatives are simply intended to give different groups of people different options.

You will find more information about all of these ways of supporting the mission & ministry of our Church in our Impact of Giving Report, but if you're unsure or need any help, please don't hesitate to ask any of our Clergy, our Churchwardens, or our Treasurer – contact details for all of these people are listed in the 'Who's Who' directory at the back of the Parish Magazine.

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

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting will be held in Church on Sunday 26<sup>th</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.

## **Church Electoral Roll Review 2026**

In accordance with Church of England regulations, the Church Electoral Roll must be reviewed prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

ALL members of the Parochial Church Council, Sidesmen, and anyone wishing to speak at the APCM or hold any office in Church, must be on the Church Electoral Roll.

The last date for accepting names will be 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026. After this date, no names can be entered or removed from the Roll until after the APCM on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

If you are currently on the Roll, you DO NOT need to complete a form; if you're not sure whether you are, or should be on the Church Electoral Roll, the admission criteria are listed below; if you're still not sure, please check with Jill Ainsworth, our Electoral Roll Officer.

### **Electoral Roll**

The criteria for admission to the Electoral Roll is:

1. Individuals have been baptised.
2. Individuals are a member of the Church of England or of any church in Communion with the Church of England.
3. Individuals are age sixteen or over.
4. Individuals are resident in the parish, or not being in the parish, have attended public worship in the parish during the last six months before the date of application for enrolment, and
5. Have signed a form of application for enrolment.

Forms are available in church and should be returned by Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### **The Big Spring Clean – Save The Date!**

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 10 – 12 noon, we'll be having a 'Big Spring Clean' in Church in preparation for our Easter Services and celebrations the following week. We'll be cleaning, wiping and dusting in all of those tricky & hard to reach areas that simply can't be done on a regular basis, plus giving everything a good tidy up and sort out.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this event, simply come along on the day and our regular Pew Polishing Team will tell us what needs to be done.

Refreshments will also be available; no need to book – just turn up!

## Reflecting On The Seasons – Lent

*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*

*<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. Mark 1; 9-13*

Lent is a time for reflection, a time for us to commemorate the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and overcoming temptation by the devil. When we think about the wilderness, we maybe picture a desert like environment – burning heat by day, freezing cold by night; nothing and no one to reach out to or connect with. Why on earth would Jesus choose to spend time in such a place?

And yet, the wilderness is not presented as a hopeless place in the Bible. God used the wilderness to speak with His people on many separate occasions; God spoke to Abraham while he was in the wilderness. God brought the Israelites into the wilderness, because He wanted to speak to them at Mount Sinai. God met with Elijah in the wilderness. God spoke to John the Baptist in the wilderness, in fact John the Baptist spent most of his life in these tough conditions, becoming known as the Voice Calling in the Wilderness.

Each of these stories is filled with miracles. These wilderness seasons were not wasted; God used these difficult times for something meaningful and powerful. In the wilderness God was present and made Himself known.

Jesus didn't wander into the wilderness by accident; the Holy Spirit sent him there so that God could have a conversation with Him. What better place to have an important conversation than somewhere where there are no distractions.

We all have times in our lives that feel like the wilderness; our hearts and minds feel weary, maybe we feel burnt out, lonely, abandoned, unappreciated, unloved. Maybe we feel as though our prayers aren't being answered or that God has forsaken us. At these times it's important to remember that the wilderness is in fact a place of encounter; as Christians, we are never alone; the Bible suggests that the wilderness is somewhere that God calls us to for a purpose; to

draw us closer to Him, to reveal Himself to us in new ways; to remind us that God will never leave us or forsake us.

*Heavenly Father, when we find ourselves in a season of wilderness, quieten our hearts that we might hear Your voice; shine Your light upon our path that we may see the way you want us to travel; help us to remember that the wilderness is a place of encounter and of healing; help us to trust in your plan for us and to use this wilderness to grow stronger in faith and nearer to you - Amen*

## **Christ Church Ainsworth Book Of Remembrance**

If you have lost a family member or loved one and would like their name to be recorded in our Book of Remembrance, please speak to a member of our Clergy or one of the Churchwardens, or email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com) . This option is available for those who have been a part of our local or worshipping community, or those whose funeral has been held in Church.



Please note there is a charge of £5-00 per entry for this service.

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

The February Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, with the lucky winner walking away with £17-00!

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.

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!!*

## Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a UK government scheme that allows charities to reclaim the tax already paid on donations from UK taxpayers.

