

Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine



View From The Tower
(Photos courtesy of Lesley Parry)

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January 2026

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Parish Diary January 2026



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sun 4 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Weds 7 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sun 11 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
	11.15am	Covenant Service – Ainsworth Methodist
	12.30am	Interment of Ashes of Jean Adamson
Tues 13 th	10.30am	Coffee & Conversation (<i>Ainsworth Church & Community Hall</i>)
Weds 14 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sun 18 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Weds 21 st	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sun 25 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion (<i>followed by refreshments & drawing of the January Lucky Lotto</i>)
Weds 28 th	6.30pm	MidWeek Praise

FEBRUARY

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sun 1 st	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer



Interregnum Update

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13;34-35

It's hard to believe that another 12 months have passed and once again we are standing at the threshold of a New Year.

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions; recent or ongoing events in our own lives, in the lives of those around us, or in the wider world, may have created unrest or anxiety. While some people might have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead, others maybe feel as though they have trudged through one deep struggle after another. A new year might bring with it anticipation of continuing success; or a desperate hope for things to be better.

Looking back over the past year at Christ Church Ainsworth, much has been achieved; our PCC, members of the various groups and committees, and members of our worshipping community have worked hard to ensure that our Church continues to thrive during the ongoing interregnum; we've reached out to & developed new links with our wider community, we've tried new things, and we continue to build on and strengthen existing links with Christ Church Ainsworth School, with our friends at Ainsworth Methodist Church, and with the other churches of our Mission Community.

Not everything has been straight forward, and not everything we've done has been successful; but the important thing as we move forward into 2026, is that we keep working together as a team, to continue the good work that is being done in and through our Church here at Ainsworth.

Focusing on the words of John chapter 13; 34-35 will surely help us all as we strive to do that.

God of all time, help us enter this New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact, and our words carry power.

Help us to walk gently and only to speak after we have listened well. May we welcome you into our lives in this new year, and may the grace and peace of Christ bless each one of us now, and in the days ahead. Amen

Alison Hartley – on behalf of Christ Church Ainsworth PCC

Editor's Spot ...

Welcome to the very first edition of the Christ Church Ainsworth Parish Magazine for 2026; where on earth did 2025 go?!

As always, a New Year is a time for reviewing things past & planning for the future; this month's magazine brings us reports on the many Services, activities & events which took place on the run up to Christmas, but also contains some new articles and items of interest; look out for 'Reflecting On The Seasons', 'Everything You Need To Know About ...' and 'Simple & Delicious', tucked in amongst the regular reports, articles and updates.

There are also lots of 'Thank you's' following on from the support that you gave to our various Christmas appeals & fundraising activities.

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

Flower Rota

4 th January	Beryl Sixsmith
18 th January	Jean Eddleston

The flowers that you see in Church each week are donated by members of our congregation or wider community and are often given in memory of family or friends.

There are currently a number of spaces on the Church Flower Rota – please contact Mrs. Gwen White on 01204-595378 if you would be interesting in joining the flower rota or would like to take on an additional date.

Announcement

Keith Sowerby passed away peacefully on 8th December 2025 aged 77. A devoted family man who made Ainsworth village his home for the last 53 years, Keith leaves behind his wife Barbara, children Daniel and Gail, grandchildren Emily, Jessie, Imogen, Jasmin and Nathan and great granddaughter Lilly. His funeral will be held at Radcliffe Crematorium on 6th January 2026 at 11:30am. Family flowers only please, with donations, in memory of Keith, for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Welcome To Revd Bob May

What a joy and a privilege it was on Sunday 21st December 2025, to be able to formally welcome Revd Bob May to join our Ministerial Team at Christ Church Ainsworth.

Revd Bob served his Curacy at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe and has helped us out with Service cover on a number of occasions prior to and during the current interregnum, so is a familiar face to many of our congregation; following his licensing by Bishop Matthew on 1st December, Bob officially joins our team as Associate Priest.

It was wonderful to see so many people joining us in Church to hear Revd Debra read out the official declaration & welcome Revd Bob as part of our team. We pray that Bob will be blessed as he begins this new stage of his journey of Service, and look forward to walking and working alongside him.

Christmas At Christ Church Ainsworth



What a fantastic variety of Christmas Services and activities were on offer at Christ Church Ainsworth throughout December 2025!

