

LIFE

April 2023

Christ Church
Eccleston
magazine

Snow covered Daffodils

Some images stay with us as they're captured on film or digitally and we see them repeatedly over the years. Sadly the image of a swath of snow covered daffodils at Eccleston Mere Primary is not one I can share as I didn't have a camera with me and by the time I came back at the end of the day all the snow was melted.

Such a temporary, fleeting display and yet full of beauty. Perhaps a helpful image for a time of change, closing an old hall and opening a new one, at the same time as adjusting to significant changes in our governance and administration.

I think our human nature draws us to want to make things permanent, despite or perhaps due to the very temporary nature of life. Embracing change is hard, as we also, with it, accept impermanence.

Christ came to bring the greatest change in history, and it relied entirely on the fragile, mortal, impermanence of his human nature just as much as the unimaginable power of His glorious Godly eternal nature.

So as we celebrate that pivotal point in faith and history, let's allow the power of Christ's death and resurrection help us to face these changes with great faith.

I am delighted that we have been able to nominate one of our PCC, Helen Twist, to serve on the Shadow PCC of Church St Helens.

It is a great encouragement to me that David Parr continues to serve on Deanery Synod, the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee and by delivering Ministerial Development reviews for clergy.

There are others that also offer their gifts and skills to the church beyond our parish. At this point in our journey, please give prayerful consideration to your part in all this. I particularly commend the presentation on how Church St Helens finance will work at St Thomas's on 26th April at 7pm.

CHRIST CHURCH ECCLESTON

holding you with God for life

Vicar: Rev Sonya Doragh 07852244537 sonya@ccemail.org.uk
Verger: Pauline Parr 01744 28612

Thursday Fellowship honours Rev Brenda Parker

As many of you will know, Rev Brenda Parker has been lovingly and dedicatedly leading our Thursday Fellowship group for many years. Having decided that the time is right to step down from this role, the group was keen to demonstrate its sincere appreciation to Rev Brenda for her vital contribution. As well as presenting her with a bouquet of flowers at a recent meeting, one of the group's leadership team, Dorothy Parton, has written the following message to Brenda, and the congregation at large. Before we hear from Dorothy, I am sure as a congregation we would all wish to join members of the group in passing on our love and appreciation to Brenda for her years of service, which extend not just to Thursday Fellowship - but to her role as Ordained Local Minister, PCC member and the countless other ways she has dedicated her time and her love to Christ Church and its community. We have all benefitted from Rev Brenda's fellowship and friendship, so this recognition is certainly well deserved! Over to Dorothy...

"A sincere thank you to Brenda Parker who is stepping down from her role as leader of the Thursday Fellowship Leadership Team after serving faithfully for twenty-three years.

Brenda became leader in 2000 along with Susan Hendrickse and, later, with Joyce Brown. When Joyce retired Brenda suggested that a Thursday Fellowship Leadership Team should be formed. This was done and gave the ladies who joined the team an opportunity to experience opening meetings with prayer and welcoming everyone, to suggest and arrange speakers and to help organise various events.



Thursday Fellowship is an opportunity to meet with friends, make new friends and enjoy each others' company. We enjoy listening to visiting speakers, learning new things and having outings together.

A very warm welcome awaits any ladies who would like to join us. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. For many years we have been meeting at the Trapwood Centre but are now looking forward to having our meetings in The Orchard, our new church hall. Do come along - we'd love to see you.

For further details please contact Judith Johnson (01744 24227) or Dorothy Parton (01744 751311)

Make straight the paths

Our gardening volunteers have been busy once again in the Churchyard, this time clearing the footpaths of encroaching grass. The scale of their efforts is a sight to behold, as this picture - and the enormous lengths of turf removed - shows. We're so blessed to have such willing and hard-working volunteers! Well done all!



Special Moments with Jennie Platt

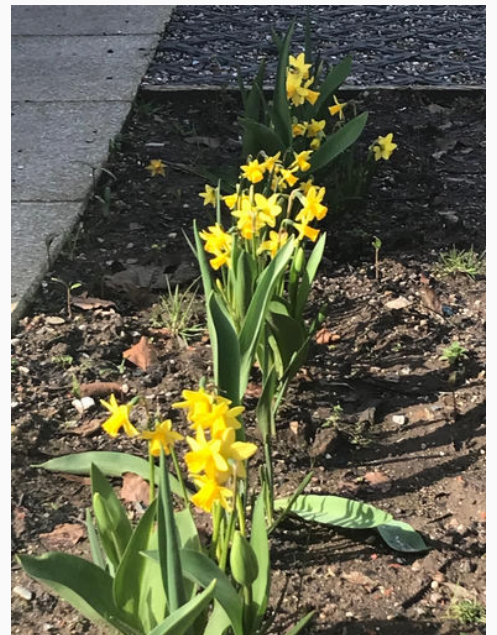
Among the magnificent displays of daffodils heralding spring, I spotted a small row of cheerful daffodils and tulips about to flower. Not yet strong plants but significant as they stand proudly at the side of the Orchard. Most likely planted by our hard-working garden volunteers. They have been toiling over the grass growing on the paths. The photograph shows their delight as well as their sense of humour. The swans at Taylor Park hopefully have eggs which are being kept safe. Unusually, there is a mound of frog spawn in the stream that runs alongside Ecclesfield if you walk through to the East Lancs. Road (pictured below).

