

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Forget Me Nots In Bloom
(Photo courtesy of Jane Holden)

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April 2026

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In This Issue ...

- Front cover ... Photo courtesy of Jane Holden
Page 3 In This Issue
Page 4 Parish Diary May 2026
Page 5 Interregnum Update
Page 6 Editor's Spot, From The Registers, Flower Rota, APCM
Page 7 ... What Is A PCC?
Page 8 MidWeek Praise Reporter
Page 9 CCA Litter Pickers, CCA Quiz Sheet Quiz League
Page 10 ... Bee Joyful
Page 11 ... Pentecost Sunday Celebration, Living Flame, Eden Singers' Summer Concert, Spring Fair
Page 12 ... Christian Aid Week
Page 13 ... Reflecting On The Seasons – Ascension
Page 14 ... Pentecost Reflection
Page 15 ... Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Kingdom Come Zoom Prayers
Page 16 ... Easyfundraising, Christ Church Ainsworth Lucky Lotto
Page 17 ... Mission Community News – Prayer Journey
Page 21 ... Mission Community Prayer Diary
Page 22 ... Christ Church Ainsworth '50/50 Lucky Lotto'
Page 23 ... Coffee And Conversation
Page 24 ... Eden Singers Summer Concert
Page 25 ... CCA Litter Pickers
Page 26 ... Church Spring Fair
Page 27 ... Pentecost Celebration
Page 28 ... Living Flame
Page 29 ... Candlelight Prayer
Page 30 ... Christian Aid Fundraising Quiz Night
Page 31 ... Mission Community Prayer Journey
Page 32 ... Thy Kingdom Come Zoom Prayers
Page 33 ... Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements
Page 34 ... Around The Organisations, Mothers' Union
Page 35 ... From The Archives
Page 36 ... Everything You Need To Know About May ...
Page 37 ... Space To Share A Prayer
Page 40 ... Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)
Page 41 ... The Parish Puzzler
Page 42 ... Rotas
Page 43 ... Who's Who Page
Page 44 ... Who's Who Church Organisations
Page 45 - 47 ... Little Fishes

Parish Diary May 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sun 3 rd	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Weds 6 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sun 10 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Church Parade & Family Service
Tues 12 th	10.30am	Coffee & Conversation (<i>Ainsworth Church & Community Hall</i>)
Weds 13 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

ASCENSION DAY

Thurs 14 th	10.00am	Mission Community Prayer Journey (<i>begins at Christ Church Walshaw</i>)
	11.00am	Mission Community Prayers at Ainsworth
	1.15pm	Holy Communion (St. Thomas & St. John)
Sat 16 th	11-2pm	Church Spring Fair (<i>Ainsworth Church & Community Hall</i>)

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

Sun 17 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Weds 20 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

DAY OF PENTECOST

Sun 24 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Whit Sunday Celebration (<i>Joint Service with Ainsworth Methodist Church; starts at Christ Church followed by a walk down to the Methodist Church for food & fellowship</i>)
	12.30pm	Baptism of Jay Gape-Rule

TRINITY SUNDAY

Sun 31 st	10.30am	Prayer & Praise (<i>Followed by refreshments Drawing of the May Lucky Lotto</i>)
	6.30pm	BCP Evensong

JUNE

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Weds 3 rd	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise
Sun 7 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer

Interregnum Update

*“See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.”*

(Isaiah 43;19)

Life isn't always easy. At times we all experience disappointments, difficulties, and obstacles, and sometimes it feels as if we are stuck in a bit of a rut.

The same can be true in the life of our Church; perhaps to some it seems that we are 'bumping along' ... still in interregnum ... no prospect of any change to that in the immediate future ...

Sometimes we are so focused on 'doing' and trying to keep everything on an even keel, that we don't notice or recognise new opportunities; sometimes we are so focused on trying to keep everything as we have always known it, that we fail to be open to new opportunities.

And yet, Isaiah 43;19 offers a message of hope and encouragement; it reminds us that God is always doing new things, and that He invites us to join Him on this journey of transformation.

Not only is God constantly doing new things in our own lives and our own Church, He is currently doing some very exciting new things throughout the whole of the Manchester Diocese. The recently launched Diocesan Strategy is full of exciting opportunities and encouragement for individual Churches to come on board and be part of this 'new thing'.

The challenge to us as a Church and as individuals, is to make sure that we are *attentive*; that we notice where there are opportunities and possibilities. To make sure that we are *open* to exploring new opportunities and possibilities; even when they perhaps look unfamiliar to us. To make sure that we are *willing* to work with others; even when that may feel a little unfamiliar or uncomfortable.

However hard it seems, we need to trust in God's perfect timing and remember that He has amazing things in store for us.

Heavenly Father, as we look back, we give thanks for all that has been; as we look forward, we give thanks for all that will be. Help us to trust in your perfect timing & be open to & willing to engage in these new things that you are doing - Amen

Alison Hartley – on behalf of Christ Church Ainsworth PCC

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the May 2026 edition of the Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is once again packed full of news, interesting articles & useful information.