The season got off to a great start with our 'Bring Your Own Christingle Service' – it was fantastic to see our Church quite literally full, with children and adults alike proudly displaying their lighted Christingles.

Hot on the heels of this fun filled afternoon came our wonderful, and extremely popular, Candlelit Christmas Concert held in Church on Saturday 6th December. It was great to see our Church full, as 120 plus members of our congregation and local community were entertained with a fantastic selection of festive music played by Farnworth & Walkden Band. As well as being a thoroughly enjoyable evening, this event raised over £750 for our Church funds.



The following weekend brought us our 'All Age Christmas Service', held on Sunday 14th December – the children (plus a couple of grown-ups) from our MidWeek Praise family service did a fantastic job of retelling the Christmas Story, leading prayers and singing some lovely Christmas songs – the atmosphere was wonderful and again it was great to see our Church so full.

The joint Carol Service at Ainsworth Methodist Church was next on the Christmas agenda, with people from Ainsworth Methodist Church, Christ Church Ainsworth and Harwood Methodist Church all coming together in worship. The combined choir, led by Mike Bainbridge, were amazing as always! This Service becomes more popular each year, with folk arriving early to make sure they 'get a good seat'.

And finally, to Christmas Eve – Christmas at the Crib and The First Communion of Christmas, followed by BCP Communion on Christmas morning.

Many thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to bring all of these things to fruition, and also to the many people from our Church and our wider community, who have come along and supported us – it really is a wonderful time of year!

Candlelit Christmas Concert

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the Candlelit Christmas Concert – what a great night we had! The band were magnificent and entertained us with a whole range of festive music, it was possibly the best yet!

The total amount raised from this event was £1,104-00 before the band's expenses.

Save The Date ... Our 2026 Christmas Concert is booked for Saturday 5th December 2026.

Churchyard Team - Christmas Wreaths

A big thank you to everyone who ordered Holly wreaths via the Churchyard Team; the total amount raised was £120-00! This money will be used to buy fuel for the mowers throughout the summer months.



Christmas Cakes

Many thanks to everyone who ordered home-made Christmas Cakes, the sale of which raised £120-00 for Church funds.



Just A Thought

Arguments are like fences; they always have two sides.

Porch Boxes – Christmas Crisis Packs & Christmas Meal Appeal



A huge thankyou to everyone who supported our 'Christmas Meal Appeal' so generously throughout Advent. It was great to see our 'Porch Box' being filled each week with items to help local people who are in desperate need.

Many thanks also to Jan, who delivers these items to the Porch Boxes depot, for distribution.

Unwanted Gift Amnesty

Most of us will, at some point, receive a gift which, although well-meant, simply 'isn't our thing'; maybe you have a 'double up', or something which isn't the right size.

Perhaps these items aren't useful to you, but they could be used at one of our fundraising events as raffle prizes or sold on a stall at one of the Church fairs.

If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, please consider donating them to Church; simply leave them in the box at the back of Church, marked 'Gift Amnesty'. Thanking you in advance!

Parish Magazine Advertising

If you own or manage a local business, have you considered advertising in our Parish Magazine? The Magazine is emailed out directly to almost 300 people every month, and also uploaded to our Facebook page, website and 'A Church Near You' page, as well as being shared to Christ Church Ainsworth School.

Our advertising year runs from March through to February; for more info / price options, email ainsworthmagazine@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.

The Christ Church Ainsworth 50/50 Lucky Lotto!

The December Lucky Lotto draw took place in Church on Sunday 28th December, with the lucky winner walking away with £17!

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!

Gift Aid

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bury Homeless Project – Winter Clothing Appeal

As in previous years, Bury Homeless Project have been running their 'Winter Clothing Campaign', to collect warm clothing for local people who are in need this winter. This scheme will continue until the end of February, so there's still time to donate items if you wish to.



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.

Thank you to the ladies who have very kindly agreed to drop these donations off at the local collection point for us – your help with this is very much appreciated.



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A big thank you to our amazing supporters who raise free funds for us on #easyfundraising. If you're not signed up yet, why not join today! You can raise free donations for Ainsworth Parish Church - Bolton every time you shop online. All the big names like John Lewis & Partners, Expedia, Argos, Just Eat and many more are ready to make a free donation at no extra cost to you. Plus, if you sign up today using the link below, we could win £500!!

