

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



Lest We Forget
(Photo courtesy of Mike Watson)

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November 2025

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Parish Diary November 2025



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

- Sun 2nd 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Service To Remember The Departed
 Tues 4th 11.30am Memorial Service for Nicholas Longman
 Weds 5th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

- Sun 9th 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service
 Tues 11th 10.30am Coffee & Conversation (*Ainsworth Church & Community Hall*)
 Weds 12th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise
 Sat 15th 11.00am Church Christmas Fair (*Ainsworth Church & Community Hall*)

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

- Sun 16th 10.30am Holy Communion
 Weds 19th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

CHRIST THE KING

- Sun 23rd 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30am Holy Communion
 12.15pm Baptism of Oliver Sage
 Weds 26th 6.30pm MidWeek Praise

ADVENT SUNDAY

- Sun 30th 10.30am Prayer & Praise (*followed by refreshments & drawing of the November Lucky Lotto*)
 6.30pm BCP Evensong

DECEMBER

- Weds 3rd 6.30pm Christingle Service
 Sat 6th 7.00pm Candlelit Christmas Concert
 Sun 7th 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer



Interregnum Update

*"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."
Proverbs 25; 25*

The book of Proverbs contains an extraordinary collection of helpful information and good advice about how to live life; more than 2000 years after it was first transcribed, it is still hugely relevant and often the advice given 'hits the nail on the head'.

The quote from Proverbs 25; 25 likens the relief of hearing good news, after an extended period of waiting and wondering, to the way in which cool water refreshes us when we are thirsty.

Before anyone gets too excited, the good news in this instance is **not** that we have a new Incumbent!

What we do have is the news that Revd. Bob May, will soon be joining us as Associate Priest, to work alongside our existing team on a short term basis, to support the work that we are already doing, and hopefully give us the capacity to develop some of the areas where there is potential for growth.

The following announcement was made by the Diocese on Sunday 26th October, and also read out at the main Services at Christ Church Ainsworth and St. Andrew's, Radcliffe,

"We are delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd Bob May, currently Assistant Curate of St Andrew's Radcliffe, as Associate Priest (Assistant Curate) of the Benefice of Christ Church Ainsworth, Bury and Rossendale Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Bolton, Diocese of Manchester.

Bob is well known in the Radcliffe and Whitefield Mission Community and has served at St Andrew's Radcliffe with commitment and joy. He looks forward to this new opportunity to serve at Ainsworth.

The date of Bob's licensing is yet to be arranged."

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Revd Bob to work alongside us.

Please be assured that this will not affect the plan to try to recruit a new Incumbent; the vacancy is still very much available and is likely to be readvertised in the new year.

Alison Hartley – on behalf of Christ Church Ainsworth PCC

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the November 2025 edition of Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine, which is a bumper edition, crammed with reports, updates, interesting articles, useful information and lots of dates for your diaries.

As always, the last few months of the year are a busy time in the life of our Church; the Season of Remembrance is almost upon us, and already we are planning for Advent and Christmas! This year there seems to be more seasonal activities and events coming up than ever before. The various groups and organisations work really hard to put these events on, so please do your best to support them if you can. Make sure you keep an eye on the Parish Diary and also the weekly Pew Sheet for details of special Services and seasonal events, both within our Church & the wider community.

If your group / organisation is holding an event that you'd like us to publicise, please get in touch ainsworthparishmagazine@gmail.com

Enjoy this month's magazine and do your best to support the many things that are going on within our Church and wider community in the coming month.

Alison

From The Registers

Baptisms:

We welcome to the family of God:

19 th October	Luke Paynter
19 th October	James Paynter
19 th October	Lily Murray
19 th October	Mila Murray
26 th October	Gemma Smyth
26 th October	Greyson Smyth-Bradley

Flower Rota

9 th November	Mrs V. Watts
23 rd November	In Memory of Mr. Peter Ashworth



Ainsworth Friends Of The Delph

Christmas lights switch on, Sunday 30th November 3pm on the Delph.

Harvest

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Harvest Appeal on behalf of Porch Boxes. Thanks also to Christ Church Ainsworth School, MidWeek Praise & the Uniformed Organisations who provided the fantastic Harvest displays.



Service To Remember The Departed

This year, our annual 'Service For The Departed' will be held in Church on **Sunday 2nd November, at 6.30pm.**

At this Service we take time to reflect and remember members of our families, friends, members of our local community and our worshipping community who are no longer with us.

The names of those for whom a funeral has been held in Church during the past year, will automatically be included in the list of names to be read out at this service, but if you would like the name of a friend or loved one to be added to the list, please speak to a member of Clergy or one of the Churchwardens.

Christmas Fair

Our Church Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 15th November from 11 – 2pm in Ainsworth Church & Community Hall. Stalls, games, refreshments and more ... all proceeds to Church funds.

Candlelit Christmas Concert

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to get into the Christmas Spirit, with a fabulous programme of Christmas music provided by Farnworth & Walkden Brass Band.



Enjoy Christmas Classics, mince pies and mulled wine, all in our beautiful candlelit Church.

Saturday 6th December, 7pm; tickets available now; adults £7-50, children £5-00, seasonal refreshments included. For more details or to book tickets contact Alison on 07952-709041, or email ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

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.

Christ Church Ainsworth - Grave Cleaning & Maintenance

If you choose to have a memorial stone on your loved one's grave, you are welcome to tend the grave and place flowers yourself, but if you are unable to do so, our Churchyard Team offer a number of options:

- Regular cleaning of headstone £30-00 / year
- Regular cleaning of headstone, flowers placed monthly & wreath placed at Christmas £210-00 / year

For more information about grave maintenance please contact Janet Hayes on 07895-033736.

Churchyard Team - Christmas Wreaths



The churchyard team are once again going to be doing wreaths this Christmas.

