



THROUGH THE GATES

*Ainsworth
Methodist Church
Newsletter*

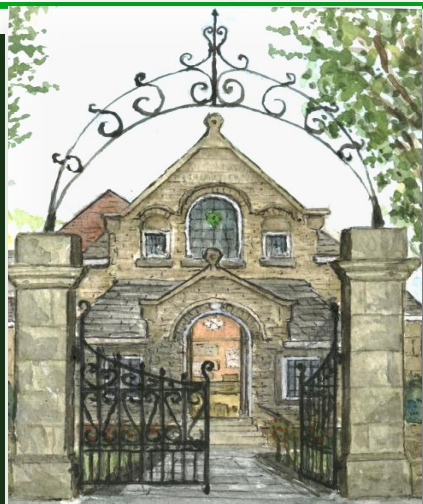
*God Loves You
and So Do We*


Ainsworth
Methodist Church

Loving God, Serving All

Volume 132 October/November 2024

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Forward a copy to a friend or neighbour; to let them know about your church.

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God

chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians Ch. 1 v's 26-31

Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the one hundred and thirty second issue of 'THROUGH THE GATES'.

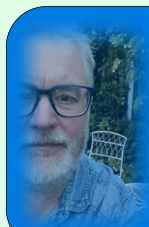
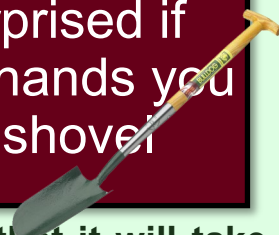


At our recent Harvest Service (Pics page 11) we listened to the children of the Sunday school telling us about the parable of the sower, where the seeds (the word of God) can fall on fertile ground or rocky ground.

Considering the fruits and flowers that we saw at the Harvest Service and the edibles and flowers we may grow ourselves, we know that getting just the right soil, and amount of water and sun is not easy.

Using the same metaphor, we do not know when we sow the message of God the time that it will take to harvest. Seeds take a time to grow. We may be just preparing the ground.

Faith can move mountains but don't be surprised if God hands you a shovel



Please note the closing date for items for the next issue is the 217th November for the December / January issue.

Just email them to pdf1@hotmail.co.uk



Member editor 2024

Letter from

There was once a woman who was going on a train journey, but forgot her purse! Fortunately, she had just enough loose change, in the bottom of her handbag, to buy a ticket and a plate of chips from a nearby café, whilst she waited for the train.



After ordering a plate of chips, she put her bag & coat on a chair at a table and then went to the toilet. Upon her return, she noticed a shabbily-dressed man sitting at a table eating chips, her chips!



Furious that he had the nerve to steal HER CHIPS, she strode over and sat down on the chair opposite his with a thud. Not saying a word, she proceeded to eat the chips from the plate at the same time as the man! The man

looked up, picked up a chip, pushed the plate towards her, ate it and then got up and left! "What a nerve", she thought, "Get a job!"



Our Pastor

As she reached for another chip, she realised her coat and bag weren't there! Her eyes darted around the room in panic but then she saw them. There they were on another table with an untouched plate of chips!

O how wrong she had been!

Jesus said that a tree is known by it's fruit. What fruit are we displaying? Can the folk around us 'spot the difference' that God is making, or should be making, in our lives? The Bible says that we are to check that we are 'in the faith' and that our walk before God is true & steadfast.

I was once stopped in my tracks, overwhelmed with grief, compassion, and a need to help a person who was begging on the 'Charles Bridge' in Prague. This had never happened to me before.



The experience was beyond words. It powerfully showed me that I was capable of having deep compassion for others rather than doing things out of a sense of feeling sorry, obligation, guilt etc. I also came to realise that I was no better than he was. How often do we judge others when we are no better or even in a worse position than they are?! It also demonstrated to



Letter from our pastor

me that God wants to use us (as broken & imperfect as we are), to give and through it, receive from Him. Afterward, I wrote the poem below called 'On Charles Bridge We Did Meet'

*On Charles Bridge I sat that day,
The cold wind blew my breath away.
I sat there wondering, "How long it would take,
For those who passed to realise, I'm not fake!?"*

*On Charles Bridge I stood in awe,
Awash with wonder as statues soar.
The cold wind blew my breath away.
So many beggars to my dismay!*



*On Charles Bridge I waited in hope,
For some relief in order to cope.
All the vain things that charmed me most,
Have long since gone with sure repose.*