I was sad to hear of the death of my neighbour Beryl Heyes. I have spent many a happy hour with Beryl and husband Brian as they reminisced about their youth in Ecclestone. Beryl recalled Rev Nagington and the many changes to the vicarage and church hall during his time at Christ Church. The photograph shows Beryl when she had the key role in the Rose Queen Festival. This was a big annual occasion in Ecclestone as can be seen by the crowds attending the event. Hopefully in the near future we can recreate Beryl and Brian's happy memories as we start to attract people to activities at the Orchard.

As we move towards Easter, I share with you some words from 'Crucified Man' written by Graham Kendrick (Make Way Music 2006). Although written as a song I like it as a poem with emotive language such as, 'I believe as they beat on His beautiful face/ He turned a torturer's chair to an altar of grace.' The final words give cause for thought:

'When I stand at the judgement, I have no other plan
I've placed my hope in a crucified man.
Like the thief nailed beside him I have no other plan
I've placed my hope in a crucified man.'

Best Wishes for Easter, Jennie Platt





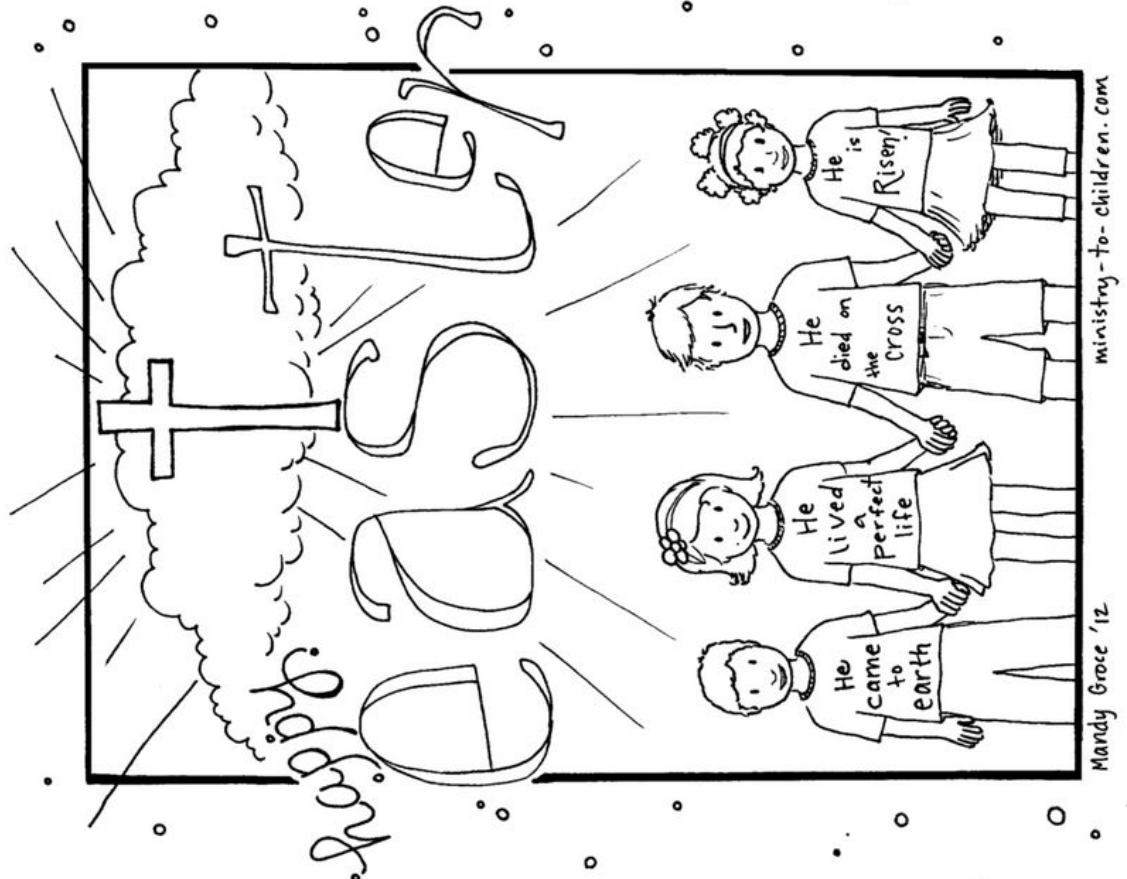
Happy Easter

A	A	G	C	O	L	O	R	E	D	E	G	G	S
Y	A	D	I	R	F	D	O	O	G	S	L	E	C
H	N	O	F	H	M	R	E	R	H	R	H	E	E
C	O	I	U	A	G	T	M	A	R	O	T	A	L
R	E	N	P	O	H	S	Y	B	R	Y	C	S	E
A	T	D	E	B	P	I	A	B	C	L	A	T	B
M	A	U	S	A	A	R	D	I	R	I	N	E	R
Y	S	L	A	S	S	H	N	T	O	M	D	R	A
A	L	B	M	K	S	C	U	N	S	A	Y	C	T
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O	S	H	F	N	R	E	A	S	P	R	I	N	G
H	P	A	A	H	D	J	P	L	E	R	Y	K	I

- PASSOVER
- JESUS CHRIST
- HUNT
- FAMILY
- COLORED EGGS
- SPRING
- GOOD FRIDAY
- EASTER
- PALM SUNDAY
- CELEBRATION
- FIND
- LENT
- HOP
- RABBIT
- CANDY
- BASKET
- MARCH
- CROSS
- BUNNY
- HOLIDAY

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/47255/>

Happy Easter everyone! As we come together to celebrate the wonder and hope of Easter, we have a special word search and colouring-in picture to help us do just that. Wishing you all a wonderful Easter time.



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Mandy Grace '12