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

Bible Reading Fellowship

The Bible Reading Fellowship offers a fantastic range of daily Bible reading notes, which are ideal for anyone wanting an accessible, yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith, and their knowledge of the Bible. Each booklet covers 4 months, with each daily reading followed by a short reflection on the passage. The reflections are readable, enlightening and make the Bible relevant to our daily lives. For more information visit brfonline.org.uk

Reflecting On The Seasons - Epiphany



'After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.'

Matthew 2; 1-12

In this modern age, when people around the globe are on the move, fleeing violence, poverty and despair, Matthew's account of the

Epiphany presents us with another tale of a journey - a journey of faith and hope. The Bible tells us little about the Magi from the East, who set out bearing gifts for a newborn king; leaving us to wonder who the Magi are and how their story intersects with our own. They follow a star that can sometimes flicker. The light isn't always steady, but it never disappears. The Magi teach us that we must learn to persevere, to trust in the signs God throws in our path; to strive towards our own star.

So, what does the Epiphany mean for us today? Embarking upon a journey of discovery, like the Magi, is what we are all about as Christians. We are a pilgrim people; we have set off to follow Christ and learn more about God as we journey. A journey in which we do not know the landmarks; where we will have to keep trusting the voice inside that urges us not to turn back or stop.

As we begin our journey through Epiphany this year, perhaps you could ask yourself;

Which stars will you follow this year and what road will you take?

Who or what is guiding you towards a closer relationship with Jesus?

What gifts will you offer?

And what will be your reward?

Generous God,

We give thanks for all that you have given us.

Open our hearts to follow you

So that all that we do may be guided by your love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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.

Don't Forget ...

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch; 23rd – 25th January 2026. For more info or to sign up, visit [Big Garden Birdwatch](#)

News From The Diocese - Authorised Lay Ministry

Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) are lay people active in church life, who have been identified by their parish as having a particular gifting, vocation or calling to lay leadership, i.e. those called to work collaboratively alongside their incumbent and wider ministry teams with a distinct focus on growing, nurturing and serving the wider parish community.

ALMs are nominated by their incumbent and PCC for training in line with their parish Mission Action Plan (MAP) and diocesan selection criteria. Once trained they are authorised by the Bishop of Manchester to carry out a mutually agreed ministry role back within their local parish context. An ALM's authorisation lasts for three years after which time it can be reviewed, updated and renewed.

ALM training begins each January with an 8-session Core Leadership Module followed by a 12-session ministry elective course. Current courses on offer include:

- Children & Families
- Community Outreach & Social Justice
- Ecology & Creation
- Mission & Evangelism
- Parish Admin, Finance & Governance
- Pastoral Outreach & Listening
- Prayer & Spirituality
- Worship & Liturgy
- Youth Work

Applications are now open for 2026 courses. Please find more information and details at www.manchester.anglican.org

New Year Resolution

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”
Albert Einstein's New Year resolution

Mission Community News – Recycling Initiative

Our joint recycling initiative began in July 2024; since then, between us, the Churches of our Mission Community have collected:

- Over 1,000 pairs of unwanted prescription glasses
- Over 4kg of used stamps
- Multiple bags of unwanted bras
- And also raised over £30 for Christian Aid via recycled ink cartridges.

Recycling means that these items are not only being kept out of landfill; they are helping people in the UK and abroad who are in the greatest need.

In the new year, we are hoping to add votive candles & tealights to the list of things which we recycle together, and are also looking into the possibility of recycling unwanted gold jewellery to raise money for a local charity; if anyone has any experience of doing this we would love to know more about how to go about it, so please get in touch via ainsworthmagazine@gmail.com

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.*

Next Step For The New Archbishop Of Canterbury

At the beginning of October it was announced that Bishop Sarah Mullally is to become the first woman to become the Archbishop of Canterbury. On 28th January 2026, there will be a Confirmation of Election at St Paul's Cathedral in London, at which she will legally become the Archbishop of Canterbury. This will be followed on 25th March with an Installation (sometimes referred to as 'enthronement') at Canterbury Cathedral, which denotes and marks the start of the new Archbishop of Canterbury's ministry.

Bishop Sarah was born in Woking, Surrey, in 1962, and became a Christian at the age of 16. Before being Ordained, Bishop Sarah worked as a nurse in the NHS, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and, at the age of 37, became the government's Chief Nursing Officer for England, the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. She was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing. She was Ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in the Diocese of Southwark, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004. She served as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury cathedral, then Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. In 2018 she was installed as the Bishop of London at St. Paul's cathedral, the third most senior role in the Church of England, and was the first woman to hold the post.

Bishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace. She has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital. She is Chair of Christian Aid. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery. (Info taken from www.churchofengland.org)

Keep Looking!

LOOK UP

with wonder

LOOK BACK

with gratitude

LOOK AROUND

with love

LOOK WITHIN

with honesty

LOOK AHEAD

with expectation



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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
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Or by scanning our QR code



Thank you for your support!

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Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

Prayer Diary



January 2026

1 st	We give thanks for all that has been achieved by & through the Churches of our Mission Community throughout the past year and pray for inspiration & guidance as we & our Churches prepare for the year ahead.
2 nd	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints Stand.
3 rd	We pray for the team at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe, that they may have wisdom as they consider the options with regards to their Church boiler, as the boiler room has flooded once again.
4 th	On World Braille Day, we give thanks for the use of Braille & for all who raise awareness of blindness issues.
5 th	We pray for the staff & children of our local schools as they prepare to return after the Christmas break.
6 th	We celebrate & give thanks for the visit of the Magi to Jesus.
7 th	We give thanks for the children & families who come to MidWeek Praise at Christ Church Ainsworth, we pray that through this Service, the seeds of faith may be sown in young hearts.
8 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
9 th	We pray for all those who attended Christ Church Walshaw, or any of the Churches within our Mission Community, for the first time in 2025; that they would find or rediscover faith.
10 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
11 th	We give thanks for the congregation at St. Andrew's, Hillock & all who support the work of 'Mopane Tree', supporting rural communities & schools in Namibia. Praying also for the communities who will benefit from their input.
12 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
13 th	We give thanks for & pray for our Church Officers, Lay Leaders & Volunteers.
14 th	We pray for the Radcliffe Team, their volunteers & helpers, and give thanks for all that they do.
15 th	We pray for & give thanks for the work of the Anna Chaplaincy Team in Whitefield.
16 th	We pray for discernment for the team at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe as they seek to discern how God is calling them to serve their community.
17 th	We give thanks for those who represent their Churches at Deanery Synod & pray for all who will be attending the meeting & Carbon Literacy Training Session this morning.
18 th	We give thanks & pray for all Incumbents, OLMS, NSMs & SSMs & those who have Permission To Officiate throughout our Mission Community.
19 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
20 th	We give thanks & pray for all those who are involved with ministry for children & families.
21 st	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.
22 nd	We give thanks for those who will be part of the Prayer & Spirituality Group meeting this evening; we pray that there will be someone from each Church who feels called to be a part of this group.
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 mission & ministry at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
25 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
26 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.
27 th	On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we remember not only the victims of the holocaust, but of all genocide.
28 th	We give thanks for the work of BRF Ministries & pray for those who will be attending the Bible Reading Fellowship Group at Christ Church Ainsworth this afternoon.
29 th	We give thanks for those who will be part of the Task Group meeting this evening; we pray that there will be someone from each Church who feels called to be a part of these groups.
30 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
31 st	We give thanks for the work of Mothers' Union within our parishes & beyond. We pray for Mothers' Union members throughout our Mission Community.

"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 25th Janaury.

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



Coffee and Conversation

Tuesday 13th January

10.30 – 12 noon

Ainsworth Church and Community Hall

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





RECYCLE FOR CHARITY

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

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

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

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

Thank you



RADCLIFFE & WHITEFIELD MISSION COMMUNITY



Candlelight Prayer



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

Simply click the following link to join in:

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

Or for more info contact Alison on 07952-709041

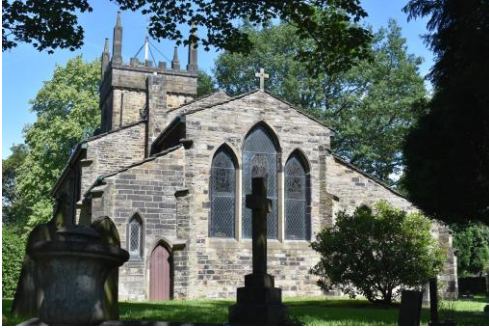
*"As the shadows begin to lengthen, be guided by the
light that shines within you."*



HEALTHY BODY ... HEALTHY MIND

Exercise Isn't Just For The Gym!

Doing something active is a form of exercise.