To order a wreath, please take an envelope from the back of church (or use your own) and place the completed details in the envelope with the money – cash only. Place the completed envelopes in the box at the back of the church. Please state if you want the churchyard team to place the wreath on a grave for you, or if you wish to collect it yourself.

If you want the churchyard team to do it, please state where the grave is and the names on the grave so we can find it for you. If there is more than 1 wreath to be placed, please state the name & location of each grave.

For wreaths which are to be collected, please write your name & contact details on the envelope with “TO BE COLLECTED”.

As in previous years, the cost will be £11 per wreath; orders must be placed on or before **Friday 5th December**. Collection date for the wreaths is **Wednesday 10th December between 9.30 and 11.30am**. Wreaths will be placed on graves at this time as well.

Please note that we cannot deliver wreaths.

Completed envelopes can also be sent by post (with monies included) to: Jan Hayes – 14 Browns Rd, Bradley Fold Bolton BL2 6RQ (or hand delivered to this address). Any enquiries please call 01204 796404.

Children’s Society Update



Since 1995, the Parish Church at Ainsworth has been a supporter of the Children's Society charity, helping raise money for the work they do to provide support for children and young people.

Although over the years the focus has changed to move with the times, the attention has always remained on the children themselves. Today is no different.

At the moment, many children and young people are in need of help with their mental health. They tell the Society that they are being made to wait until they are in desperate need before they are put on a waiting list. As they struggle with mental health issues or are at risk of abuse or exploitation, children face months or even in places, a year,

waiting for help. With support from churches like ours in Ainsworth, the Society is working to change that. They have opened 2 support hubs, where children can drop-in and work through their problems straightaway, without appointment or referral.

So, what does this really mean? It means listening and talking to children about their fears before those issues spiral out of control - whether it is poverty, risk of abuse or neglect, or mental health worries and bullying. This means that the Children's Society are investing in the kind of support that helps children feel more confident and more able to cope with difficult times. It also means trying to influence people in power, to make effective help available more quickly when children begin to struggle.

The project workers with the Children's Society say that often, when young people see their issues being taken seriously, they start to believe a brighter future is possible.

Obviously, it would be ideal if these hubs could be located throughout the country, but that takes money and long-term investment. That is why it is so vital that we, as a Church, support the work of The Children's Society by holding a collection at Christingle. Every pound raised goes towards funding practical help for children in crisis, so please give what you can to help with this important work. The Children's Society believes the early years of life should be full of joy and excitement, hope and happiness. These are the foundations every child deserves. Thank you.

Susan Campbell,

Local secretary The Children's Society

Christingle Service 2025

19th November

Two weeks before the annual celebration, I will be in Church at Midweek Praise, to distribute Smartie tubes to the children in the congregation, and collection envelopes to the adults. The idea is that the sweets are enjoyed, and then the tube is filled with 20p pieces or £1 coins to donate to The Children's Society. Cash can also be placed into the Christingle envelopes.

26th November

One week before the Service, I will be in Church to collect the Smartie tubes filled with coins, and any envelopes if people are not able to come to the Service on the day. These will be exchanged for a



small candle to fit into your home-made Christingle! Remember you will need an orange, 4 cocktail sticks, a piece of tin foil to catch any drips of wax from your candle, a piece of red ribbon or red tape to go around the centre of your orange, and jelly type sweets or fruits to thread onto the cocktail sticks. Have fun making your Christingle.

Wednesday 3rd December 6.30pm Christingle

Join us for a celebration of the work of The Children's Society. It is a beautiful service where we sing familiar carols and join together to light our Christingle candles as the lights in the Church are turned off. We remember all the children and young people who feel alone and frightened and say thank you to The Children's Society that they are able to help provide support. Services like ours in Ainsworth will be held in Churches up and down the country, helping to fund the important work that is done.

Jesus is the light of the world, and in dark times we need to see a light in the darkness to give hope. Join us as we bring the hope into children's lives.

Thank you for your support.

Susan Campbell

Make Your own Christingle – A 'How To' Guide

If you are planning to come along to the Christingle Service on Wednesday 3rd December at 6.30pm and would like to know how to make a Christingle read on!

You Will Need:

- 1 piece of roundish fruit
- Red tape or ribbon
- 1 candle – we'll be giving these out at MidWeek Praise on 29th November.
- Small piece of tin foil or foil milk bottle top
- 4 x cocktail sticks
- Dried fruit eg raisins, or soft sweets eg Haribos

Here's What To Do:

1. Choose your fruit, usually an orange. You might want to cut the bottom off your orange, so it doesn't wobble around.
2. Use red tape (electrical tape or coloured sellotape) to stick around the centre of the orange. If you don't have any tape, you can pin a red ribbon around the centre of the orange or colour a



- strip of paper in red and then sellotape it in place around the middle.
3. Push a pencil into the top of the orange to make a hole for the candle.
 4. Use a foil milk bottle top or cut a square of foil approx 4cm in size then make a slit in it so that it fits over the candle. Position at the base of the candle.
 5. Place your choice of fruit (grapes, raisins, sultanas, satsuma segments or your own favourite), and sweets (jelly type sweets work best as they need to be pushed onto the sticks) on the table and carefully thread them onto the 4 cocktail sticks.
 6. Push the 4 cocktail sticks into the orange above the red tape. Make sure they point upwards at an angle and do not touch the candle (like this \ /).

Your Christingle is now ready to bring along to the Service. Don't forget there will be a collection for the Children's Society during the Service.

EcoChurch



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

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

Make A Difference - November:

Getting Ready For Winter – *It can be really tempting to tidy up the garden ahead of the winter, but leaving parts un-pruned is important for wildlife and biodiversity. Leaving a thin layer of leaves across your lawn and flower beds will nourish the soil, while protecting plants against cold weather. You could rake a larger pile into a corner to provide a great habitat for insects. Likewise leaving heads on flowers that have gone over will provide food for birds over the winter.*

Our Churchyard Team work hard to clear the fallen leaves from the Churchyard so that folk can easily & safely enjoy our lovely grounds throughout the Autumn & Winter months. The leaves they collect are composted for use / sale the following year – could you compost fallen leaves rather than putting them in the bin?