### **Did you know your donation could be worth 25% more at no extra cost?**

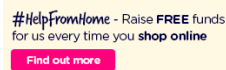
If you're a UK taxpayer, completing a Gift Aid form allows the Church to reclaim the basic rate of tax on your donation. For every £1 you give, the Church receives £1.25.

Gift Aid significantly boosts the funds available to many charities and organisations, including our Church; in the 2024/25 tax year, Christ Church Ainsworth claimed an additional £6,786.20 through Gift Aid - more than the total annual cost of gas, electricity, and water used by the Church and equating to 15% of the total annual expenditure!

Thank you to everyone who currently supports our Church by Gift Aiding. If you are a UK taxpayer and don't already Gift Aid donations, please complete a Gift Aid form and return it to Church or post it through the door of the Vicarage. You can find out more about Gift Aid and download an application form by clicking the link below:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=gift+aid+declaration+form+pdf&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-gb&client=safari>

## Easyfundraising



A big thank you to our amazing supporters who raise free funds for us on #easyfundraising. If you're not signed up yet, why not join today! You can raise free donations for Ainsworth Parish Church - Bolton every time you shop online. All the big names like John Lewis & Partners, Expedia, Argos, Just Eat and many more are ready to make a free donation at no extra cost to you.

We currently have 29 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 £939-57; with more supporters, could you help us to get this total to £1,000 by the end of 2026?

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/ainsworthpc/ivcmuo/c2s/ZdU7Z020/CE955/facebook/>

## **Mission Community News**

**Exploring Unconscious Bias - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.15 for 7.30pm @ Christ Church Walshaw. BL8 3SF**

Join us for an evening with Diane Gray-Stephenson (Diocesan Racial Justice Lead), as we unpack unconscious bias, the impact it can have & how we might be more inclusive. Everyone welcome, no need to book – just turn up.

### **‘Bee Joyful’**

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community invites you to “Bee Joyful”, an evening of worship to nourish, refresh & celebrate all that is joyful in our Churches & wider communities. This will be a ‘Songs of Praise’ style Service, led by Revd Phil Cansdale, Director of Mission & Ministry, and with traditional hymns and organ accompaniment.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm at Christ Church Ainsworth



Everyone welcome.



## **News From The Diocese – The Lord’s Prayer Tour; Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7.15pm, Manchester Cathedral**

A special evening of prayer and reflection at Manchester Cathedral on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, led by the Archbishop of York.

This inspiring gathering will focus on the Lord’s Prayer, bringing together people from across the diocese to explore its meaning in our lives today.

Whether you’re part of a church, school, or chaplaincy, or are simply curious to learn more, this evening is for everyone.

Doors open for refreshments at 6:45pm and the event starts at 7:15pm.

For more information or to book tickets visit

[Lord’s Prayer Evening with Archbishop of York Tickets, Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 6:45 PM | Eventbrite](#)

## 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.*



# SILLETTS


Established 1875

Spring Lane  
Radcliffe  
Manchester M26 2TQ  
Telephone: 0161 723 2383

Herbert Street  
Little Lever  
Bolton BL3 1LU  
Telephone: 01204 861 300

email: [silletts@sillettsfuneralservice.co.uk](mailto:silletts@sillettsfuneralservice.co.uk)

[www.sillettsfunerals.co.uk](http://www.sillettsfunerals.co.uk)

 @sillettsfuneralservice

*Ask us about.....Funeral Plans*

# KENNEDY memorials

Memorials of Distinction

Cemetery Road, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 4EU

Tel: 0161 723 3427

Email: kennedymemorials@aol.com

Website: kennedymemorials.com

*Quality Memorials and Renovations*

(Established over 56 years)

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# STATION GARAGE

## 01706 822364

MOT Testing - Servicing - Repairs  
Diagnostics - Exhausts - Batteries



Railway Street Ramsbottom BL0 9AL  
[www.stationgarageramsbottom.co.uk](http://www.stationgarageramsbottom.co.uk)





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



*Thank you for your support!*

**REACH**

Retreat

Book an **accessible, family & dog friendly break** in Carnforth!