There was a time when it seemed that the Church calendar was busy on the run up to Christmas & during Lent & Holy Week, but in between times things ticked along quietly; judging by the number of flyers, reminders and 'save the dates' which are included in this month's magazine, the 'activity level' within our Parish is at an all time high!

Alongside our usual reports & articles this month, you'll find feedback from our APCM, info about our Church Spring Fair & Summer Concert, plus details about this year's Ascension Day Prayer Journey & our plans for Pentecost, which we will once again celebrate with our friends from Ainsworth Methodist Church, and information about a number of activities & events which are planned in support of Christian Aid Week.

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

Alison

From The Registers

We commend to God's keeping:

30th March Paul Joseph Allen

Flower Rota

3rd May Jean Story

17th May Mrs. Holden

Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Vestry Meeting

25 Parishioners attended our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting which were held in Church on Sunday 26th of April following on from the 10.30 morning Service.

At this meeting Alison Hartley was re-elected as Churchwarden for the coming year, and Jill Ainsworth, Sue Campbell & Gwen White were elected / re-elected as PCC members for a 3 year term of office.

Those present received the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2025, plus the reports from our various Committees, Groups and Uniformed Organisations.

A copy of the Annual Report will be displayed at the back of Church following the APCM; to receive a copy via email, please contact ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

Thanks were expressed to all who have held Office, served on our groups & committees or volunteered in any way within the life of our Church during the past 12 months – we are truly blessed to have so many people who are willing to help out.

We still have a number of official roles that are vacant – namely an additional Churchwarden, additional Deanery Synod representative, Minutes Secretary, PCC Secretary – if at any time in the coming weeks & months you feel called to explore becoming more involved in the management & governance of our Church, or taking on an official role, we would love to hear from you.

What Is A PCC?

A Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive committee of a Church of England Parish and consists of the clergy and churchwardens, together with elected representatives of the congregation. A PCC is classed as a Charity and so its members are also trustees. Whilst PCCs are charities, they are governed by Church of England legislation, called Measures. These define the principal function, or purpose of the PCC as “promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church”.

More details about PCCs, their role and governance can be found on the Manchester Diocese website via this link:

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/support/for-parishes/parish-admin/parish-governance/>

Legally the Council is responsible for the financial affairs of the church and the maintenance of its assets, such as Church buildings and church halls. It also assists the clergy in the management of church affairs in the parish and promoting the mission of the church. The PCC also has a voice in the forms of service used by the church and may make representations on matters affecting the welfare and pastoral care of the parish.

To be an elected representative of the congregation, a person must be a communicant, aged 16 or over, and must be on the church electoral roll; they must be nominated and seconded by persons who are also on the electoral roll.

Christ Church Ainsworth PCC is currently made up of our Clergy, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Deanery Synod representative and 2 additional Lay representatives. We meet roughly every 6 weeks, to discuss the day to day running & governance of our church, and also to review existing mission, ministry & outreach within the parish and to consider / develop new opportunities.

The PCC delegates areas of work to a number of subcommittees, which meet with different frequency depending on their delegated tasks and projects.

Why Would I want To Be On The PCC?

Being a member of our PCC allows you to be part of actively shaping the mission, ministry, and future direction of our church in Ainsworth. As a trustee, you would play a vital role in decision-making, managing finances, caring for buildings, and promoting mission and ministry within the parish.

Being part of the PCC offers a chance to build strong, collaborative relationships with our clergy, fellow parishioners, and the wider diocese. It is a great way to contribute your skills, time, and heart to our church's ministry.

Our PCC is relatively small, and we really need new members to come on board and bring fresh ideas and energy to the church's shared life and witness. Could God be calling you to participate in mission and ministry as a member of Christ Church Ainsworth PCC?

If you're unsure or would like to find out more with no obligation to commit, please speak to any of our Clergy, our Churchwarden or any existing PCC members – we look forward to hearing from you!

MidWeek Praise Reporter

We have been off for 2 weeks for the Easter holidays, then when we came back we did about people who met Jesus after he was risen. Then we pretended that it was us that met Jesus and some of us did interviews saying how we met him and what he said to us.



Then last week Elsie and Beth did a bake sale to raise money for Guide Dogs and they raised over £50.

From your young MidWeek praise reporter (Year 5)

CCA Litter Pickers



The April litter pick landed up on the last day of term, so at the slightly earlier time of 2pm, when set off into the sunshine armed with our litter picking kit.

When we arrived back at Church it seemed that the Easter bunny had paid us a visit, so whilst the grown ups had a much needed cuppa, the children had fun hunting around Church to try to find the chocolate bunnies before our Church Mouse found them!

Our next CCA Litter Picking afternoon will be Thursday 7th of May at the usual time of 3.15pm.

CCA Quiz Sheet Quiz League

A huge thank you to everyone who bought a copy of our April Quiz League Quiz Sheet – the list of *actual* answers is below.