Porch Boxes Christmas Appeal

In preparation for Christmas, the team at Porch Boxes will be putting together seasonal bags to support those members of our local community who are in the greatest need. This appeal runs throughout November to ensure that donated goods can be sorted and packed early in December in readiness for distribution.

If you are able to support this initiative by donating any of the items on the list below, please place them in the box in the Church Porch – thank you.



Providing crisis packs for those in need

Christmas Items Required – Thanks

- ◆ Single sponge puddings
- ◆ Hot dogs
- ◆ Canned drinks
- ◆ Tins beans and sausage
- ◆ Miniature jars of jam
- ◆ Tinned Stews/spaghetti bolognese/chilli
- ◆ Bottles of squash
- ◆ Tins of meat
- ◆ Tinned tuna
- ◆ Tins meatballs
- ◆ Christmas themed chocs/cakes
- ◆ Tins Ravioli
- ◆ crisps
- ◆ small cartons fruit juice
- ◆ Cake Bars
- ◆ Tins meatballs
- ◆ UHT Milk Semi skimmed and full fat
- ◆ Chocolate Bars
- ◆ Custard

Please note no Christmas puddings and no mince pies

Basically anything that a family would love to have at Christmas time!



The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto!

The October Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 26th October, with the lucky winner walking away with £20!

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!!

Online Giving

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

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

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

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



Once you've done that, choose the amount you wish to donate – the suggested options are £5, £10, £20 or £50, but there is also an option to click and choose your own amount. Next, simply follow the on screen instructions - fill in your personal details, (if you are a tax payer you can choose to add Gift Aid to increase your donation), then enter your card details. When you're finished, you'll get a 'Thank You' message on screen and you can request a receipt via email for your own records – simple!

Bury Homeless Project – Winter Clothing Appeal



As in previous years, Bury Homeless Project will be running their 'Winter Clothing Campaign', to collect warm clothing for local people who are in need this winter.

Items required include coats, jumpers / fleeces, hats, scarves & gloves – or anything else warm & cosy. Sadly, there are many families who need to access this service, so donations of warm children's clothing are also greatly appreciated.

Please place any clothing donations in the large box in the Church porch; please note that all donated garments must be clean & in a wearable condition.

We are also looking for volunteers to drop off the collected garments at our local drop off point, "The Rose & Crown", on a regular basis. If this is something that you would be able to help with, please speak to Alison or Revd Debra

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

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 £937-07; with more supporters, could you help us to get this total to £1,000 by the end of 2025?

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Persona



Raising Awareness – World Kindness Day; 13th November 2025

World Kindness Day is a global observance dedicated to promoting and celebrating acts of kindness. This day serves as a reminder of the positive impact that kindness can have on individuals, communities, and the world at large. It encourages people to perform intentional acts of kindness and foster a culture of compassion

and generosity. It highlights the importance of empathy, understanding, and cooperation to create a more harmonious and caring world.

World Kindness Day is observed on November 13th each year. This year it falls on a Monday, providing an opportunity for people to start their week with acts of kindness and goodwill.

How You Can You Take Part:

- **Perform Acts of Kindness:** Throughout the day, consciously perform acts of kindness, such as helping a neighbour, complimenting a colleague, or donating to a charity.
- **Spread Positivity:** Share uplifting and positive messages on social media to inspire others to be kind and compassionate, or use post-it notes if that's more your style.
- **Volunteer:** Offer your time to volunteer for a local charity or nonprofit organization that aligns with your values.
- **Donate:** Make a donation to a charitable cause that you believe in, whether it's for humanitarian aid, education, or healthcare.
- **Teach Kindness:** Educate children and young people about the importance of kindness and empathy through storytelling or classroom activities.
- **Random Acts of Kindness:** Surprise someone with a random act of kindness, such as buying a stranger's coffee or leaving an encouraging note for a friend.

For more info visit:

[World Kindness Day 2025 | November 13, 2025 | Awareness Days](#)

News From The Diocese

Service of Remembrance For lives cut Short

Each year, the Service of Remembrance for Lives Cut Short honours, by name and at the request of their families, those who have died as a result of murder or manslaughter.

The service features readings, music, and hymns, and is led by individuals who have personally experienced this form of bereavement.

This year's service will take place at Manchester Cathedral on Monday, 24 November at 7.30 pm. Music will be provided by the Accord Inspirational Gospel Choir.

If you would like a name to be read aloud during the service, or if you need more information, please contact Revd Canon Steve Williams: Phone 07757 411 377 or email st.gab.prest@gmail.com

Early Years Conference – Sat 8th November, 10 – 3pm

A 'must' event for anyone who is working with or interested in ministry for young children and their families. Come and be inspired by leading experts in the field and gather practical ideas to help you engage with children under 5 and their families. [Early Years Conference Tickets, Sat, Nov 8, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Intercultural Kingdom Conference – Sat 15th November, 9.30-3pm

This special day will bring together churches from across our diocese to celebrate the rich cultural diversity within our communities. Through worship, teaching, and shared hospitality, we'll explore what it means to be part of God's intercultural Kingdom. Tickets are free, but registration is required by Wednesday 5th November. [Intercultural Kingdom Conference 2025 Tickets, Sat, Nov 15, 2025 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Mission Community News – Window On Advent



Come and join members of the other Churches of our Mission Community as we begin the season of Advent together. Opportunities for thought, prayer & reflection, plus refreshments & chat.

Saturday 29th November, 9.30 – 11.30am at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
M45 8NA

Advent Zoom Prayers

Once again, the churches of our Mission Community will be coming together for 'Advent Zoom Prayers'.

