

LIFE

December 2022

Christ Church
Ecclestone
magazine



Light Of the world

For the 2017 Christmas issue of LIFE I wrote an article reflecting on a russian doll type Christmas set that consisted of a Christmas tree, Father Christmas and a snowman. I had sanded down the snowman and changed it to be baby Jesus as I lamented how Jesus has been taken out of Christmas for so many people.

So I am writing with joy this year as someone gifted me the above pictured nativity russian doll set, complete with wise traveler, Joseph, Mary, angel, donkey and Jesus.

It has really moved me, the baby Jesus in the set is smaller than my little finger, around 13 millimeters long. Tiny.

Which has renewed my inspiration and compassion for the enormity of God coming to earth as a small, vulnerable, fragile, dependant baby.

Not a wonder that the Jews at the time did not recognise Jesus as their Messiah.

Not a wonder our community, our neighbours, friends and family members do not recognise that Jesus is their saviour.

Not a wonder that the frenzied shopping, over eating, drinking and celebrations leave people with this sense of emptiness, of still trying to improve their celebrations as there remains something missing.

I saw the nativity set and immediately started to pull apart the different characters in the story to learn and discover what was inside. As Christians, that is what our journey of discipleship does: we look at the Bible and explore more deeply each time we look.

As those called to tell the good news to the world, this Christmas lets help our loved ones to wonder what is at the heart of Christmas. Let's have courage to talk about Jesus at the centre.

Let's be like the wise traveler in the russian doll nativity set, so that when someone opens us up the story of Jesus spills out.

*Blessings
Rev Sonya*



CHRIST CHURCH ECCLESTON
holding you with God for life

Christmas Invites

I love getting an invitation, the sense of being wanted, being thought of that someone else believes I belong with them and their people. I am hoping that this year we can offer that sense of being wanted and belonging to some of our neighbours, friends and family members. Please prayerfully consider who to invite to and which of our Christmas services will appeal to them most. Write a personal message on the back of the postcard and invite them to come with you - even if it isn't your favourite service!

Love Eccleston? Love St Helens?

The Poppies have made such a beautiful display, so I'm inviting you all to join in with making hearts to give away for Valentines Day. Nearer the time we'll print some cards to tie on to them and we will choose various prominent places to put them as a symbolic way of offering God's love to our community. Any materials could be used to make the hearts, alongside crochet, I'm going to have a go at whittling one.



Lych Gate



The photo on page 7 and the comments of many passers by have shown that the work so many of you put into making poppies was really worthwhile. What a beautiful way to celebrate the Lych Gate's centenary. Thank you to everyone that helped in any way. A particular thank you to Jennie Platt, creativity and recruiting to great effect! The beautiful wreath pictured makes a beautiful centre point to the display made from donated poppies by Jennie. Also particular thanks to Alison Williams for printing and laminating all the names of those that died in the wars to complete the display.

Posters

You may notice that the next 4 pages of the magazine are a little different to usual. I remember as a child how excited I would be when Jackie magazine had a poster of a pop group I particularly liked, it would be carefully pulled out and quickly stuck in a prominent position in my room - leaving those awful blue tac marks behind! Well I am hoping you will use the next 4 pages as posters either in your home as reminders or on the windows as promotion of the special Christmas events coming up at Christ Church.

 Christ Church Eccleston With love & prayers that you will have a blessed Christmas full of joy.	19:00 to 18:30 Sat 26th Nov Christmas Fair
	10:00 Sun 27th Nov Christingle Service
	10:00 Sun 4th Dec No Rehearsal Nativity (come as your favourite character, preferably from the nativity story!)
	10:00 11 Dec Morning Worship
	18:30 11 Dec Carols by Candlelight
	10:00 18 Dec Quiet Communion
	18:00 24 Dec Crib Service
	22:15 24 Dec Midnight Mass
	10:00 25 Dec Family Communion



Funerals
Joan Delaney

10:00 Sun 4th Dec No Rehearsal Fancy Dress Nativity



**Come as your favourite character,
preferably (but not necessarily)
from the nativity story!**



Follow The Star
THE GREAT
INVITATION



Christ Church Eccleston

With love & prayers that you will
have a blessed Christmas full of joy.

13:00 to 15:30 Sat 26th Nov Christmas Fair

10:00 Sun 27th Nov Christingle Service

10:00 Sun 4th Dec No Rehearsal Nativity
(come as your favourite character,
preferably from the nativity story!)

10:00 11 Dec Morning Worship

18:30 11 Dec Carols by Candlelight

10:00 18 Dec Quiet Communion

16:00 24 Dec Crib Service

23:15 24 Dec Midnight Mass

10:00 25 Dec Family Communion

Crib Service

4pm Christmas Eve



*Make space for
Jesus
This Christmas!*

CHRIST CHURCH ECCLESTON

holding you with God for life

Special Moments **with Jennie Platt**

I think the congregation of 1822 would appreciate our brilliant efforts to decorate the Lych Gate in memory of the soldiers of Eccleston who died during the First World War. Knitters produced around 300 poppies and Rev Sonya's crochet work was perfect for displaying them. I was amazed and thrilled by the number of people passing by who stopped to talk about their relatives who had helped build the gate and retold the war experiences of their relatives. So many people did not realise the gate was a war memorial and appreciated the display. Gill Rimmer added the finishing touch with a beautiful flower arrangement inside church. I was very proud of Christ Church congregation and hopefully we will continue this act of remembrance in the future.

Many people enjoyed knitting poppies and we are very grateful to everyone that contributed.

Like the poppies that appeared so suddenly we have had an intriguing display of fungi. I want to call them toadstools or mushrooms but research explains - a mushroom or toadstool is the fleshy part of the fungus typically produced above ground. Some are striking like the amazing red ones called the fly agaric. The inkcap fungus captures your attention as it is the typical shape of a mushroom. Some grow in large groups while others seek shelter in fallen tree stumps. All appear mysteriously and equally quietly disappear.

Christmas is approaching and we have all the festive events to look forward to after two years of more cautious celebrations.

I wish you a peaceful, happy Christmas and may Our God walk with you in 2023.

Jennie Platt



Images by Jennie Platt:
Top: the beautiful Fly Agaric fungus
Next down: A tree stump rich in fungi
Far left: The Lych Gate decorated for Remembrance Sunday,
Left: The beautiful Floral display in Church



Nativity

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

- NATIVITY
- DONKEY
- BETHLEHEM
- WISE MEN
- SON
- SHEEP
- JESUS
- SHEPHERD
- MYRRH
- STAR
- MANGER
- STRAW
- ANIMALS
- MARY
- GOLD
- GIFT
- INN
- JOSEPH
- GOD
- STABLE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3935/>

Happy Christmas, everyone! To help us celebrate the Nativity, we have a beautiful colouring-in picture for you to decorate, showing Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. Our wordsearch is all about the Nativity too - see if you can find the hidden words.