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

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

is one opportunity.

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



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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

COME RAIN OR SHINE!

9:30 – 11.45 A.M.

Notices, Acknowledgements & Announcements

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday 13th January

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 20th January

1pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Jacob’s Join; don’t forget to bring a small offering of food for our table, plus your own teacup / mug!

Tuesday 3rd February – Ainsworth Branch AGM

2.30pm Ainsworth Church & Community Hall

Cuppa, Cakes & Company

Thursday 8th January 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.

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>

Volunteers Needed

If you’re looking for a new challenge for 2026, why not consider volunteering within one of our Church teams. The Churchyard Team meet on a Wednesday morning & work in our lovely Churchyard; the Pew Polishers meet alternate Thursday mornings & do a fabulous job of cleaning & tidying in Church; the Church Sitters take it in turns to open our Church from 2.30 – 4pm on Wednesdays, to allow people the opportunity to call in for quiet prayer. All of these teams would appreciate additional volunteers; if you have a couple of hours to spare even once a month, we would love to hear from you. For Churchyard team enquiries contact Janet Hayes (01204 796404); for Pew Polishing enquiries speak to Ann Hampson or 1 of the Churchwardens; for Church Sitting contact Alison Hartley (07952-709041).

Around The Organisations ...



Worldwide President's Christmas Message

Greetings to you in this season of Advent, and as we move forward to Christmas. I bring you Advent greetings from our Worldwide Board of Trustees and our Central Charity staff at Mary Sumner House.

It has been a busy year for us. Our Board of Trustees was commissioned at St Martin in the Fields Church in late March. We are fourteen members of deep faith from all around the world and elected by you to be your voice in our global charity. We have been serving together now for almost 12 months and have been collaborating with our staff to further the work and witness of our over four million members in 84 countries around the world. God has blessed us with a unity of vision and a commitment to prayer; we are stronger together.

Advent is a time of anticipation, a time of hope as we move forward towards the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We may gather with family and friends and may have a generosity of spirit that is more evident at this time of the year. Jesus calls us to share ourselves with others, and to give generously, whether of time, talent or treasure.

Christmas can also be a difficult time for some, especially if we have lost loved ones, or are having relationship challenges. Let us reach out to those with His grace. Let us offer those small acts of kindness. Let us demonstrate that love in action through caring for others.

In Romans 15:7 we read, "So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!"

As we approach our 150th Anniversary and plan for our celebrations in 2026, let us reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Let us move forward in joyful anticipation.

I pray that He who is the One blesses you and keeps you this Advent Season and Christmastide.

Kathleen Snow; Worldwide President

There will be no meeting on the 6th January; thus we start this celebratory year with a Jacob's Join (bring and share) lunch in the top room of the Church Hall on Tuesday, **20th January at 1.00pm**. Please bring a small offering for the table and don't forget your own

tea cup or mug! We will have New Year's Worship followed by any updates before we share our food.

As a preliminary notice, our Branch AGM will be held on Tuesday 3rd February at 2.30pm. in the Church Hall. If anyone has an item that they wish to be put on the agenda for discussion, please can they notify Andrew or me by the previous Sunday, 1st February.

And so, we move on into the New Year. We have projects already established which need keeping up, and we pray that God will lead us to answer any other needs that are presented to us. Most of us know what we can't do but maybe we need a rethink about talents we do have that could be put to good use.

I speak on behalf of all the members to wish all readers of this magazine, a Very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Jennifer White

12th Radcliffe Guides

Once again, we have completed a variety of activities this half term. We have looked at AI and how it "learns", by asking questions, where even wrong answers can help to eliminate possibilities. On a practical level we looked at how adopting various positions could help in emergencies - avalanches, overboard, lightning strike, sinking and crash landing. And we made our own Pet rocks showing the responsibility of having a pet. Then we built bridges, using paper and tape only, which completed our Civil Engineering badge

Food, as usual, was a popular activity as we decorated a biscuit to make a snowman and made flapjacks (and of course washed up at the end!). This was part of the confectionery badge and meant that we could award the badge to Elise, Esmi, Georgia, Gracie, Lilly S and Scarlett. And as Christmas approached, we made Christmas cards and owl baubles and ended the term with a visit to crazy golf.

Grace M brought in her camp blanket which meant that we could present her with her Overnight interest badge and in turn this completed her "Have Adventure" theme award.