As previously, the prayer sessions will be held each evening at 6pm on Zoom, for approximately 10 minutes, with each of the churches within our Mission Community contributing. The sessions are generally led by a different person each evening, which ensures a wide variety of prayer themes and approaches to prayer are included.

The Zoom prayer sessions are not only a powerful way of easily praying together but are also a great way to begin to get to know people from other churches; if you haven't already joined in, why not give it a go.

Advent Zoom Prayers begin on Monday 1st December and will be held at 6pm each weeknight throughout Advent. Simply click the link below to take part:

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

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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Radcliffe
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Bolton BL3 1LU
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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

Or by scanning our QR code



Thank you for your support!

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Diary



November 2025

1 st	We pray for those from St. George's, Unsworth, who will be litter picking this morning; that they would have meaningful encounters as well as working to improve their local environment.
2 nd	We pray for all those who are remembering loved ones today & for those attending the Memorial Services at St. Mary, Radcliffe, St. George's, Unsworth and Christ Church Ainsworth.
3 rd	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
4 th	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints Stand.
5 th	We pray for pets & all animals on bonfire night; that they would be safe & well cared for on this exciting night.
6 th	We pray for all who will be attending the Mothers' Union meeting at All Saints, Stand this afternoon, & for Mothers' Union members everywhere.
7 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
8 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
9 th	On Remembrance Sunday we pray for all who will be attending Remembrance Services, parades & events throughout the country.
10 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
11 th	On Remembrance Day we remember & give thanks for those who gave their lives in conflict.
12 th	We pray for all who will be running or attending the cooking workshop at St. Andrew's, Hillock today & also next Wednesday, that these sessions might be well attended & helpful to those who take part.
13 th	We pray for those who will be representing their Churches at Deanery Synod this evening; praying that this will be a helpful & constructive time together.
14 th	On Children in Need Day, we pray for all who will be fundraising for children's charities; praying also for the children & families who will benefit from the monies raised & services provided.
15 th	We pray that the Christmas Fair at Christ Church Ainsworth will be a well-supported & successful event. We give thanks for all who give up their time to organise & run these events.
16 th	On Safeguarding Sunday, we give thanks for the work & commitment of our Parish Safeguarding Officers.
17 th	We give thanks for & pray for all members of Clergy; that they would find time within their busy schedules to rest. We pray also for all Clergy spouses & family members.
18 th	We pray for & give thanks for all who provide ministry to older people; praying especially for members of the Whitefield Anna Chaplaincy Team.
19 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
20 th	We give thanks for members of our Mission Community Prayer & Spirituality Group who will be meeting this evening; may prayer underpin all that we do in our individual Churches & as a Mission Community.
21 st	We give thanks for the congregation, volunteers & community at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
22 nd	We pray that the Christmas Fair at St. George's, Unsworth will be a well-supported & successful event. We give thanks for all who give up their time to organise & run these events.
23 rd	We pray for & give thanks for all who are involved with funeral ministry; praying also for the families that they serve & support.
24 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.
25 th	We pray for & give thanks for all those who are involved with ministry for children & families.
26 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.
27 th	We give thanks for those who will be part of the Task Group meeting this evening; praying that there will be someone from each Church who feels called to be a part of this group, & that the meeting will be productive.
28 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
29 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
30 th	As National Tree Week draws to a close, we pray for & give thanks for the conservation sector & volunteer groups who work to maintain our forests & woodlands.

"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
- All proceeds to Church funds

The next Lucky Lotto draw will take place on Sunday 30th November.

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



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 11th November

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





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 6th November





Christmas Fair

SANTA'S GROTTO | CAFE

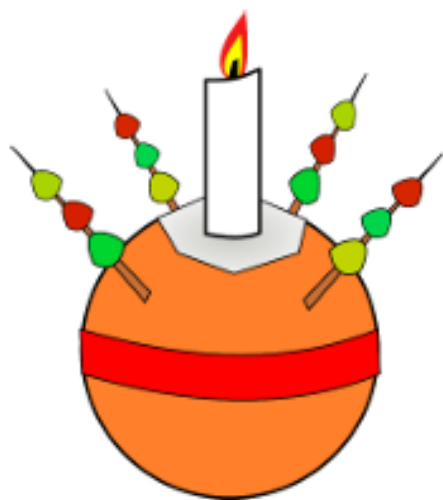


Saturday 15th November

Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

11am - 2pm

Christ Church Ainsworth
"Bring Your Own"
Christingle Service



Wednesday 3rd December 6.30pm
A family friendly Service suitable
for all ages - everyone welcome!

The Churches of the Radcliffe & Whitefield
Mission Community Invite you to ...

Window On Advent

A time of thought, prayer & reflection as we come
together to prepare for the season of Advent

Saturday 29th November

9.30 – 11.30am

St. Andrew's, Hillock. M45 8NA

Refreshments also available

Arrive when you're ready; leave when you like ...

We're looking forward to seeing you!



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

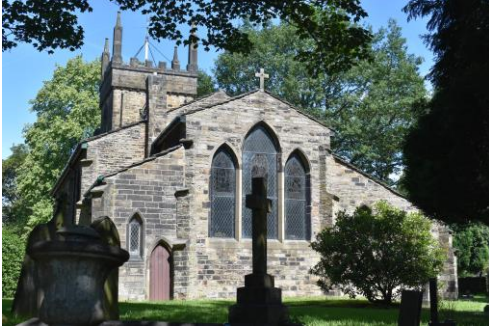
*"As the shadows begin to lengthen, be guided by the
light that shines within you."*



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.



Candlelit Christmas Concert

Saturday 6th December 7pm
Christ Church Ainsworth
Church St, Ainsworth
BL2 5RU

Featuring Farnworth & Walkden Brass Band

Tickets adults £7.50, children under 16 £5,
includes seasonal refreshments.