Guile

*On Charles Bridge I strolled along,
With fascination observing the throng.
People from every nation click, click,
Their cameras, with some on a stick.*

*On Charles Bridge with hope diminished,
I ate the left-over others had finished.
Amazing grace how sweet the sound,
Of coins laid down upon the ground.*



*On Charles Bridge couldn't help but see,
Faces to the ground, prostrate, begging me.
As I passed by I felt no need,
to give to those who claimed a need.*

*On Charles Bridge I looked and saw,
A wretch like me.
Our eyes met as he passed me by,
I was blind but now I see.*



Events

*On Charles Bridge I saw a man,
Whose gaze was eternity.
A wretched heart moved to tears,
I was blind but now I see.*

*On Charles Bridge a blessing received,
From a man so in need.
Shaking hands, Hotdog and Coffee!
Repentant Heart knelt before me.*

*On Charles Bridge I did meet,
The saviour Christ sat on the street.
I was blind but now I see,
His compassion for all humanity.*



May you know the great love and compassion God has for you and make it known to others. In Jesus' name, amen!

God bless you.

Pastor Glen

.....

Cuppa, Cakes & Company

Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall, Greenside

Cuppa, Cakes & Company

Only
£2



Info: 07533 696 776 fionajbelli@hotmail.co.uk

1st Thursday of every month 2 till 3.30 - 3/10/24 & 7/11/24

Play games or just chat & relax— bring a friend—meet new friends

Colouring page



**“I am the way and the
truth and the life”**

John 14:6

The colouring page is from an idea by Isabelle Frost

Events

Harvest

I was delighted at the theme of the Sower and how our fantastic Sunday School read the story and joined in the service, Sarah lead the service with real joy. A great service—Fiona



Date for your diary

Christmas Afternoon Tea at Ainsworth Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 14th December, Festive culinary delights for everyone to enjoy! A great way to start your Christmas festivities and dust off the Christmas carols. Rumour has it that Father Christmas may join us! Further details nearer the time.

Answers to
Lindy's Quiz
on Page 12.
No peeking!



1. In the beginning
2. Samson
3. Delila
4. Tom Jones
5. Barabbas
6. Anthony Quinn
7. Noah
8. Raven
9. Ash
10. Fast
11. Rainbow
12. Jordan

Lindy's quiz

A Devious Dozen



1. In the Bible, what are the first three words of Genesis?
2. Which Biblical figure destroyed the Temple of the Philistines?
3. Who cuts the hair of no. 2 thereby enabling her to turn him over to the Philistines.?
4. No 3 was a hit by which Welsh singer in 1967
5. According to the bible, what was the name of the murderer who was released by Pontius Pilate in preference to Jesus?
6. Who played no 5. in the 1961 film of the same name?
7. In the Bible, who is the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth?
8. According to the Bible, which was the first bird to be used as a test by no. 7?
9. The day after Shrove Tuesday is known as 'What'....Wednesday'?
10. Which F is to be moving at high speed, and to abstain from food or drink as a religious observance?
11. In the Bible, what sign in the sky did God give to no 7?
12. According to the Bible, Jesus was baptised in which river?



Answers on
page 11.

How many did
you get right?

/12



Guild



Together with some members of Lindy's walking group, we have recently enjoyed a visit to Smithills Hall to look around this 700 years old black and white house which for many



years was a family home including the Ainsworth and the Radcliffe families and is now owned by Bolton Council.

We visited rooms such as Mrs Ainsworth's Drawing Room, the Library, the Great Hall and Chapel, pointing out various architectural elements and how each room would have been used. The chapel is still in use for occasional services by St Peter's C of E on Church Road in Smithills. Afterwards we all enjoyed drinks and cakes in the cafe.



Our meeting at the end of September saw a visit from Colonel and Lady Brandon (alias Fiona and Phil) whose topic was Jane Austen and the Regency Ball. Future Speakers include a visit by Susan Shields, our own minister Rev. Chris Pritchard, Maureen and Michael Hawksworth, and Peter Firth on the subject of "An armchair walk round Harwood"

We invite anyone to join us on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons of the month at 2pm. You will be most welcome.



Hymn Writers

The Hymn Writers page in this magazine is based on the research of Michael Bainbridge. To hear the full stories, why not attend our Classical Praise services at 6pm on the first Sunday of each month (see page 23) and you get to sing the hymns too!