Lindy Bentley, The Cropper Family & Peter Firth all scored full marks + 2 bonus points this month – congratulations to the winner, drawn at random, Peter Firth.

May quiz sheets are now available in Church (chocolate & sweets this time); 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 April Quiz was £25-00.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Biography of a pastry dish | Life of Pi |
| 2. 5 Church Services | Four weddings & a funeral |
| 3. Heir to the throne steals a head covering | Robin Hood |
| Prince of Thieves | |
| 4. Unable to move due to extreme cold | Frozen! |
| 5. Valuable digit | Gold Finger |
| 6. London Station | Paddington |
| 7. Female sibling on the stage | Sister Act |
| 8. Male with a valuable weapon | The Man With The |
| Golden Gun | |
| 9. A lass for each month | Calendar Girls |
| 10. Bard finds soulmate | Shakespeare In Love |

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 11. Splendid before 8 | The Magnificent 7 |
| 12. Two people not telling the truth | Liar, Liar |
| 13. Young sheep not bleating | The Silence Of The Lambs |
| 14. Person in charge of wet weather | Rain Man |
| 15. Females wearing pale purple | Ladies In Lavender |
| 16. Buccaneers of Southern seas | Pirates Of The Caribbean |
| 17. Mouth parts | Jaws |
| 18. Musical instrument | The Piano |
| 19. Roman fighter | Gladiator |
| 20. Musical instrument owned by the Chief | Captain Corelli's |
| | Mandolin |
| 21. Military equine | War Horse |
| 22. Cute feline with 8 legs | Octopussy |
| 23. A number of years in Mount Everest country | 7 Years In Tibet |
| 24. Child skilled in Martial Arts | Karate Kid |
| 25. Monarch's words | The King's Speech |
| 26. Assignment that can't be completed | Mission Impossible |
| 27. Ruler of finger jewellery | Lord Of The Rings |
| 28. Poorly person from this country | The English Patient |
| 29. Playground for dinosaurs | Jurassic Park |
| 30. Grubby Prince | Dirty Harry |

Tie breaker: A) Which 2 letter movie included the instruction to 'phone home'? ET

B) Vegetable; producer of many of the original James Bond films?
Broccoli

Bee Joyful

What a gloriously uplifting evening we shared with other members of our Mission Community when Christ Church Ainsworth hosted the Radcliffe & Whitefield

Mission Community Spring Worship event last month.

We were privileged to have Revd Phil Cansdale as our speaker & it was great to see each of our Churches represented & to hear the thought and inspiration behind each Church's chosen hymn.

A huge thank you must go to 'the home team' for their help with welcoming folk & serving refreshments, plus members of our Choir & Jenny, our Organist, for leading our hymns.



Pentecost Sunday Celebration

Following on from the success of our shared Pentecost worship last year, Sunday 24th May 2026, the Day of Pentecost, will see our Churches coming together once more to mark this occasion. We'll be meeting at Christ Church Ainsworth for shared worship at 10.30am, then walking down to Ainsworth Methodist Church for food & fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join us for what promises to be a great day of celebration. For those who are less mobile, please feel free to drive down to the Methodist Church or even head straight there & meet us as we arrive at around 11.30am.



Living Flame

Why not join us at Christ Church Ainsworth on Wednesday 27th May, 1.30 – 3.30pm, for a family friendly afternoon focusing on Ascension & the Day of Pentecost. Learn more about what happened after Easter through a mixture of crafts, games & drama, rounded off by a short time of family friendly worship.



Everyone welcome, refreshments available; no need to book – just turn up. For more info contact Alison on 07952-709041.

Eden Singer's Summer Concert

Save the date!! Local community choir, 'The Eden Singers' will be joining us in Church on Saturday 11th July 2026 at 7pm for an evening of entertainment, performing 'Hits Of The Decades'. This fabulous repertoire includes hits from each decade from 1920 onwards, complemented by newsreel footage of events which were in the news at that time. Tickets now available in Church £7 each including refreshments. For more info contact Alison on 07952-709041.



Christ Church Ainsworth Spring Fair

This year our Church Spring Fair will be held on Saturday 16th May from 11 – 2pm in Ainsworth Church & Community Hall. Stalls, games, café and much, much more – make sure you save the date, then come along and join the fun!

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

Christian Aid Week 10 – 17th May 2026



For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

During the 1940's, Christian Aid raised more than £80,000 (£3 million plus in today's money) for emergency supplies to support refugees in mainland Europe. Alongside practical assistance, the charity also supported, equipped and enabled partner churches in affected areas to meet the needs of their people.

Since its inception, Christian Aid has supported refugees in many different parts of the world; those who are displaced through conflict, political tension or climate change.

* Christian Aid supported the establishment of the Voluntary Service Overseas, to enable young people to 'make a difference'.

* Christian Aid work to educate communities that are in need of support to encourage them to become self sufficient over time.

* Christian Aid also educate supporters around the world regarding the root cause of poverty, and work with partners overseas to eradicate it.