To book tickets or for more info email
ainsworthparishinfo@gmail.com

Or Tel 07952-709041

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 11th November

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 4th November

2.30pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Tuesday 18th November 2.30pm; Cosalea, Walshaw Rd.

New members always welcome, please call in to any of our meetings to find out more.

Ainsworth Friends of The Delph

Christmas Lights Switch On

Sunday 30th November

3pm, On The Delph

Everyone welcome!

Cuppa, Cakes & Company

Thursday 6th November 2 – 3.30pm

Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall

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

Window On Advent

Saturday 29th November

9.30 – 11.30am, St. Andrew's, Hillock

An opportunity to meet others from the Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community as we begin the season of Advent together.

!! Save The Date - Candlelit Christmas Concert !!

Saturday 6th December

7pm, Christ Church Ainsworth

Once again, we'll be joined by members of Farnworth & Walkden Band for an evening of seasonal entertainment. More info & tickets coming soon.

!! Save The Date - Christ Church Ainsworth Christmas Fair !!

Saturday 15th November

11 – 2pm, Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Stalls, crafts, games & Café – everyone welcome.

Around The Organisations ...

Join Us & Join In!



Thank you to those people who generously gave duvet covers / sets to us which we have forwarded to Fortalice, along with the nearly £138.00 following our successful 'Take a Cake Break' event. This money is designated for the purchase of further duvets sets or bed linen. Thank you also to Dunelm who kindly donated 4 brand new winter duvets with a possibility of more to follow.

On October 3rd, I attended the Diocesan Autumn Council and AGM. We learnt that the number of people who had been impacted by M.U. doing God's work from the AGM in 2024 to the AGM in 2025 was 4452. These include 161 people who have benefited from AFIA (Away From It All), enabling them to have such things as a caravan holiday, a city break, a day out or whatever is needed. Families are referred by their clergy. We watched a short video, made by a family who had enjoyed their holiday so much that they wanted to show how grateful they were.

Rosemary Taylor represented us at the Leadership Conference and encouraged us all to partake in the celebrations that are planned for 2026, the 150th Anniversary of the launch of Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner.

Just before lunch we learned about the work of Greater Together Manchester. Do you remember that, several years ago, Mothers' Union in Manchester donated 20 beds for their night shelters, caring for people who would otherwise sleep on the streets? Covid-19 saw the end of that scheme but another one, using spare rooms in people's houses will be launched in November.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence runs every year from 25th November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to the 10th December which is Human Rights Day. Worldwide Mothers' Union is just one of the 6000 organisations that observe and support this time.

Primarily, we give our support in prayer and will be giving out lapel ribbons after the service on 23rd November for us all to wear throughout the Days of Activism to show our support.

Our meeting on the 4th November will be in the Church Hall (TOP ROOM) at 2.30pm when we propose to have another reflection on a newspaper article about current concerns. Everyone is welcome,

member or not.

On the 18th November we will meet at Cosalea, Walshaw Road at 2.30pm. Please can you bring the balance of your Christmas meal at that meeting or get it to me before then?

Jennifer White

12th Radcliffe Guides

Having seen a variety of camp blankets (with a variety of badges sewn on), we presented the Overnight Interest badge to Alice, Erin, Grace S, Gracie, Keeley, Lilly S, Lucy, Poppy and Rubi; Bookworm and Conscientious Consumer interest badges to Grace S; and were able to present the Be Well theme award to Lucy and the Know Myself and take Action theme awards to Grace S. And, at the start of the term, we were pleased to welcome two new Guides, Amarah and Sofia.

At the September Church Parade, Mila carried the Guide flag and Rubi the Union Flag, with Esmi, Lucy and Grace escorting. And at the October Church Parade, Grace S carried the Guide flag and Esmi the Union Flag, with Rubi and Sofia escorting; and Grace did the reading from Psalm 65.

Also at the October parade, we had the great pleasure of presenting Grace S with her Guide Gold award, the highest achievement in Guides and the first one we have been able to present in our unit. Very well done Grace!



So far this term, we have done a variety activities: “road trip”, where the guides had to get from one end of the hall to another with all the distractions that modern day can bring – music, mobile phones, traffic,

and obstacles to trip someone up; and an activity looking at what might threaten endangered animals and what could be done to help.

Food is always a popular activity and this term we have made armpit fudge and our own dipping sauce (some were very tasty indeed). We have also started our civil engineering badge, with challenges on communication (using Lego) and the stability of solids – or lack of it!

And at the beginning of October we went, with many others from Girlguiding North West, to an activity day at Great Tower in the Lakes. The girls did an Army assault course; tried a bit of rugby; did the zip wire and climbed; then some did more challenging climbing and threw tomahawks, whilst others saw owls, went to a silent disco and did a bit of doodling and pond dipping – a very muddy but enjoyable experience!



12th Radcliffe Guide Leaders

Ainsworth Scout Group – Fundraising Coach Trip

After much debate and conversation about places to go, we have decided this year to return to the Dickensian Market at Ulverston for our Christmas fundraising coach trip on Saturday 29th November 2025.

There are multiple performance stages, roving street performers, hot mulled wine, a town-full of wonderful stalls, and costume parades through the historic town streets. Performers include brass bands, singers, magicians, fire eaters, jugglers, stilt walkers, and a whole lot more. Almost all of the entertainment is provided absolutely free of charge.

In addition, you might want to visit Ulverston's traditional and specialist local shops, cafes and pubs. Ulverston still has many independent small businesses, and also still has thriving indoor and outdoor markets.

The coach will depart from the bus turnaround (Junction Bury Old Road and Arthur Lane) in Ainsworth at 08.30 and will return around 18.00.