**Book now!**

- 5 star rated by our guests
- free access to pool, gym & sauna
- sleeps 7, family friendly
- wheelchair accessible with wet rooms, profiling bed, mobile hoist & more
- pets stay free



Scan or follow link for more details, to share & to book:  
[tinyurl.com/REACHRetreatP](https://tinyurl.com/REACHRetreatP)

**Persona**

## Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Prayer Diary



March 2026

1 <sup>st</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints Stand.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	We pray for those who will be leading & attending the Lent courses at St. Thomas & St. John this evening & tomorrow afternoon, that they might find inspiration & guidance.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	We pray for those who will be attending the Anna Chaplaincy drop-in at St. Andrew's, Hillock this afternoon; giving thanks also for the work that this team do & praying for those they support.
4 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for those who will join together for the Lent Service being held at Christ Church Ainsworth this afternoon; praying that those present will be nurtured & uplifted by the Holy Spirit.
5 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for members of All Saints, Stand PCC who will be meeting with Archdeacon Rachel today to plan for the future. We pray also for those who will be attending our 'Exploring Unconscious Bias' session this evening, that this may help individuals & Church communities to recognise prejudices & become more inclusive.
6 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
7 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for & pray for all Clergy members within our Mission Community.
8 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for 'The Wedding Team' at All Saints, Stand, & for all of the couples who are preparing for weddings there this year.
9 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for those who will be leading & attending the Lent course at St. Andrew's, Hillock each Monday evening throughout Lent, that they might find inspiration & guidance.
10 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for those who will be representing their Churches at the Prayer & Spirituality Group meeting this evening; praying that others would feel called to be part of this group.
11 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for those who will be part of the Bible study group at St. Andrew's, Hillock today, that they may grow in understanding & in faith.
12 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
13 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for & pray for our Church Officers, Lay Leaders & Volunteers.
14 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for the Radcliffe Team, their volunteers & helpers, and give thanks for all that they do.
15 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for all who will be leading or attending Mothering Sunday Services today; praying also for those who find this a difficult or upsetting time of year.
16 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
17 <sup>th</sup>	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.
18 <sup>th</sup>	On Global Recycling Day, we pray that the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet, will be recognised & celebrated..
19 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
20 <sup>th</sup>	On National Red Nose Day, we give thanks for all who will be raising funds for good causes. Praying also for those who will benefit from this generosity.
21 <sup>st</sup>	On National Single Parent Day, we pray for all those who are raising children on their own.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	We give thanks for 200 years of faith and worship at All Saints, Stand and ask for God's blessing for the celebratory events taking place throughout the year, and on those involved in organising them. We pray that the year may be a time for building closer relationships with the local community.
24 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for those who will join together for Jesus Prayer on Zoom this evening; praying also that others might feel called to be part of this time of prayer.
25 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
26 <sup>th</sup>	We give thanks for all who are involved with funeral ministry, praying also for the families they serve
27 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for all who will be part of the Spring Community Day at St. Andrew's, Hillock tomorrow.
28 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for & give thanks for all who will be taking part in the Big Spring Clean at Christ Church Ainsworth today. Giving thanks also for our regular team of 'Pew Polishers' & for all that they do.
29 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for all who will be leading or attending Palm Sunday Services today; praying especially that the donkeys at Christ Church Ainsworth will be on their best behaviour!
30 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.
31 <sup>st</sup>	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Mary, Radcliffe.

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



**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](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)
- All proceeds to Church funds

The next Lucky Lotto draw will take place following Evensong on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

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



# *Coffee and Conversation*

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.30 – 12 noon**

**Ainsworth Church and Community Hall**

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





## CHRIST CHURCH AINSWORTH



### !!QUIZ SHEET QUIZ LEAGUE!!

- Each month we'll be producing a fun quiz sheet; sheets are only £1 each. You can pick up a sheet next time you're in Church.
- Make sure you place your completed quiz sheet in the box at the back of Church no later than the last Sunday of the month.
- There will be a prize each month for the winner, but also a league table so that you can accumulate points throughout the year, with a prize for the overall Quiz Sheet Quiz League winner.
- You can also enter by BACS payment or standing order & we'll email a quiz sheet out to you each month; for further details email [ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com)
- All proceeds to Church funds.

????????????????????



# CCA Litter Pickers



First Thursday of the month  
3.15 - 4pm

Meet outside school, finish  
at Church for a drink & a  
biscuit.

Equipment provided.

Children must be accompanied  
by a responsible adult.