Come ye thankful people, come by
Henry Alford 1810 to 1871. Henry was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was ordained in 1833 and served in various curacies and held several important appointments, including that of a Fellow of Trinity. His edition of the Greek Testament was the result of 20 years' labour.

He wrote "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" in 1844 while he was the rector of Aston Standford church in Buckinghamshire. It was first published in Hymns and Psalms in 1844. It was set to George J. Elvey's hymn tune St. George's, Windsor.

In 1861 there had been a number of unofficial revisions of the hymn, including one in Hymns Ancient and Modern, which led to Alford publishing a footnote stating his disapproval of these revisions that had been made without his agreement.

Alford was a moderate who attempted to keep good relations between non-conformists and the High Church Anglicans in the Church of England: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is commonly found in evangelical hymn books as are Alford's "Forward be our watchword" and "Ten thousand times ten thousand".



The hymn later gained popularity

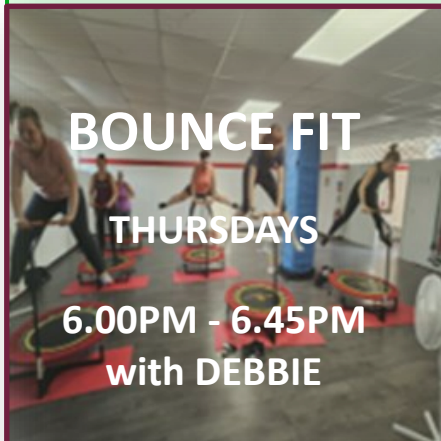


in the United States where it is used as part of Thanksgiving celebrations. The first verse is written as a celebration of the harvest, calling for people to give thanks to God for it. The last two verses are based on the Parable of the Tares (weeds) and discusses the last harvest at the Second Coming of Jesus.

The hymn has been recorded many times and has been used in films but will perhaps be remembered best when used in the "All is Safely Gathered In" episode of Dad's Army where it is performed by a drunken Walmington-on-Sea platoon at a harvest service.



New in the School Hall for 2024



BOUNCE FIT

gives you a great cardio workout using mini trampolines to target all the key areas of your body and help you tone up as well as improve your aerobic fitness. Suitable for all levels and ages.



FIGHT FX

is a high-energy martial arts-inspired workout that is totally non-contact. Punch and kick your way to fitness and burn up to 570 calories in a class. No experience needed, Suitable for all levels and ages

BOUNCE FIT £5.00 per person.

FIGHT FX £4.00 adults £2.00 for children

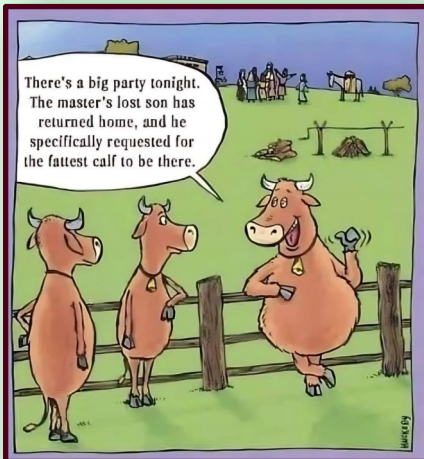
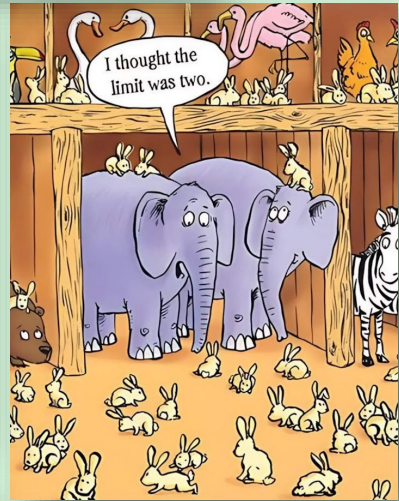
Offer of 2 for £7.00 (On the same day only)

No booking required but recommended for BOUNCE FIT.