People often make the mistake of thinking that the charity only supports people in third world countries, but the reality is that wherever in our world there is injustice or deprivation, you can be pretty certain that Christian Aid will be on the case. Their aim is to ensure that **everyone** has the chance to live a full life, free from poverty.

So, what can we do to help?

Christian Aid week was launched in the 1950's to raise extra funds as support from the Charity was in ever greater demand. This year Christian Aid Week is 10th – 17th of May; during this week we're encouraged to Give, Act and Pray to support the work of Christian Aid.

Our Church has supported Christian Aid for a number of years, both through Christian Aid week giving and also through supporting specific crisis appeals.

This year our main Christian Aid Week 'bucket collection' will be held in church on Sunday 17th of May, there will also be Christian Aid envelopes available in Church for your use throughout May; please do your best to join us at this Service, and make a donation if you are able to, but please also hold the work and workers of Christian Aid in your prayers.

Christian Aid Fundraising Quiz Night

Saturday 16th May @ St. Philip's Community Centre, Radcliffe.

Tickets are £7.50 each, including pasty & peas supper. For more info please speak to our Christian Aid representative, Barbara Clarkson.

Reflecting On The Seasons – Ascension Day



He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

(Acts 1;7-9)

After the emotional roller coaster of Holy Week and Easter, Ascension Day tends to be somewhat less celebrated, but it remains, nonetheless, an essential part of God's saving work. At Easter, Jesus claimed a victory; with His resurrection, he defeated death, the greatest enemy of all. But it was at Ascension that he returned to the Father in triumph. As Christians, we who believe in him, and who follow him, can share in that triumph and the promise of eternal life in the heart of heaven.

The wonderful truth about Ascension is that Jesus, who was fully human and fully divine, took his humanity – and with it our humanity – into heaven, opening the Kingdom of heaven to all believers. In the mystery of the Ascension, we reflect on how, in order to do this, Christ leaves us – but, by leaving us in bodily form, he has given himself to us and to the world in a new and universal way.

The Ascension of Our Lord is not the end of the story, rather it is another beginning. This beginning is one in which we are called to be active participants and not spectators. Throughout his earthly life Jesus gave us a model of love and service. He called us to follow him as faithful disciples, and he called us to go out in his name in order that others might come to know the truth and the joy of God's love in their lives.

Lord of life,

You have been raised in glory that we might rise with dignity.

You live in power that we might live in peace.

We thank you, that You are present everywhere,

that we might be fully present in our own lives – Amen

Pentecost Reflection

Holy Spirit, come down upon us and subdue us. From heaven, where the ordinary is made glorious, and glory seems but ordinary, bathe us with the brilliance of Your light like dew. As we come into your presence, we come, into fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Glorious Trinity. You breathed this world into being. Your creative Spirit is still visible within our everyday lives; through the changing seasons, the colours and sounds of nature, the rhythm of day and night, sunrise and sunset, tide and wind, rain and shine.

Your Spirit was present at the start of this world; it empowered the Prophets of old, ordinary people called to live extraordinary lives. Your Spirit was visible through the life of your Son, from the moment of conception to his death and glorious resurrection. Your Spirit was the parting gift of Jesus to the world. 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth'.

Effortlessly, love flows from God into man; like a bird who rides the air without moving her wings. Thus, we move in His world, one in body and soul, though outwardly separate in form. As the Source strikes the note, humanity sings -- the Holy Spirit is our harpist, and all strings which are touched in love must sound. Anon.

Just A Thought

The only difference between try and triumph, is a little 'umph'.

Thy Kingdom Come 14 – 24th May 2026



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost, for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions - so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

Praying for five people to come to know the love of Jesus, is at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come. There are lots of ways to do this. You could write down the names of the 5 people you're praying for on your phone, on your mirror or on a little card as a reminder to pray for them throughout the day. You could use a band and tie 5 knots, each one representing your 5 or maybe each time you drink a cup of tea or coffee, you could remember to pray for them. Or perhaps you could pray during your daily exercise such as running or walking – holding one person each day in prayer then praying for them all collectively on the last day.

Thy Kingdom Come Zoom Prayers

The Churches of the Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community will once again be holding a short time of prayer via Zoom each evening throughout Thy Kingdom Come. Prayers start at 6pm & last for no longer than 10 minutes; they are led by a different Church each evening, making it a great way to connect with others throughout our Mission Community.

To join in with this great initiative, simply click the link a few minutes before 6pm any evening between 15th – 23rd May inclusive.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUJFoZz09>

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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.

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

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 . 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 March Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 26th April, with the lucky winner walking away with £16!

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

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

Mission Community News – Ascension Day Prayer Journey

This year's Mission Community Prayer Journey will be held on Ascension Day, Thursday 14th 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 Revd Phil Cansdale.

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.

Please note that we will not be holding an Ascension Day Communion Service at Christ Church Ainsworth this year; if anyone needs a lift to enable them to attend the Service at St. Thomas & St. John instead, please let Revd Bob or Alison know.