Next date Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March





## **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**



## *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*

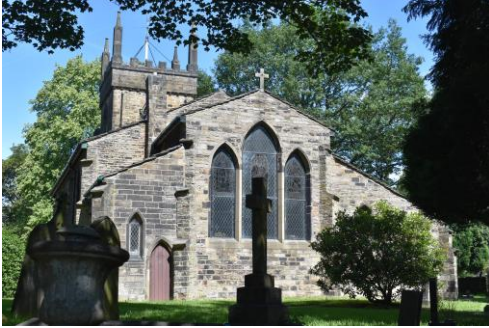
*"As the shadows begin to lengthen, be guided by the  
light that shines within you."*



# 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.**



## **Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community**

*Are working with 'The Recycled Wax Company' to keep candles out of landfill.*

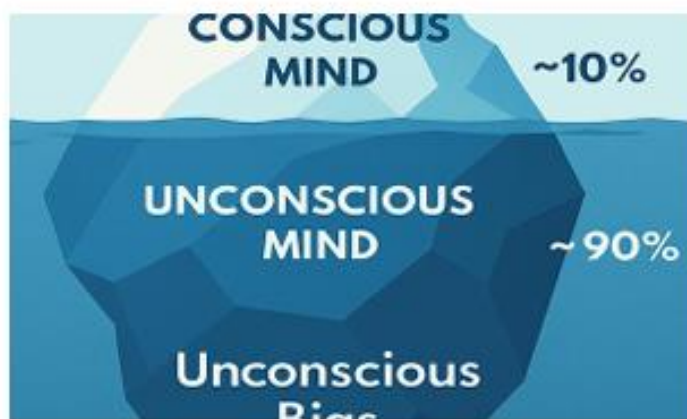
### **We can take:**

- 🕯 Church candles
- 🕯 Tea lights
- 🕯 Tapers
- 🕯 Domestic / scented candles (including those in glass jars)
- 🕯 Wax melts

Simply bring your unwanted candles & melts to Church & we'll do the rest.



*Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community*  
*Exploring Unconscious Bias*



Join us for an evening with Diane Gray-Stephenson (Racial Justice Lead) as we unpack unconscious bias, the impact it can have & how we might be more inclusive.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7.15 for 7.30pm**  
**Christ Church Walshaw, BL8 3SF**

Everyone welcome; for more info contact  
Alison on 07952-709041






**Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community**

Invites you to

## **“Bee Joyful”**



*Songs of Praise style worship, celebrating all  
that we have to be joyful for in our individual  
Churches & wider Mission Community*

-  *Hymns, worship & prayer*
-  *Keynote speaker Revd Phil Cansdale,  
Director of Mission & Ministry*
-  *Refreshments available*

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

**7.30pm**

**Christ Church Ainsworth. BL2 5RU**



## **Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements**

### **Coffee & Conversation**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

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

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

Everyone welcome.

### **Ainsworth Mothers’ Union**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Worship & Prayer**

**2.30pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall**

Everyone welcome

### **Exploring Unconscious Bias**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.15 for 7.30pm**

**Christ Church Walshaw**

An evening with Diane Gray- Stephenson, Diocesan Racial Justice Lead, exploring unconscious bias, the impact it can have & how we can be more inclusive. Everyone welcome; no need to book, just turn up.

### **‘Bee Joyful’**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm**

**Christ Church Ainsworth**

Please join us for Songs of Praise style worship, celebrating all that we have to be joyful for in our individual Churches & wider Mission Community.

### **Lent Reflections**

**Start on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, then each Tuesday throughout Lent**

**7.15pm, Christ Church Ainsworth**

A short reflective Service which is open to all.

### **!! The Big Spring Clean!!**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10 – 12noon, Christ Church Ainsworth**

Why not come along & join us as we dust, sweep, polish & tidy all those hard to reach parts of our lovely Church building, in readiness for our Easter celebrations – everyone welcome, refreshments available.

### **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=QUdYYiN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFOz09>

## Around The Organisations ...



### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News.

2026 is a landmark year for Mothers' Union as we celebrate 150 years of faith in action, with the year being marked with a series of special events, fundraising and engagement opportunities.

At the heart of this milestone year is Kathleen Snow, Worldwide President of Mothers' Union. She is partaking in a Global 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge: fifteen 10 kilometre runs in various dioceses around the world to raise funds and spotlight MU's worldwide fellowship.

Kathleen has already completed two runs, an early-year winter 10k in her own hometown of Fredericton, Canada, and in early February in Bahrain during the Diocesan Synod of Cyprus and the Gulf.