Prices: -

Adult (Aged 14 and over) £30

Child (Aged 13 and under) £25

Under 5's - Free

Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £90

NB if we don't sell enough seats to make the trip viable, it will not take place

To book your seats please follow the link below

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/AinsworthScoutGroup1/FundraisingFamilyCoachTripUlverstonDickensianMarket>

1057 Mile Challenge – Fundraiser



Ainsworth Scout Group

1,057 Mile Challenge

Equivalent of journey from

Ainsworth Church Hall
to
Camp Nerager, Denmark

Scouting is a family trait - with both my parents being involved for over 60 years, you could say I was born into it. I have been involved in

Scouting all my life, but officially since I turned 18, which is well ... quite a while ago.

Every couple of years since 1995 I have been taking my Scouts and Explorers abroad in the summer for an adventure holiday. We have visited places like Spain, Austria, Switzerland, and France.

A couple of years ago, to raise money, I undertook the 50 miles in 50 days challenge. Thanks to everyone's support I raised nearly £3000 which was used to support two young people travelling to Austria on a Scout Trip that they otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend.

For our next adventure, we are travelling to Denmark in 2027, and again I am going to undertake a walking challenge – a bit further this time 1057 miles!!! This is the distance to our accommodation in Denmark.

So, my challenge is to walk the 1057 miles between 1st August 2025 and 1st July 2027 – it works out at 10 miles a week.

I can hear you saying, “**well that's not far**”.

Trust me, for most normal people that is true. However, I am a mid-50's, overweight, unfit, Type 2 diabetic and the kind of person who gets in the car to travel the 0.3 miles to the local shop!!! So this is definitely a challenge for me, both physically and mentally.

Along with doing the walk I am hoping that this challenge will help me get fitter and lose much needed weight.

The way the fundraising works is that people sponsor me in a 20 mile block, i.e miles 61 to 80. You only pay me once I have completed the final mile of your block.

If you would like to sponsor me to support our local young people, please drop me a message on either 07742-610281 or email me on scouts.ainsworth@prawscouts.org.uk

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks - Stacey

From the Archives – November 2000

A wonderful sketch on the inside of the front cover in the November 2000 Parish Magazine depicted a Chelsea Pensioner paying his respects at the Cenotaph; in his 'Letter To The Parish', Father Alan – the Incumbent at that time, continued on the theme of Remembrance, highlighting the need to remember to allow us to learn from the past and thus avoid making the same mistakes in the future.

In addition to the usual Services & events, the Parish Diary for November 2000 included a PCC meeting, a Deanery Synod meeting, the Parish Remembrance Service and the Church Christmas Fair – 25 years later our Parish Diary looks remarkably similar!!

A number of the groups and organisations' reports included requests for the Christmas Fair – items to sell & volunteers to help out on the day; there were also a number of reminders about the various Christmas outings and meals, plus requests for deposits and menu choices.

In other news, 16th Radcliffe Brownies had taken part in the Lancashire Border torch light procession up Rivington Pike; Beavers had taken part in the County Fun Day; Cubs had been on a trip to the Blue Planet Aquarium; Scouts had held their annual Dads & Lads camp in the Lake District; and the PTA had a reminder that teams needed to get their entries in to take part in their 'very competitive fun quiz'.

In November 2000, there were 4 Baptisms and 1 Wedding recorded from the previous month, but no Funerals. Communicants for the previous month was listed as 287; collections were listed as £1583.

Autumn Traditions

Halloween originated around 400 years ago from an ancient Celtic pagan festival called Samhain, which was a celebration of the harvest. It also marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter.

The Celts believed the souls of the dead wandered about on earth at this time of the year, so they dressed in costumes to disguise themselves and lit huge fires on the top of the hills to ward off ghosts and evil spirits as they celebrated the harvest.

After the Romans conquered the British Isles in the first century, they introduced their Festival of Feralia to commemorate the dead, and the Festival of Pomona marked the goddess of the harvest; both of these festivals ran alongside Samhain.

All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows Day, was introduced in 609 by Pope Boniface, as a time to honour the saints and martyrs. It is still celebrated on November 1 by the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Community, and other Protestant churches.

All Souls Day was introduced in the year 1,000 to commemorate the Faithful Departed.

All Saints Day and All Souls Day emerged from the belief in a powerful spiritual bond between the saints & martyrs and all deceased Christians who are now in heaven and resting in peace (known as the Church Triumphant), and the body of living Christians actively proclaiming the gospel in the world today (known as the Church Militant).

Some people think that the European church began celebrating All Saints and All Souls Day at the beginning of November to replace or coincide with the pagan festival of Samhain and include a Christian observance.

By doing this, the evening before All Saints Day became a holy, or hallowed eve, a vigil for All Saints Day and the Halloween we celebrate today. So, by the end of the Middle Ages, secular and sacred days had been thoroughly merged.

Remembrance Sunday This day honours those who have died in war and military conflict since World War I. Traditionally a two-minute silence is observed throughout the country at the eleventh hour on November 11, and church services and ceremonial gatherings take place throughout the day.

Remembrance Sunday originates from Armistice Day, introduced on November 11, 1919, to commemorate the anniversary of one year since the peace agreement that ended WWI.

After the Second World War, Armistice Day was replaced by Remembrance Sunday to honour and commemorate all those who gave their lives in the two world wars. In modern times Remembrance Sunday is a time also to remember and honour those who have fought and died in more recent conflicts.

Space To Share A Prayer

Peace-loving God, on this Remembrance Sunday we remember all who have fallen in war;

Those who re-live war daily through injury or broken spirit;

Those left behind, grieving for a loved one.

And as we remember, we pray for those who seek peace;

For those who are good negotiators, working with dedication and persistence;

For those going the extra mile for peace. Amen

A Hymn For The Season Of Remembrance



O valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,
To save mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.

Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay,
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.

Still stands His cross from that dread hour to this,
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

These were His servants, in His steps they trod,
Following through death the martyred Son of God:
Victor, He rose; victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
Whose cross has bought them and whose staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.