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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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

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Thank you for your support!

REACH

Retreat

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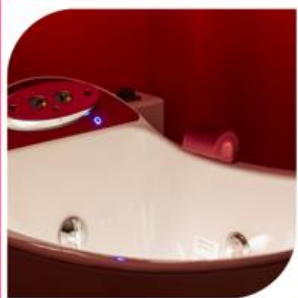
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Persona



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Persona

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Diary



May 2026

1 st	We give thanks and pray for all those at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe, who volunteered or agreed to carry on with roles, at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
2 nd	We pray for all who are involved with ministry to children, families & schools; praying that the seeds of faith would be sown & nurtured in young hearts.
3 rd	We pray for many people to respond to Christ Church Walshaw's community survey, to help the team there to discern the best way to develop their mission.
4 th	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints, Stand.
5 th	On African World Heritage Day, we give thanks for the continent's unique cultural and natural heritage.
6 th	We pray for The Well @ Radcliffe, the new welcome space for the community of St. Andrew's, Radcliffe - for people to come, and for guidance to develop what we offer.
7 th	We give thanks for & pray for all who will be part of the Prayer & Spirituality Group meeting this evening; praying that this would be a time of inspiration, sharing & support.
8 th	We pray for members of Christ Church Walshaw's Community Choir, as they prepare for their summer concert.
9 th	We pray for all who will be running or attending the Bazaar at St. George's, Unsworth today; that this might be a well attended & successful event.
10 th	At the start of Christian Aid Week, we give thanks for the work that is done by this charity. We give thanks for our local volunteers & pray for the individuals & communities which are in need of aid.
11 th	We pray for members of Christ Church Ainsworth PCC, as they explore new opportunities for mission & outreach.
12 th	During Mental Health Awareness Week, we pray for all who suffer from mental health issues; praying also for greater awareness of the importance of good mental health.
13 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
14 th	We pray for all those who will be part of our Mission Community Prayer Journey today. Praying also for those who will lead or attend Ascension Day Communion at St. Andrew's, Hillock this evening.
15 th	We pray for the youth group at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe as they begin Youth Alpha.
16 th	We pray for all who will be running or attending the Spring Fair at Christ Church Ainsworth today; that this might be a well supported & successful event.
17 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.
18 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
19 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
20 th	On World Bee Day, we pray for greater awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development.
21 st	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
22 nd	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
23 rd	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 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.
25 th	During the coming days of Eid ul-Adha, we pray for our Muslim communities.
26 th	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.
27 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.
28 th	We pray for those throughout our Mission Community who will be preparing for Baptism in the coming weeks & months.
29 th	We give thanks for the green spaces within our parishes & pray that we would be good guardians of this world. We give thanks for all who work for environmental sustainability & climate justice.
30 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
31 st	We pray for those throughout our Mission Community who will be preparing for Confirmation in the coming weeks, praying that they would be guided by & filled with the Holy Spirit.

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



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- 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 31st May.

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



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 12th May

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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



Concert



Performed by

The Eden Singers

**A trip down memory lane to hear
songs plus visual news items
from 1920 through to 2000**

7pm Saturday 11th July 2026

Christ Church, Church Street, Ainsworth, BL2 5RU

All Tickets £7.00 including refreshments

Contact 07952-709-041



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 7th May





CHRIST CHURCH AINSWORTH

SPRING

FAIR



SATURDAY 16 TH MAY
11am - 2pm

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Cafe Serving Lunch



COME & JOIN THE PENTECOST CELEBRATION!!

Sunday 24th May from
10.30am

- Meet at Christ Church
Ainsworth for shared worship
- Process to Ainsworth
Methodist Church for food &
fellowship.

Why not join us as we come
together to celebrate -
everyone welcome!



LIVING FLAME



A family friendly afternoon
focusing on The Day Of
Pentecost



Games



Craft



Learning & Fun

Wednesday 27th May

1.30 - 3.30pm

Christ Church Ainsworth

Refreshments available,

everyone welcome.

For more info contact 07952-709041



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."*





Fundraising Quiz Night

A poster for a fundraising quiz night. The word "Quiz" is written in a large, black, cursive font in the center, surrounded by a circular arrangement of yellow pencils. The background is white with a red and yellow geometric pattern on the left side. At the top, a yellow banner reads "beat extreme poverty". A red banner at the bottom contains the event details.

beat extreme poverty

Quiz

Pasty and Peas
Drinks for sale
at the bar

Fundraising Quiz Night

Saturday 16th May
7pm doors for 7:30pm start

£7.50 for tickets

St Phillips Community Centre

christian aid

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Journey

Thursday 14th May 2026

- 10am - Christ Church Walshaw
Celtic Morning Prayer
- 11am - Christ Church Ainsworth
Refreshments & Prayer
- 12.15pm - St. Andrew's, Radcliffe
Prayer
- 1.15pm - St Thomas & St. John,
Radcliffe
Refreshments & Holy Communion, led by
Revd Phil Cansdale

*Please join us as we come together to pray
throughout our Mission Community.*

*If you don't feel able to walk, join us for
prayer at any of the Churches on our route.*

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Thy Kingdom Come Zoom Prayers Are Back!