Call Debbie 07707043209 or Julie 07716237272

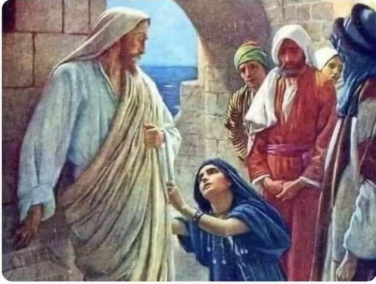
AT AINSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH, BURY OLD ROAD, BL2 5SD

Fun Pages



Fun Pages

I already told you
I am not turning your water into
pumpkin spice latte



Methodists

Structure and Governance of the Methodist Church Part 2– The Circuit

The circuit is normally a group of churches served by a team of ministers. A minister will have pastoral charge of one or more churches, but will preach and lead worship in different local churches in the circuit, along with local preachers. The arrangements for leading worship in a circuit are drawn up in a quarterly plan.

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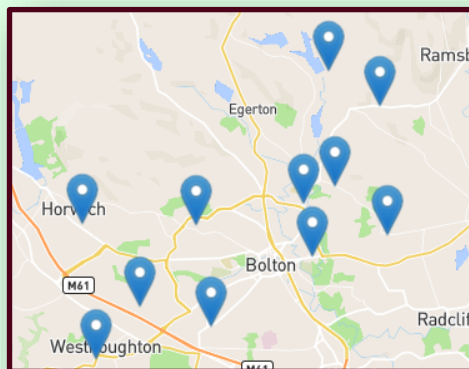
The circuit is led by the superintendent minister who presides over the circuit staff (both lay and ordained) and the circuit meeting, and with lay and ordained colleagues facilitates and encourages mission throughout the circuit. He or she is also responsible for drawing up the plan and arranging the gathering of information about activities (e.g. baptisms, weddings, and funerals) and about membership statistics in the circuit.

Responsibility for the direction and policy for the circuit is shared between lay and ordained. Voluntary circuit stewards have responsibility for maintaining, buying and selling circuit property (usually manse), and for the general welfare of the ordained and employed staff in the circuit. There is also a circuit treasurer.

The circuit is the place where new initiatives and changes in the pattern of church life need to happen. This is where the staffing capacity, where closures of chapels are debated, and where fresh expressions of church or new pioneer ministries are launched.

From <https://www.methodist.org.uk/>

For Bolton Circuit information see page 22



The **Methodist Church**
in Britain

Sunday Rotas

Flower Rota



Please continue to place your own flowers in church.

If it is not possible for you to place the flowers please contact Janet Firth giving at least 2 weeks notice.

The full rota for 2024 is on the porch notice board,.

*If you wish to fill a vacancy on the list or wish to swap a date, please contact Janet. (Do not change the list in the porch—this is not a master list. Thank You)

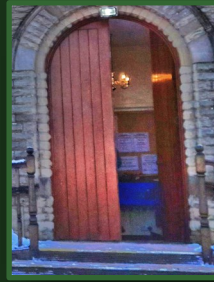
October

6th	Guild
13th	Miss L Bentley
20th	Mr A Taylor
27th	Mrs J Gathercole

November

3rd	Mrs M White
10th	Remembrance Day
17th	Mrs F Belli
24th	Mrs H Merrick

Door Rota



To arrange changes
see Linda or
Ruth

October

6th	Margaret White
13th	Ann Myerscough
20th	Anne Maskrey
27th	Eileen Thomasson

November

3rd	Joan Watson
10th	Margaret White
17th	Ann Myerscough
24th	Anne Maskrey

REFRESHMENTS ROTA



October

Pat Benet, Judith Gathercole,
Anne Maskrey,

November

Eileen Burns, Janet Firth, Ann
Myerscough, Barbara Westwell

Church Roles

MINISTER: Rev. Chris Pritchard 01204 301673

LAY PASTOR: Glen Atkinson -
laypastor.glenatkinson@gmail.com

TREASURER; Michael Bainbridge

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY & ASSISTANT TREASURER

Linda Binns

PROPERTY SECRETARY; Linda Binns

PROPERTY STEWARD; Mike Bainbridge

CHURCH STEWARD; Hilda Keenan.