Time For A Smile

One Sunday after the morning service the vicar asked his verger, "Do you think I should put more fire into my sermons?"

The verger replied, "In my opinion, vicar, you should put more sermons into your fire."

Things To Look Out For In November – Brambling



Flocks of brambling head to the UK each year to escape the Scandinavian snow and take advantage of the food on offer in our woods.

Male bramblings have a bright orange and white breast, while females are similar but slightly less vibrant. The brambling's wings are black with shades of white and orange and are pale underneath.

In winter, males have a mottled grey-brown head, which turns jet black during the summer. Females are a similar colour all year round to the winter male.

While they are in the UK, bramblings feed mainly on nuts, seeds and berries. The nuts of beech trees are favoured in particular, and flocks of birds will travel in search of this food source. In their summer range, they will also take insects and invertebrates, such as caterpillars and beetles.

Wild Cyclamen



Wild Cyclamen is often seen in the winter months, bringing a bit of colour to otherwise faded landscapes. This hardy little plant can be found in woodland, scrubland and rocky areas, and even in some coastal locations.

Wild Cyclamen sprout leaves in the autumn then flower through the winter before becoming dormant before the warmer summer weather arrives. The blossoms are usually pink, white or purple.

Straplines

People who have not got a sense of humour should not be put in charge of anything.

The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary. Success is 5% inspiration, 95% perspiration and 2% attention to detail!

Some people are born to be great; some achieve greatness; some just grate.

There's no such thing as comfortable truth.

The Alphabet Made Harder!

Here's the real phonetic alphabet that air traffic control don't want you to know:

A for Aisle

B for Bdelium

C for Czar

D for Djibouti

E for Ewe

F for Pharaoh

G for Gnome

H for Heir

I for Island

J for José

K for Knife

L for Llama

M for Mnemonics

N for Nguyen

O for Oeuvre

P for Psychology

Q for Qatar

R for Rendezvous

S for Sisyphus

T for Tsar

U for Utrecht

V for Viking

W for Wrestling

X for Xylophone

Y for Yttrium

Z for Zwieback

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Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

Tramping Feet

In the cool, grey light of morning,
Silence fills the dew drenched air,
Softly lapping round the group of men
And boys now gathered there.

Fathers, brothers, uncles, sons;
Each one courageous through and through,
All united now as brothers
In the duty they must do.

Yet what horrors lie before them
As they wave a last goodbye?
In the cool, grey light of morning,
Do they wait to live or die?

And do they maybe wonder,
Just how many will return
To live once more the peaceful,
Simple lives for which they yearn?

And then, the silence shattered
By the sound of tramping feet –
Those lads march off across the fields,
Their destiny to meet.

So now, today, remember
All those folk who've gone before,
And hear once more their tramping feet
All marching off to war;

To fight for King and Country;
For the freedoms we enjoy;
For a cause they all believed in –
Every soldier – man and boy.

ALHartley

The Parish Puzzler

How many words can you make from the following letters?

G U N P O W D E R P L O T

Fireworks Anagrams

Can you unscramble the following to find 5 fireworks?

1. A N R M O / E A L C D N
2. G E A R B N
3. E T A C I N E H R / H L E W E
4. K R T C E O
5. K P L R E A S R

Bonfire Night Quiz

1. Which cake made from brown sugar, molasses & spices is traditionally eaten on bonfire night?
2. Which King was the gunpowder plot intended to assassinate?
3. In which year did the gunpowder plot take place?
4. In which English county was Guy Fawkes born?
5. What role did Robert Catesby play in the gunpowder Plot?

Remembrance Day Quiz

1. Which monarch oversaw the first Remembrance Day memorial?
2. In which year were artificial poppies first sold?
3. Where in London is the Cenotaph?
4. In which English county is the National Arboretum?
5. Who was Prime Minister when World War I was declared?

(Answers on pg 47)

Just A Thought

You don't drown by falling in the water; you drown by staying there!

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
2 nd November All Saints Sunday	Mags Gillman	Beryl Sixsmith	Clergy
9 th November Remembrance Sunday	Barbara Clarkson Scout Group	Church Parade	Scouting Sections
16 th November 2 nd Sun Before Advent	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Peter Holden	Peter Holden
23 rd November Christ The King	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	David Holden	David Holden
30 th November 1 st Sunday of Advent	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	N/A	N/A

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
2 nd November All Saints Sunday (Red)	Beryl Sixsmith	Daniel 7.1-3,15-18 Ephesians 1.11-23 Luke 6.20-31
9 th November Remembrance Sunday (Red)	Scouting Sections	Church Parade
16 th November 2 nd Sun Before Advent (Red)	Peter Holden	Malachi 4.1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13 Luke 21.5-19
23 rd November Christ The King (Red)	David Holden	Jeremiah 23.1-6 Colossians 1.11-20 Luke 23.33-43
30 th November 1 st Sunday of Advent (Purple)	Prayer & Praise	Isaiah 2.1-5 Romans 13.11-14 Matthew 24.36-44

Who's Who

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

Services

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

Weds 6.30pm Mid-Week Praise

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

Answers to Fireworks Anagrams: 1) Roman Candle, 2) Banger, 3) Catherine
 Wheel, 4) Rocket, 5) Sparkler.

Answers to Bonfire Night Quiz: 1) Parkin, 2) James I, 3) 1605, 4) Yorkshire,
 5) Leader.