Over the coming months, Kathleen will continue the challenge with planned runs in dioceses across the UK, North America, Africa, and beyond; from London and Wales to San Diego, Durban, and Tanzania, making this a truly global expression of shared commitment and celebration. If you wish to support Kathleen in her challenge throughout the year, you can donate here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/kathleen-snow-1>

Our Zonal Trustee, Deb Lee, who will be cycling to London from York in June with our Provincial Prayer Capsule, is going to cycle from St.Bee's, Carlisle, to our service in Manchester Cathedral on March 14<sup>th</sup> as a trial run. She will be visiting Bury on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, probably around lunchtime, and will be welcomed at the Emmanuel Church Centre at Canon Lewis Hall. More details about lunch and timings will be available nearer the date.

The following day, Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 2.30pm in Manchester Cathedral, Mothers' Union, Province of York invites you to join us as we celebrate **150 years of Mothers' Union**, our international movement of around 4 million members in 84 countries founded by Mary Elizabeth Sumner (née Heywood) born in Swinton, Manchester.

### Branch Activities:

To complete a busy weekend, Mothering Sunday is March 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be taking part in the 10.30am service and several members will receive long service certificates. Some a lot longer than others!

Looking back now, The Branch AGM followed by an All Members Meeting (AMM) took place in early February. The branch committee report was presented, also the accounts which were found to be in order. The annual subscription will remain the same, despite a £3.00 rise from the Diocese and the Central Office. At the AMM we discussed the programme for the next few months, and our Prayer Partners were allocated.

Our two branch meetings this month are on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.30pm when we'll be having a Time of Worship and reflection, with some meditation. This was used at Candlelight prayers in January and was a wonderful experience.

Details of our 'Away Time' will be available nearer the date of March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, The Worldwide Board of Mothers' Union announces that Bev Jullien, Chief Executive, will retire from her role following the movement's 150th anniversary celebrations in London in June.

Bev has served Mothers' Union for over ten years with dedication and faith, leading the movement through a period of significant challenge and transition. She has worked closely with members, volunteers, staff and partners to strengthen the movement's global impact in support of women, families and communities.

Under her leadership, Mothers' Union is in a strong and sustainable position, supported by a skilled central charity staff team with a clear strategic direction.

We join with the Board in wishing to express our sincere gratitude for Bev's faithful service and leadership.

Jennifer White

## **12<sup>th</sup> Radcliffe Guides**

It has been quite busy since Christmas; as we celebrated Rabbit's big birthday (Rosie); welcomed 2 new Guides, Annabelle and Paige, and 3 new young leaders, Amelia, Grace and Poppy. We also enrolled Amarah and Sofia; awarded the Athlete and Personal Best interest badges to Rubi and presented Erin with the Express myself theme award and Guide Bronze award. Well done!

We started a new skills builder, focusing on living well, by looking at the nutrients in food, planning a healthy meal, encouraging everyone

to be active and considering relaxation techniques (of which the blowing bubbles was by far the most popular!).



In other activities, we used splatter techniques to make a piece of abstract art; had a penguin themed evening where we played games, had to waddle like penguins and sang the penguin song (with actions!); celebrated the Chinese New Year of the horse with a piece of diamond art and made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We also played quite a variety of games - and even got the parachute out!

At the February Church Parade, which was recognising the centenary of Girlguiding Thinking Day, Grace carried the Union flag with Esmi and Rubi escorting and Lucy carried the Guide flag with Amarah and Keeley escorting. Keeley, Rubi, Lucy and Grace read the prayers.

And for this special Thinking Day, we held a virtual sleepover, where the Guides built a den at home; used Zoom to meet online on the Saturday evening (where we sang campfire songs and renewed our promise); then they slept in their den overnight, waking up on Thinking Day itself. There were also other activities for them to try out over the weekend – making a paper lantern for a battery tea light, a virtual campfire, paper birds, a birdfeeder, a mug cake; as well being active

with Zumba and stretches. And there were badges both for Thinking Day and for the sleepover – so more to sew onto their camp blankets!

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

## **From the Archives – March 2001**

The sketch on the inside cover of the March 2001 magazine depicted 'The Woman At The Well' with Jesus seen holding out a bowl to request the Samaritan woman to draw water for him.

Alongside the usual Services, the Parish Diary for this month included details of a series of Lent Devotional Services to be held in Church, and also a special Mothering Sunday Service which would be 'family orientated'.

The Parish News included the news that 13 candidates had been Confirmed the previous month at a Service lead by The Right Revd David Gillet, Bishop of Bolton; it also brought a request for additional Churchyard Team helpers, the news that Barbara Leigh had taken on the role of Treasurer for the Church Hall Committee & Mike Watson had taken on the role of Chairman, and a reminder the Easter Vestry Meeting was fast approaching.