Lilly P told us about her hobby (football) and, having completed all the other parts, this enabled us to award her with the Personal Best interest badge, which also completed the "Know Myself" theme award and, having completed two theme awards, she also gained her Bronze Guide Award.



At the November Church Parade, Esmi and Rubi carried the flags, with Grace, Lilly and Sofia escorting; and Poppy laid the wreath on behalf of the Girlguiding units at Ainsworth.

12th Radcliffe Guide Leaders

From the Archives – January 2001

In January 2001, Ainsworth Parish Church Magazine cost 25p; the 'Who's Who' page listed Revd Alan T. Flaherty - Vicar, Messrs J. Maudsley & P. Hinchliffe - Churchwardens, Mrs. J. Eddleston - PCC Secretary, Mrs. M. Turner - Organist and Mrs. W. Steel – Verger.

The sketch on the inside cover of the January 2001 magazine depicted the Magi's visit to the stable to offer their gifts; this theme was reflected in the 'Vicar's letter', which spoke about the journey of the Kings.

The Parish News reported on a successful Christmas Fair, with a number of 'thank yous' included for goods donated and help given; it also brought advance warning of the Flower Festival which was to be held in the Autumn – a reminder that this event would need many volunteers to bring it to fruition, and an invitation for interested parties to attend a planning meeting later in the month.

The various groups and organisations had enjoyed their Christmas parties and trips out, but in addition, the Rainbows had won their section at the District Swimming Gala, 12th Radcliffe Brownies had come 2nd in their section, and the Cubs and Scouts had achieved similar success in the Scouts District Swimming Gala, leading to them bringing home the Group Trophy. Over the course of the year, the Cubs had also won the Cub Scout Handicraft competition and the District 5 aside, giving them a 'clean sweep' of the District events held throughout the year.

In January 2001, there were 4 Baptisms recorded from the previous month, but no weddings or funerals. Communicants for the previous month were listed as 212; collections were listed as £1578.

Space To Share A Prayer - Epiphany

God of wonder,
Help us to have as much faith as the wise men
Who followed your star to find Jesus.
Lead us down the right paths
And help us to recognise Jesus in the people that we meet as we
travel through life.
Amen.

Everything You Need To Know About - January ...



January 1, 1877 - Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India.

January 2, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Japanese captured the Philippines capital of Manila and the nearby air base at Cavite.

January 3, 1924 - British Egyptologist Howard Carter found the sarcophagus of Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor after several years of searching.

January 4, 1790 - President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address.

January 5, 1972 - President Richard Nixon signed a bill approving \$5.5 billion over six years to build and test the NASA space shuttle.

January 6, 1066 - Harold, Earl of Wessex, was crowned King of England following the death of his brother-in-law Edward the Confessor.

January 7, 1714 - A patent was issued for the first typewriter designed by British inventor Henry Mill

January 8, 1935 - was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

January 9, 1960 - Construction work began on the Aswan High Dam across the Nile River in southern Egypt.

January 10, 1863 - The world's first underground railway service opened in London, the Metropolitan line between Paddington and Farringdon.

January 11, 1964 - The U.S. Surgeon General declared cigarettes may be hazardous to health, the first such official government report.

January 12, 1879 - In Southern Africa, the Zulu War began between the British and the natives of Zululand, ultimately resulting in the destruction of the Zulu Empire.

January 13, 1893 - The British Independent Labor Party was founded with James Keir Hardie as its leader.

January 14, 1943 - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II.

January 15, 1535 - Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the Church in England as a result of the Act of Supremacy following his break with Rome.

January 16, 1547 - Ivan the Terrible had himself officially crowned as the first Russian Czar; although he had already ruled Russia since 1533

January 17, 1773 - The ship *Resolution*, sailing under Captain James Cook, became the first vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle.

January 18, 1966 - Robert Clifton Weaver was sworn in as the first African American cabinet member in U.S. history, becoming President Lyndon B. Johnson's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

January 19, 1966 - Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India in succession to Lal Shastri who had died eight days earlier.

January 20, 1936 - King George V of England died at age 71.

January 21, 1976 - The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service

January 22, 1901 - Queen Victoria of England died after reigning for 64 years.

January 23, 1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell was awarded her MD by the Medical Institute of Geneva, New York, thus becoming America's first woman doctor.

January 24, 1965 - Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965) died.