Answers to Remembrance Quiz: 1) George V, 2) 1921, 3) Whitehall, 4)
 Staffordshire, 5) H. H. Asquith

Who's Who For Church Organisations

Mothers Union	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm Branch Contact Jean Eddleston	0161 761 2147
Altar Flowers	Kathy Armstrong Rand	07748 020743
ABC First Steps Toddler Group	Fridays 10.00am - 11.30am Church Hall Jennifer White	07964 587694
Group Leader	group.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	01204 595378
Beaver Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Cub Scouts	Friday at 6.30pm in the Church Hall	
Scouts' 14 th Radcliffe	Fridays at 7.45pm in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.org.uk	07742 610281
Explorers	Friday 7.30 – 9.30pm; in the Church Hall Leader Stacey White scouts.ainsworth@praws.gmnscouts.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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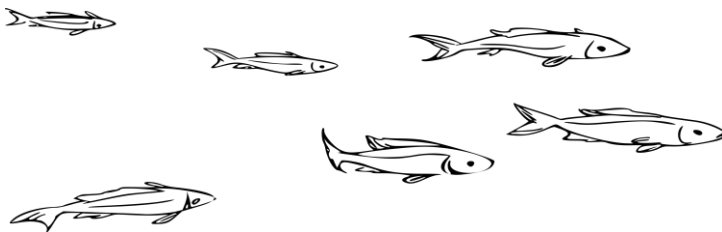


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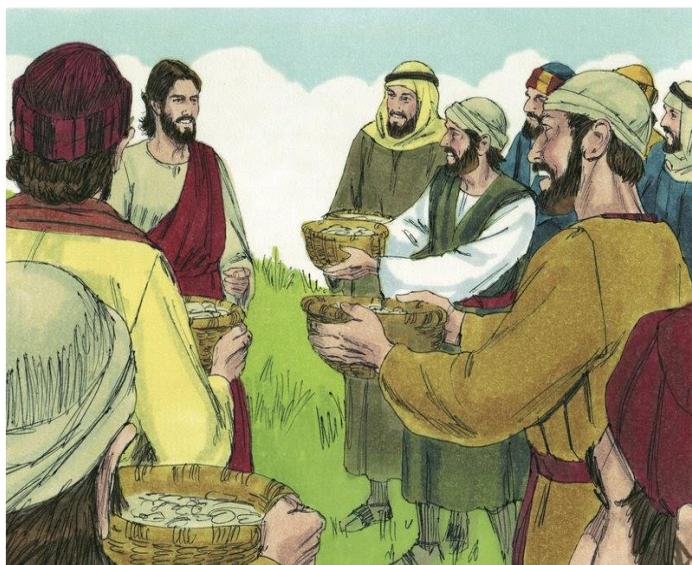
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Little Fishes

Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand



Stories Of Jesus

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

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

Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand

You'll find this story in Matthew chapter 14, verses 13-23.

Jesus's disciples had been working really hard; they had been healing people, casting out evil spirits and teaching people to love the one true God, just as they had seen Jesus doing. They were pleased with how things were going and came back to Jesus to tell him of their success.

Jesus was becoming so famous in this area now that people from distant parts of the country were flocking to hear him and to ask Him to heal themselves or their loved ones, or simply to listen to what He had to say.



Jesus and His disciples were tired, so Jesus called the disciples to Him and said, "Come with me to a quiet place, for we must rest a while."

Jesus and His disciples got into a boat and sailed away to the other side of the lake, hoping for some quiet time to rest and pray. But the people had heard that Jesus had arrived, and a huge crowd were coming to meet them!

The crowd had grown and grown as other people joined them as they hurried along; now there were at least 5,000 people all hurrying to meet Jesus.



Many of them had come from different parts of

Galilee. Some of them had brought their wives and children along, and other women had come, too. They had walked a long way to find Jesus, and many of them had brought nothing to eat.

When the crowd reached Jesus, they all sat down around Him and



once again Jesus began to talk to the people and teach them about God. He healed the people who were sick and spoke kindly to those who were weary or afraid.

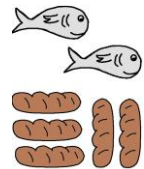
Soon it was evening, but still the people lingered, they seemed to have forgotten that there was no food or shelter to be had in such a remote place. The disciples grew impatient with them and came to ask Jesus and asked Him to send them away.

"They have brought no food," said the disciples, "and we can't supply food for them in this wilderness; send them away so that they can buy food in the towns and villages as they make their way home."

But Jesus answered, "We must feed them before sending them away." Then, turning to Philip he asked, "Where shall we find bread, that all these people may eat?"

Philip looked at the huge crowd of people and shook his head. "If we should buy two hundred pennyworth of bread," he answered, "there would not be enough for each one to have a small piece."

While Jesus and the disciples were discussing what to do, a young boy came over to them; he had a small basket and in his basket, he had five little loaves of barley bread and two small fishes. He showed his basket of food to one of the disciples, and he offered to give the food to Jesus. The disciple, who was called Andrew, came and told Jesus what the boy had said.



"How many loaves are there in the basket?" asked Jesus.

Andrew replied, "Only five and two small fishes. But what will that be among so many people?"

Jesus replied, "Bring them to me."

Then he told his disciples to ask the people sit down in groups, in some fifty and in others a hundred, and wait for their evening meal. While they waited, he took the little loaves and the fishes and blessed them and broke them into small pieces.



He filled a basket for each of the twelve disciples and sent them to pass the food among the hungry people.

Then the disciples returned and again he filled their empty baskets.

When all the people had eaten enough to satisfy their hunger, Jesus sent the disciples to gather up the scraps that had been left over, and they found twelve baskets full of scraps.

The boy who had brought the food to Jesus had also eaten all that he could eat. Because he had been willing to share what he had and had allowed Jesus to bless the food, he was able to share his little lunch with everyone in the great crowd.



This unusual miracle caused much excitement among the people. They wanted Jesus to become their king instead of letting the Roman government rule them any longer. They believed that he could set them free from the rule of the Romans, whom they hated. They thought it would be wonderful to have a king rule them who could feed them by working miracles.

But Jesus would not allow the people to take him for their king.



He commanded his disciples to enter their ship at once and return to the other side of the Sea. And when they left him, then he sent the crowd home and went alone upon the mountain nearby to pray.





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