In other news, Jean Eddleston had resigned from the role of Mothers' Union Treasurer to allow her to take on the role of Deanery Treasurer for the organisation; 4 new Mothers' Union members were to be enrolled in church on Mothering Sunday; 16<sup>th</sup> Brownies were planning to hold a Coffee Morning; Scouts had raised £500-00 for their funds by selling raffle tickets; and Alison Anstee had been awarded her 20 Years Long Service Award for services to Guiding.

In March 2001, there were 2 Baptisms recorded from the previous month, but no weddings or funerals. Communicants for the previous month were listed as 305; with collections listed as £1381.

## **Space To Share A Prayer - Lent**

In this busy world that we inhabit,  
grant us space to rest awhile  
by the still waters of your peace,  
to hear the whisper of your voice  
and feel the warmth of your breeze within our souls.  
Grant us space to rest awhile. Amen

## Everything You Need To Know About - March

...



**March 1<sup>st</sup> 1904** - American band leader Glenn Miller (1904-1944) was born in Carilinda, Iowa

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1943** - The Battle of Bismarck Sea began in The Pacific.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1847** - Telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**March 4<sup>th</sup> 1681** - King Charles II of England granted a huge tract of land in the New World to William Penn to settle an outstanding debt. The area later became Pennsylvania

**March 5<sup>th</sup> 1946** – The ‘Iron Curtain’ speech was delivered by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Churchill used the term to describe the boundary in Europe between free countries of the West and nations of Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia's control.

**March 6<sup>th</sup> 1475** – The birth of Michelangelo (1475-1564) in Caprese, Italy. Painter, sculptor, architect, poet and visionary best known for his fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

**March 7<sup>th</sup> 1876** - The Scottish-born inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, patented the telephone.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> 1702** – Anne Stuart became Queen of England, Scotland, and Ireland at age 37 after William III died in a riding accident, having been thrown from his horse.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> 1074** - Pope Gregory VII excommunicated all married priests.

**March 10<sup>th</sup> 1886** - Cruft's Dog Show was held in London for the first time; it had previously been held in Newcastle.

**March 11<sup>th</sup> 1858** – The Indian Mutiny ended after 10 months of hostilities.

**March 12<sup>th</sup> 1999** – Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic became full members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

**March 13<sup>th</sup> 1943** – German army officers' plot to kill Adolf Hitler failed after the bomb aboard his plane didn't explode due to a defective detonator. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> assassination attempt in a week.

**March 14<sup>th</sup> 1879** – Albert Einstein – acknowledged as one of the greatest physicists of all time – was born in Ulm, Germany.

**March 15<sup>th</sup> 44BC** - Julius Caesar, a dictator of the Roman Republic, was stabbed to death by a group of Roman senators at a senate meeting

**March 16<sup>th</sup> 1872** - The Wanderers beat the Royal Engineers 1–0 in the first English FA Cup Final, at Kennington Oval.

**March 17<sup>th</sup> 1766** – Parliament in London votes to repeal the controversial Stamp Act in an attempt to stifle rebellion in the American colonies

**March 18<sup>th</sup> 978** - Edward, King of England is murdered at Corfe Castle.

**March 19<sup>th</sup> 1834** - Six farm labourers from Tolpuddle, Dorset, were sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia for forming a trade union.

**March 20<sup>th</sup> 1653** – Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, dissolves the Long Parliament.

**March 21<sup>st</sup> 1556** - England's first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, was burnt at the stake as a heretic under Catholic Queen Mary I

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1884** - The British Parliament voted to purchase a number of paintings for £57,000 to establish a national collection of art. This marked the founding of the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, London.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1956** – Queen Elizabeth II laid the foundation stone of a new cathedral being built in Coventry.

**March 24<sup>th</sup> 1603** - The crowns of England and Scotland were united when King James VI of Scotland succeeded the English throne, following the death of Queen Elizabeth I.

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 1807** – William Wilberforce's bill to end Britain's role in slave trading was given Royal Assent after many years of campaigning.

**March 26<sup>th</sup> 1902** - British imperialist, Cecil John Rhodes, died in Cape Town aged 48.

**March 27<sup>th</sup> 1871** - The first international rugby match was held at Raeburn Place in Edinburgh as Scotland took on England in front of a crowd of 4,000.

**March 28<sup>th</sup> 1912**- both the Oxford & and the Cambridge boats sank in the annual Varsity boat race.

**March 29<sup>th</sup> 1461** - Over 28,000 people are said to have been killed in the bloody Battle of Towton, N Yorkshire; the Lancastrians under Henry VI were crushed.