January 25, 1533 - King Henry VIII married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, in defiance of Pope Clement who had refused to annul his first marriage.

January 26, 1788 - The British established a settlement at Sydney Harbor in Australia as 11 ships with 778 convicts arrived, setting up a penal colony to relieve overcrowded prisons in England.

January 27, 1945 - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp near Krakow in Poland.

January 28, 1935 - Iceland became the first country to legalize abortion.

January 29, 1916 - During World War I, the first aerial bombings of Paris by German zeppelins took place.

January 30, 1649 - King Charles I of England was beheaded for treason by order of Parliament under the direction of Oliver Cromwell, leader of the Puritan Revolution.

January 31, 1943 - German troops surrendered at Stalingrad, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies in World War II.

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Strapliness

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Even God cannot change what has happened in the past, but He can cover it with His forgiveness.



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Strawberry Cheesecake

You will need:

100g shortbread biscuits, crushed

50g butter, melted

500g mascarpone (usually 2 x tubs)

325g good quality strawberry jam

A few fresh strawberries to decorate

8" loose bottom cake tin, lined with non-stick baking paper

Here's what to do:

1 – Mix the biscuits with the melted butter, then press down to cover the base of the lined cake tin.

2 – Place the mascarpone in a large bowl with the strawberry jam & beat until smooth.

3 – Spoon over the biscuit base & level the surface, then place in the fridge to chill for at least 4 hours.

4 – Remove from the tin & decorate with fresh strawberries.

5 – Enjoy!



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Poems From The Parish (And Beyond ...)

The Three Kings

Three Kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

Peter Cornelius

Time For A Smile

An elderly lady called her neighbour and said, "Please come over and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle and can't work out how to get started. The picture on the box shows a rooster, but I can't find the right pieces for it."

The neighbour goes over, and the lady shows him the box, and the table where all the pieces are spread out.

He studies the box, and the pieces, then says to her, "There's no way we're going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything that looks like a rooster. But what we *are* going to do is relax over a nice cup of tea, and then", sighing deeply, "we will put all the cornflakes back in their box."

The Parish Puzzler

Kings Quiz

Which King ...

1. Hid in an Oak Tree?
2. Burnt the cakes?
3. Signed the Magna Carta?
4. Was crowned on Christmas Day?
5. Was known as the Sun King?
6. Died on the toilet?
7. Had a stutter?
8. Abdicated?
9. Was executed in 1649?
10. Was known as 'Lionheart'?

EPI ...

All of the answers to the following clues include, but don't necessarily start with the letters ...E P I ...

1. A kind of letter found in the Bible
2. Managing the accounts
3. An event or group of events occurring as part of a sequence
4. A nosebleed
5. Tidying up with a broom
6. A form of anaesthetic or pain relief
7. Brave or daring
8. The outer surface of the skin
9. Point on the earth directly above the focus of an earthquake
10. Lukewarm or 'hand hot'
11. A yellowish – brown colour associated with old photographs
12. A flap of cartilage behind the root of the tongue
13. A feeling of tiredness
14. Covid-19 outbreak perhaps
15. A feeling of fear or anxiety about something that might happen

(Answers on Pg 39)

Sidesmen, Lay Assistant & Prayers Rota

Date	Sidesmen	Lay Assistant	Prayers
4 th January 10.30am	Mags Gillman	Jan Burrow	Clergy
11 th January Covenant Service	N/A	N/A	N/A
18 th January 10.30am	Susan Campbell Barbara Leigh	Peter Holden	Andrew Lowe
25 th January 10.30am	Jean Ellis Christine Shaw	Lorraine Holden	David Holden

Reader's Rota

Date	Reader	Readings
4 th January 2 nd Sun of Christmas <i>DJ</i>	Enid Horrocks	Jeremiah 31.7-14 Ephesians 1.3-14 John 1.10-18
11 th January 1 st Sun of Epiphany	N/A Covenant Service Ainsworth Methodist	N/A Covenant Service Ainsworth Methodist
18 th January 2 nd Sun of Epiphany <i>DJ</i>	Peter Holden	Isaiah 49.1-7 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1.29-42
25 th January 3 rd Sun of Epiphany <i>BM</i>	Lorraine Holden	Isaiah 9.1-4 1 Corinthians 1.10-18 Matthew 4.12-23
1 st February 4 th Sun of Epiphany <i>DJ</i>	Beryl Sixsmith	1 Kings 17.8-16 1 Corinthians 1.18-31 John 2.1-11

Who's Who

Vicar	Vacancy	01204 398567
OLM	vicar@ainsworthparish.org.uk Revd Debra Johnstone	01204 399630
Associate Priest	Revd Bob May	
ALM	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
Churchwarden	Alison Hartley	07952 709041
	Chris Haworth	07855 638450
Church Treasurer	David Holden	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 Kings Quiz: 1) Charles II; 2) Alfred the Great; 3) John; 4) William the Conqueror; 5) Louis XIV of France; 6) George II; 7) George VI; 8) Edward VIII; 9) Charles I; 10) Richard I.