An easy and powerful way of praying together, plus a great opportunity to get to know people from other churches within our Mission Community.

Starts on Friday 15th May, then each evening throughout Thy Kingdom Come (excluding Sundays) @ 6pm on Zoom; simply click on the link below to take part:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYUjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFoZz09>



Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 12th May

10.30 – 12 noon Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

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

Everyone welcome.

!! Save The Date – Eden Dingers Summer Concert !!

Saturday 11th July

7pm Christ Church Ainsworth

Tickets available in Church, £7 inc refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Christ Church Ainsworth Spring Fair

Saturday 16th May 11 – 2pm

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Stalls, games, café and much, much more – make sure you save the date, then come along and join the fun!

‘Living Flame’

Wednesday 27th May 1.30-3.30pm

Christ Church Ainsworth

Why not join us for a family friendly afternoon focusing on Pentecost; come along & enjoy learning, games & craft. Everyone welcome – no need to book, just turn up.

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Ascension Day Prayer Journey 2026

Thursday 14th May

More info coming soon.

Christian Aid Fundraising Quiz

Saturday 16th May 7 for 7.30pm

St. Philip’s Community Centre, Radcliffe

Tickets £7.50 each, includes a pasty & peas supper; everyone welcome.

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>

Around The Organisations ...



The activities of our own branch have been restricted in the past month due to a number of members being unwell or needing to care for relatives who are unwell. Jennifer has kindly provided an update from 'Central Office' in the place of the usual report.

News From Central Office

Last month we reconnected with the 1277 Make Them Count movement, which is a network for church-based toddler groups and leaders.

Did you know that in the UK on average a child has 1,277 days between birth and starting nursery school education? One of the initiatives of 1277 is the National Month of Prayer for Toddler Groups (NMOP) that takes place every June. The theme for 2026 is based on John 10:14-16 'Jesus, the Good Shepherd' and the Mothers' Union has been invited to the launch on 1 June in Parliament.

Each toddler group is being supplied with a fluffy lamb and asked to create a label identifying their group ie. "ABC First Steps - Christ Church Ainsworth", the lambs will then be returned before the prayer day and each group identified from their label & prayed for. Revd Bob is very kindly going to take the ABC Group's lamb.

Toddler groups are such an important outreach to families, and we know that many MU members either lead or volunteer at church-based toddler groups.

York Province

In March, members gathered at Manchester Cathedral to mark the Province of York's celebration for MU's 150th anniversary. The day included the unveiling of a plaque honouring Mary Sumner's birth place in Swinton, the launch of a travelling prayer capsule and Dr Debra Lee's arrival after a practice run for her 150th cycling challenge.

Branch meetings

We look forward to having Revd Bob May with us at our meeting on 5th May at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to listen to Bob as he takes us on his Faith Journey.

The venue for our get together on the 19th will be decided and emailed to members later.

Jennifer White

From the Archives – May 2001

The sketch on the inside cover of the May 2001 magazine depicted a line of choir boys processing up the aisle of a Church – this could have been related to the ‘Patronal Festival’ that was listed in the Parish Diary, and included a ‘Gift Day’ on the Saturday, followed by a Celebration Service at which W. R. Hartley was the guest speaker, then a Patronal Songs of Praise Service in the evening – busy times!

The Parish News included details about the various requests & items needed for the forthcoming Spring Fair, information about the Archdeacon’s Visitation to be held at St. Mary’s, Prestwich, a save the date for a Coffee Morning during Christian Aid Week, and a request for volunteers who may be willing to deliver the Parish Magazine.

In other news, the various groups & organisations were planning their stalls for the Church Spring Fair, with various requests for produce & help on the day; Rainbows and Brownies had been busy decorating eggs for Easter; Guides had begun a series of ‘Go For It’ challenges as part of their new syllabus; Scouts had held a ‘Mystery Cooking Night’ which seemed to have involved the lads being given a bag of mystery ingredients from which they had to produce a meal; the PTA had held a successful Easter Egg Bingo night and were planning for the School May Fair; and an ‘un-named contributor’ wished to thank all who had been involved with planting daffodil bulbs in the churchyard and along the roadsides throughout the village – the display was reported to be particularly spectacular that year.

In May 2001, there were 3 Baptisms, 1 wedding & 1 funeral recorded from the previous month. Communicants for the previous month were listed as 394; with collections listed as £1773.

Everything You Need To Know About - May ...

May 1st 1707 – The Union between England & Scotland is proclaimed.

May 2nd 1611 – The Authorized Version of the Bible (King James Version) was first published, and became the standard English language Bible.

May 3rd 1841 – New Zealand was declared a British colony.

May 4th 1471 – The Battle of Tewkesbury, the last battle in the Wars of the Roses, took place; Edward IV’s Yorkists defeated the Lancastrians.