VESTRY STEWARDS; Anne Bainbridge,
Kathleen Lodmore.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER; Fiona Belli

EVENTS SECRETARY; Fiona Belli

GRAVEYARD ADMINISTRATION; Kathleen
Lodmore

CHOIR LEADER: Mike Bainbridge

FLOWER ROTA: Janet Firth

GUILD SECRETARY: Kathleen Lodmore

JMA SECRETARY: Anne Bainbridge

ACTION FOR CHILDREN : Vacant

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Peter Firth pdf1@hotmail.co.uk

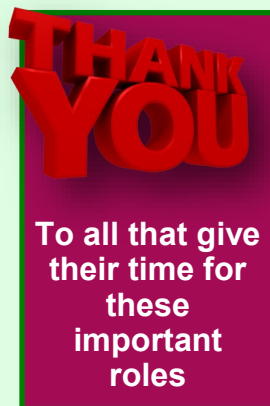
ROOM BOOKINGS Lindy
Bentley lettings@ainsworthmethodist.org.uk

WEEKLY NOTICES EDITOR: Mike Bainbridge
ainsworthnews@hotmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER Fiona Belli

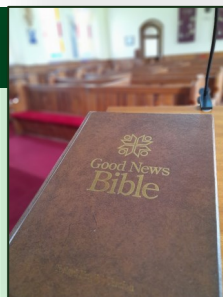
WEBSITE; Mike Bainbridge

Items for email distribution to church members (virtual notices);
mail@ainsworthmethodist.org.uk



Lectionary

Here are the sets of readings that preachers use for the Sunday services (pages 22 & 23) and are likely to base the services and/or their sermon on.



6th October

Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16

13 October

Job 23:1-9, 6-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31

20 October

Job 38:1-7 (34-41) Psalm 104:1-9, 24,35c Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

27 October

Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52

3 November

Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34



10 November

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

17 November

1 Samuel 1:4-20 Canticle: 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25 Mark 13:1-8

24 November

2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18) Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37





Quiet Space at The Triangle 6.30pm

13th October Rev. Robert Kasema

10th November Rev. Chris Pritchard

Classic Praise at Ainsworth 6pm

October 6th and November 3rd

Rev. Chris Pritchard

Worship on Wednesday

Food and fellowship 6.30pm. Worship 7.30pm

Trinity Methodist Church

October November to be announced



**The Triangle 10 year Anniversary 20th October 10:30am;
Rev Kenneth Howcroft, former President of Conference**

Sunday Morning Service

- On Local radio at 11am

96.5 BOLTON FM

The voice of the Bolton family

Bolton FM on 96.5FM, DAB radio or online at www.boltonfm.com .

If you miss the show you can listen again for up to 1 week on Bolton FM's website. <https://www.boltonfm.com/listen-again/>

Bolton Methodist Circuits' Lay Pastor Sue Snowden and guests present this inspirational programme each Sunday .

Bolton Circuit Ministers and Lay Pastors

Rev. Chris Pritchard (Circuit Superintendent)... Harwood, also Ainsworth with Local Lay Pastor Glen Atkinson, also Hawkshaw and Trinity with Local Lay Pastor Sue Snowden



Rev. Robert Kasema The Triangle and St John's, also Cornerstone with Local Lay Pastor Glen Atkinson

Rev. Sarah Hooks...Connections and St Andrew's,

Mr Glen Atkinson ... Ainsworth with Rev. Chris Pritchard and Cornerstone Westhoughton with Rev. Robert Kasema

Mrs Sue Snowden ... Hawkshaw with Rev. Chris Pritchard and Trinity with Rev. Chris Pritchard

Sunday Services at Ainsworth Methodist Church

October			
6th	11.15 am	Glen Atkinson	
	6.00 pm	Classic Praise Rev. Chris Pritchard	
13th	11.15 am	Peter Holland	
20th	11.15 am	Michael Hawksworth	
27th	11.15 am	Rev. Chris Pritchard - Gift Day Holy Communion	
Nov			
3rd	11.15 am	Glen Atkinson	
	6.00 pm	Classic Praise Rev. Chris Pritchard	
10th	11.15 am	Rev. Phil Belli	
17th	11.15 am	Rev. Ann Cash Holy Communion	
24th	11.15 am	Philippa Hill	

Our Sunday School meets during the morning services and Parents and relatives are welcome to join in worship and all our church events.



Ainsworth Methodist is
a **FAIRTRADE** church



**Enter into his gates
with thanksgiving**

Psalms 100:4

Ainsworth Methodist Church

Bury Old Road

Ainsworth

Near Bolton BL2 5SD

lettings@ainsworthmethodist.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Chris Pritchard

33 Ryeburn Drive

Harwood BL2 3FP

01204 301673

cn.pritchard@bopenworld.com

Lay Pastor: Glen Atkinson - laypastor.glenatkinson@gmail.com