**March 30<sup>th</sup> 1853** - On this day, Vincent Van Gogh was born in Groot Zundert, Holland.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> 1855** – Death of Charlotte Brontë, one of the most famous Victorian authors and a talented poet.

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Ice Cream Parlour

Arthur Lane Nurseries,  
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**10:30 - 3:00pm**

*Last orders for hot food at 2:30pm*

Serving Rijo coffee, a selection of freshly baked cakes and Frederick's ice cream.

Our food menu includes English Breakfasts, paninis, toasties & jacket potatoes, as well as sandwiches, plated salads and plenty of light bites.

Also serving seasonal specials.  
Pop in to see what's new!

 @thegardenshed.arthurlane



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## Simple & Delicious!



### Choc Chip Shortbread

You will need:

- 300g plain flour
- 100g Caster Sugar
- 200g Butter cut into small pieces
- 50g Chocolate Chips

Here's what to do:

- 1 – Place the flour & sugar in a food processor to combine
- 2 – Add the butter & process until the mixture starts to form a dough
- 3 – Remove from the food processor & knead gently on a floured surface until it fully comes together.
- 4 – Roll the dough out to required thickness then sprinkle choc chips over the surface, pressing down gently by hand.
- 5 – Cut into rectangles then arrange on a floured baking sheet.
- 6 – Bake at 160c for approx 20 mins, or until golden & crisp.
- 7 – Once cool, store in an airtight container – enjoy!.

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

### Springtime

Sweet bird song in the mornings,  
Noisy chattering of Jays,  
The Blackbird's call that heralds  
Lighter nights and longer days.

A shaft of sunlight reaching out  
To melt the ice and snow,  
And bring to life the seeds and bulbs  
Tucked in their beds below.

Flame streaked sky of evening,  
As the sun sinks, deepest red,  
And the cold, bleak winter yields once more,  
To softer days ahead. (Anon)

## The Parish Puzzler

### Books Of The Old Testament Anagrams

Can you unscramble the following letters to discover 20 books from the Old Testament?

1. T E I I S V L C U
2. G S D J E U
3. U H S O J A
4. M S P L A S
5. H A C I M
6. S K N I G
7. L E C R O H I N S C
8. K E Z I L E E
9. K K K U B A H A
10. H A A I I S
11. T I L M O N A E A S T N
12. L E N I D A
13. H I C A L M A
14. H I R Z A H E C A
15. B O J
16. S N G E E I S
17. A N H H Z P E I A
18. G S N S O
19. L A M E S U
20. I A G H A G

(Answers on Pg 44)

## Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
1 <sup>st</sup> March 10.30am	Barbara Leigh Susan Campbell	Jan Burrow	N/A
8 <sup>th</sup> March Church Parade	Barbara Clarkson Scouting Section	N/A	Scouting Sections
15 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Barbara Clarkson	Andrew Lowe
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 10.30am	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	David Holden	David Holden
29 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am Palm Sunday	Mags Gillman	N/A	Children

## Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun In Lent (Purple) <i>BM</i>	Gwen White	1 Thessalonians 5; 1-19 <b>Matthew 11; 25-30</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun In Lent (Purple) <i>BM</i>	Scouting Sections	Church Parade
15 <sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday (Purple) <i>BM</i>	Enid Horrocks	Exodus 2.1-10 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 <b>Luke 2.33-35</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday In Lent (Purple) <i>MP</i>	David Holden	Ezekiel 37.1-14 Romans 8.6-11 <b>John 11.1-45</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday (Purple) <i>MWP</i>	Children	All Age 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
Associate Priest	Revd Bob May	
ALM	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
	Chris Haworth	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	Alison Hartley	<a href="mailto:ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com">ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com</a>
Primary School Head	Mrs L McGreavy BA(Hons)	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 6.30pm	Mid-Week Praise

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

Answers to books of the Old Testament quiz: 1) Leviticus, 2) Judges, 3) Joshua, 4) Psalms, 5) Micah, 6) Kings, 7) Chronicles, 8) Ezekiel, 9) Habakkuk, 10) Isaiah, 11) Lamentations, 12) Daniel, 13) Malachi, 14) Zechariah, 15) Job, 16) Genesis, 17) Zephaniah, 18) Songs, 19) Samuel, 20) Haggai