May 5th 1821 – Napoleon Bonaparte died in exile on the remote British island of St. Helena. He was 51.

May 6th 1954 – Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes.

May 7th 1945 – Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies at Rheims and the war in Europe ended.

May 8th 1429 – Joan of Arc, led the Dauphin's troops to victory over the English laying siege to Orleans.

May 9th 1887 – Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opened in London.

May 10th 1940 - Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as British Prime Minister.

May 11th 973 – Edgar the Peaceful was crowned at Bath as King of England.

May 12th 1926 – Britain's Trades Union Congress called off the General Strike that had brought the nation to a standstill for nine days. Workers across the country had downed tools in support of miners, protesting a wage cut.

May 13th 1607 – Riots took place in the Midland counties of England in protest at widespread enclosure of common land.

May 14th 1080 – Walcher, Bishop of Durham and Earl of Northumberland, was murdered.

May 15th 1567 – Mary Queen of Scots, married Bothwell in Edinburgh.

May 16th 1943 - RAF Lancaster bombers caused chaos to Nazi German industry by destroying two huge dams. Dr Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs skimmed the surface of the water to reach their targets.

May 17th 1900 – The siege of the British garrison at Mafeking by Boer forces was broken. Commander of the garrison, Colonel Robert Baden-Powell and his forces had held firm for 217 days.

May 18th 1803 - Britain abandons the Treaty of Amiens and declares war on France, again!

May 19th 1536 – Anne Boleyn, King Henry VIII's second wife, was beheaded in London. She was 29.

May 20th 1191 – King Richard 'the Lion Heart' conquered Cyprus on his way to join the Crusaders at Acre in North west Israel.

May 21st 1894 – Queen Victoria officially opened the Manchester Ship Canal.

May 22nd 1455 – In the 1st War of the Roses, Richard of York and the Nevilles attacked the court at St Albans, capturing Henry VI and killing Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset.

May 23rd 878 – The Saxon King Alfred defeated the Danes at Edington, Wiltshire; as part of the peace agreement, the Danish King, Guthrum, accepted Christianity.

May 24th 1809 – Dartmoor Prison is opened to house French POWs.

May 25th 1659 – Richard Cromwell resigns as Lord Protector of Britain.

May 26th 735 - The Venerable Bede, English monk, scholar, historian and writer, died having just completed his translation of St. John into Anglo-Saxon.

May 27th 1657 – Oliver Cromwell refuses parliament's offer of the title King of England.

May 28th 1759 - Birthday of William Pitt (the Younger), English statesman who became the youngest ever British Prime Minister at the age of 24.

May 29th 1660 - Charles Stuart entered London to become King Charles II, restoring England's monarchy following Oliver Cromwell's commonwealth.

May 30th 1536 - Eleven days after he had his wife Anne Boleyn beheaded, King Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour, former lady-in-waiting to Anne.

May 31st 1902 - The Peace of Vereeniging ended the Boer War, in which 450,000 British troops had fought against 80,000 Boers.

Space To Share A Prayer - Pentecost

O Holy Spirit, you who came
at Pentecost in wind and flame;
you brought us truth and peace and love,
and joy and blessings from above.
Now fill each one of us, we pray,
with your good gifts for each new day.
We thank you for your love outpoured,
to tell the world that you are Lord. Amen

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Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

Why English Is Hard To Learn ...

We'll begin with *box*; the plural is *boxes*,
But the plural of *ox* is *oxen*, not *oxes*.
One fowl is a *goose*, and two are called *geese*;
But the plural of *mouse* is never called *meece*.

You may find a lone *mouse*, or a houseful of *mice*,
But the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.
The plural of *man* is always *men*,
But the plural of *pan*, is never *pen*!

If I speak of a *foot*, and you show me two *feet*;
If I asked for a *book*, would the plural be *beek*?
If one is a *tooth* and a whole set are *teeth*,
Then why would the plural of *booth* not be *beeth*?

If the single is *this*, and the plural is *these*;
Should the plural of *kiss* not be talked of as *keese*?

We speak of a *brother*, and also say *brethren*,
But the plural of *mother* is never called *methren*.
Then the masculine pronouns are *he*, *his* and *him*;
But imagine the feminine ... *she*, *shis* and *shim*!

Anon

Time For A Smile

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody, when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

The Parish Puzzler

Take Five ...

May Quiz – The Answers All Begin with the letters MAY

1. Chaos or disorder
2. The ship used by the Pilgrim Fathers
3. The principal of a town or city
4. A condiment for salad
5. Possible or perhaps

Ascension Quiz – The Answers All contain The Letters UP

1. A late night meal
2. Summer garden flowers
3. Bear created by Mary Tourtel in 1920
4. Not clever
5. Roman god of love & desire

Pent Quiz – Which Pent Is ...