Answers to Epi ... Quiz: 1) Epistle; 2) Bookkeeping; 3) Episode; 4) Epistaxis; 5) Sweeping; 6) Epidural; 7) Intrepid, 8) Epidermis; 9) Epicentre; 10) Tepid; 11) Sepia; 12) Epiglottis; 13) Sleepiness; 14) Epidemic; 15) Trepidation.

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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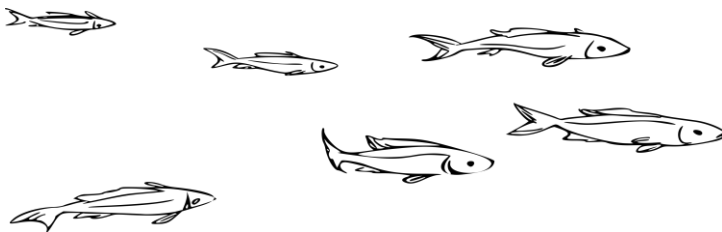


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Little Fishes

Epiphany




All About Epiphany

What Is Epiphany?

The word 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as this is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

Epiphany is sometimes also known as 'Three Kings' Day' - it's a special part of the Christmas story that begins on 6th January; the day when the 3 Kings (or wise men) arrived in Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born.

The Story Of The 3 Kings

When Jesus was born in the stable at Bethlehem, a bright star appeared in the sky and shone above the stable. Far away in the East, 3 very wise Kings saw the bright, new star shining and they knew it was a sign from God that a new 'King' had been born. 

The 3 Kings decided to follow the star and visit the new king, so they prepared to set out on a long journey towards Bethlehem. Before they set off, they chose special gifts which they could give to the new king; King Caspar chose gold, King Melchior chose Frankincense and King Balthazaar chose Myrrh. Then the Kings set off riding their camels through the desert, always following the bright, new shiny star.

When the Kings arrived at Judea, they looked for somewhere to rest; the King of Judea at that time was called King Herod and he invited them to stay with him at his palace. King Herod was a very



jealous person, and when he heard that the 3 Kings believed that a new baby King had been born he made a cunning plan; he told the 3 Kings that he was really excited about the new baby King and would love to meet him - he asked the Kings to come and tell him when they had found the baby so that he could also take him some gifts, but secretly King Herod was

furious that there might be a new king and he was determined to get rid of him.

The 3 Kings continued to follow the star and travelled on until they reached Bethlehem, and there the star seemed to be shining over a humble stable. The 3 Kings went in and saw baby Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, and they knew that this was indeed a very special baby - they offered their gifts and prayed to God and gave him thanks.



As the 3 Kings rested that night and prepared for their long journey back to the East, an angel came to them in a dream and warned them of King Herod's evil plan and told them not to return to Judea, but to go back home a different way.



When King Herod realised that the 3 Kings had cheated him he flew into a rage and told his soldiers to kill all of the baby boys in the area to make sure that baby Jesus could not grow up and be King instead of him. But that very night an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him of King Herod's plan; 'To save the child, you must go to Egypt immediately', the angel said. So, Mary and Joseph gathered up their belongings and escaped to Jerusalem with the baby Jesus, where they all lived in safety for a number of years until they learned that King Herod had died.



Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Long ago, you received special gifts from the 3 Wise Men;
This year, at Epiphany, help us to remember and appreciate
What a special gift you are for us. *Amen*

Star Brain Teaser

The answers to these clues all begin with the letters STAR:

- 1) To begin or get going ---- S T A R _
- 2) To go hungry ----- S T A R __
- 3) You'll find this in potatoes, rice and wheat? -- S T A R __
- 4) To look hard at someone or something? ---- S T A R _



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For More Information
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or email mary@hmrcircle.org.uk

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