## 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	<a href="mailto:Group.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk">Group.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk</a>	07742 610281
Beaver Scouts	<a href="mailto:Beavers.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk">Beavers.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk</a> Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Cub Scouts	<a href="mailto:Cubs.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk">Cubs.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk</a> Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Scouts' 14 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Fridays 8 - 9.30pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White <a href="mailto:Scouts.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk">Scouts.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk</a>	07742 610281
Explorers	Friday 8 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White <a href="mailto:Group.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk">Group.Ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk</a>	07742 610281
Brownies 16 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Sarah McAnulty	07955 373623
Guides 12 <sup>th</sup> Radcliffe	Captain Polly Ryder	07437 519045

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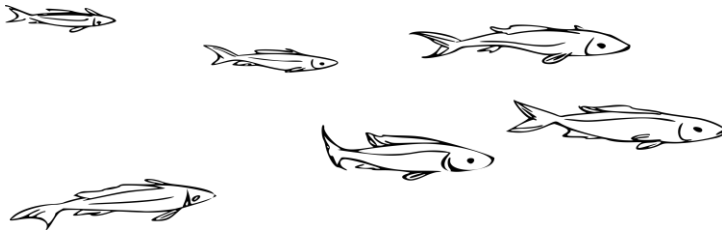


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# Little Fishes

Lent



# Lent

Last month's Little Fishes was all about Candlemas, which we celebrated on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of February this year. This month, as we carry on from February into March and start to think about Springtime, it's also time to think about Lent.

## So What Is Lent?

Lent is the period of time in the Church calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and finishes at Easter; Lent lasts for a whole 40 days! To help us to understand what Lent means to Christians today, we need to think about what happened when Jesus was alive.

## The Story Of Lent

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, and following his baptism, he was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then led Jesus into the wilderness, where He spent 40 days and nights fasting and praying. The wilderness was a like a huge desert, it was so dry and uninviting that nobody could live there - it was scorching hot through the day and freezing cold at night; there was practically no food or water, in fact the only things that did live there would have been wild animals and scorpions - not a great place to be!



Whilst Jesus was in the wilderness, the devil approached him and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, why don't you command these stones to become loaves of bread?"



But Jesus turned away and said in reply, "It is written: man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."



The devil was determined not to be beaten. Taking Jesus to the holy city, he made him stand on the very highest part of the temple and said to him, "If you really are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you lest you dash your foot against a stone."



But once again Jesus turned away and answered him, "It is written, you shall not put the Lord, your God to the test."



Finally, the devil took Jesus up a very high mountain and looking down, he showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and he said to him, "All of these I shall give to you if you will worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Get away Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

Then the devil knew that he could never win and so he left.

## So How Do We Observe Lent Today?

For Christians today, Lent is a time to be quiet and thoughtful. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday - this year that was the 18th of February - when many churches hold an Ash Wednesday service which includes the vicar or priest drawing a cross with ashes on people's foreheads. The ashes remind us of Jesus and all that he gave up for us.



Lent lasts for forty days because that's how long Jesus wandered in the wilderness, fasting, while he resisted Satan's temptations. Many Christians give something up throughout Lent, a sign that they too can resist temptations, and use this time to become closer to God. Lent isn't simply a countdown to Easter, it's a chance to set aside distractions and focus on our relationship with God.

## Holy Week

The last week before Easter is an extra specially important part of Lent. First of all we celebrate Palm Sunday (29<sup>th</sup> March this year); Palm Sunday marks Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when all the crowds were cheering and throwing palm leaves onto the roads ahead of him. Many churches hold Palm Sunday parades to celebrate this.



On Maundy Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup> April this year) we remember that this was the night before Jesus died, and that he chose to spend this final evening having one Last Supper with his disciples.

Good Friday is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April this year; Good Friday is a sad day for Christians, as this was the day when Jesus was crucified and died, but it is also really important to remember that Jesus died because he loved each and every one of us.



### Lent Idea - Blessings Jar

Take an empty jam jar or similar and give it a good wash out. Once it's properly dry you could decorate it with ribbons, glitter or even just paint or felt tip. Next make a label to stick on the jar, write BLESSINGS on the label then stick it on the front of the jar.

Put the jar somewhere where everybody in the family can reach it at any time - the kitchen table could be a good place.

Ask a grown up to help you to cut up some bits of paper and put them by the jar with some pens or pencils. When something good happens, write it on a slip of paper and put it in the jar.

Every couple of days, open the jar when you are all together, read out the slips and say 'Thankyou' to God for His blessings.





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