1. A sporting event with 5 phases
2. A 5 sided polygon
3. A musical scale containing 5 notes per octave
4. A luxury apartment on the top floor
5. A 5 pointed star

(Answers on Pg 43)

Wisdom

If your lips would keep from slips
five things observe with care:
of whom you speak, to whom you speak
and how and when and where.

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
3 rd May 5 th Sunday Of Easter 10.30am	Barbara Clarkson	Lillian Haworth	Gwen White
10 th May 6 th Sunday Of Easter 10.30am	Barbara Clarkson	N/A	Guides
17 th May 7 th Sunday Of Easter 10.30am	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Peter Holden	Jenny Johnson
24 th May Day of Pentecost 10.30am	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	N/A	Joint Service With Ainsworth Methodist
31 st May Trinity Sunday 10.30am	Mags Gillman	N/A	David Holden

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
3 rd May 5 th Sunday Of Easter	Gwen White	Acts 7.55-60 1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14
10 th May 6 th Sunday Of Easter <i>BM</i>	Guiding Sections	Church Parade
17 th May 7 th Sunday Of Easter <i>BM</i>	Peter Holden	Acts 1.6-14 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 John 17.1-11
24 th May Day of Pentecost (Red) <i>DJ</i>	Joint Service with Methodists	Joint Service with Ainsworth Methodists
31 st May Trinity Sunday (Gold) <i>BM</i>	David Holden	Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31 2 Corinthians 13.11-13 Matthew 28.16-20

Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk	01204 398567
OLM	Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Associate Priest	Revd Bob May	
ALM	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
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 May Quiz: 1) Mayhem, 2) Mayflower, 3) Mayor, 4) Mayonnaise, 5) Maybe.

Answers to Ascend Quiz: 1) Supper, 2) Lupins, 3) Rupert, 4) Stupid, 5) Cupid.

Answers to Pent Quiz: 1) Pentathlon, 2) Pentagon, 3) Pentatonic, 4) Penthouse, 5) Pentacle.

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

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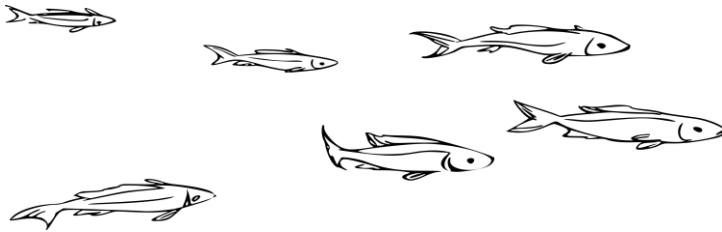


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Little Fishes

Ascension & Pentecost



Ascension Day

Thursday 14th May 2026

Last month Little Fishes was all about Easter and we learned how, on Good Friday Jesus died on the cross, but that on the third day, Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, just as he had said he would, so that the whole of mankind would be forgiven for their sins.

But what happened next?

Jesus's friends were filled with joy that he had come back to them, but Jesus knew that he wouldn't be able to stay with them forever.



Jesus, as a person, could only be with some people, in some places, at some times, but by going to be with his Father in heaven, he would send the Holy Spirit so that God could be with anyone, anywhere, at any time.



During the 40 days after Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared to many different people and did many good deeds.

Jesus also spent a lot of time with his friends, teaching them and praying with them. He told them, "Soon, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit and receive the power of God. You must tell my story to the people in Jerusalem and to people all over the Earth; tell the people to believe in me even if they can't see me."



On the 40th day after Easter Sunday, Jesus and his friends went to The Mount of Olives to talk and pray. Whilst they were there a bright light shone from the sky and a large cloud came down. The cloud wrapped itself around Jesus and he was taken up to the heavens. This is what we call the Ascension.



Jesus's friends remembered what he had told them and returned to Jerusalem to wait for his promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

But What Happened Next

Pentecost!

Before he left his friends, Jesus had made them a promise. "The Holy Spirit will come to you and give you the power to tell other people about me; to spread the word."



For 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven, his friends had stayed together in Jerusalem, praying and wondering what was going to happen next.

On the 10th day, as they knelt together praying, they suddenly heard a noise like a strong wind which seemed to fill the house that they were in.

As they looked it seemed as if tongues of fire reached out to touch each person who was there, and as this happened they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.



Suddenly Jesus's friends found that they were able to speak in different languages. There were many people from all over the world staying in Jerusalem at that time; when each person heard Jesus's friends speaking in their own language, most of them were amazed and praised God and spoke of the wondrous thing that had happened.



Some people laughed and said that Jesus's friends must have drunk too much wine to be talking such nonsense.



Peter was a special friend of Jesus, he stood up in front of the crowd and told them, "It is early in the morning, we are not drunk." He told the crowd how Jesus had lived among them and died on the cross so that their sins could be forgiven. He told them that Jesus had ascended to heaven and that God had now sent the Holy Spirit to be with them and guide them. He told the crowd that they should be sorry for their sins and stop doing bad things, and that if they did this and were baptized, they would also receive the Holy Spirit in their lives.



Many of the people who were in the crowd that day listened to Peter and were baptized and became Christians.



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