

LIFE

October 2022

Christ Church
Eccleston
magazine

Are we nearly there yet?

I've only been here 6 and a half years and I am feeling like a child on the long journey to the seaside over this last bit of waiting for The Orchard to be ready. I can't imagine how it is feeling for those of you that have been waiting even longer. The scenery is looking very much like we must be nearly there, to look at from the outside, The Orchard looks done. It so nearly is, we've been waiting for utilities connections, the sewers are now connected but we are just waiting for the meters for the gas and electric.

Meanwhile, less visible but equally 'nearly there' is our journey as St Helens Deanery to become one parish as part of Fit for Mission. Most of the churches in the deanery have voted in, much of how we work together is changing already but the legal changes will only complete in January 2024.

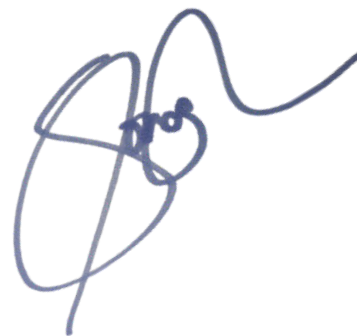
As Christians, the metaphor of journey being used to describe faith life is

probably familiar and helpful. The first Christian faith journeys happen within days of the crucifixion, Mary running to tell the good news, those journeying from Emmaus recognising the Christ and returning to Jerusalem. Then they witness the most complex, bewildering and incredible faith journey; Jesus ascending to heaven and they couldn't go with Him.

Our faith has us in the 'are we nearly there yet' part of the journey. Somedays I'm so excited about where we are going, eager for glimpses on the way that give away more insight into the destination.

Somedays I'm impatient to get there.

Everyday I am glad to know I am on this journey and pray that I will take every opportunity to invite others to come too.



Christmas Fair



We are aiming to hold our Christmas Fair on November 26th, 1pm to 3.30 pm. All signs are that the Orchard will be available but if not, we'll use the church instead.

Items needed include craft, cakes, preserves and bric-a-brac. Hopefully, we will have space for people to set up their own stall to add interest and extend the range of items on sale. People may wish to use the occasion to advertise their activities which they hope to make available in the Orchard as we move into 2023. Please contact Rev Sonya or Jennie Platt if you wish to have a stall. Activities will be provided for children especially if the hall is available. Please spread the word to family and friends. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Pumpkin Cottage



Sheila Hand is a woman of many talents. Not only does she play the organ in Church, but she has also turned her hand to writing.

Together with her grandson, Bodhi, Sheila has written a wonderful story called Pumpkin Cottage, which she and Bodhi have kindly allowed us to share in the magazine. Sheila has even made a version of the cottage from the story (pictured, left). Enjoy, everyone!

"Spike the hedgehog was walking slowly through the forest one day.

He was feeling very tired and knew that it was getting time for him to find a place to go to sleep for the winter. Suddenly he heard a rustle amongst the leaves and out ran two little mice. "Hello", they said. "We live here, but haven't seen you before". "Oh dear", said Spike. "Is this your forest? I'm terribly sorry to intrude but I seem to have lost my way. I'm looking for a home for my winter sleep". The mice replied, "It is not our forest. The forest belongs to all creatures and you are very welcome to join us".

They went on to tell Spike that they were twins and always stayed together. Their names were Minnie and Mickey. When they were born their mummy couldn't tell the difference between them so she put a green blob on the end of Minnie's tail and a blue blob on the end of Mickey's tail, so that she knew who was who. The mice had long since left their mummy's home but their green and blue blobs still remained and their friends knew them by their special blobs. Minnie and Mickey told Spike that they knew of a special house where he could make himself cosy for his winter sleep. They offered to take him there, as it could be difficult to find for a stranger. Spike was so happy and accepted their offer of help, and the three of them went on their way through the forest. Now the mice could move very quickly, but Spike was ready for his winter sleep so was walking slowly. Minnie and Mickey decided to walk either side of Spike and help him. As they travelled through the forest they came to a large tree trunk. "Look", said Minnie. "There's a snail trail!". They followed the trail and found two snails huddled up together. "Please don't tread on us", said the snails. "We are trying to get into this tree trunk for our winter sleep". Would you like to join me?" The snails were very happy to hear this and immediately climbed onto the backs of Minnie and Mickey. As they continued the journey the snails said that their names were Colin and Sammy (short for Samantha). They had been together all summer and had produced lots of baby snails.

Just as Spike was feeling that he could go no further, Mickey said, "Look, there it is. Pumpkin Cottage. That's where you can spend the winter in comfort and safety". The large pumpkin looked so welcoming. There was an opening to go through, and lots of room inside for Spike, Colin and Sammy to rest. Mice don't have a winter sleep, but Minnie and Mickey promised to build a nest close by and look after Pumpkin Cottage until spring came again. Good night Spike, Colin and Sammy. Enjoy your winter sleep, looked after by Minnie and Mickey.

Lych Gate Centenary 25th November 3pm

We are delighted that the Common Wealth War Graves Commission will be sending two representatives to join our celebration of the centenary of our beautiful lych gate. As a way of honouring those it celebrates, our creative Jenny Platt has asked if all those of us with knitting or crochet skills could make some poppies so we can collaboratively decorate the gate for its birthday. Bring your finished poppies to Church or to the Vicarage. And for the competitive among you, my mum is the one to beat, she's already knitted 8! If you've got any red wool going spare, I'm sure the nimble fingered would welcome the supplies.



Knit a Poppy

To knit a poppy you will need:

- A pair of 4mm (US 6) needles
- Any red DK yarn
- A small black button

This pattern uses our standard knitting abbreviations. Tension is not important for this project.

Cast on 60 sts using 4mm needles and red DK yarn.

Rows 1-8 (K2, P2) to end.

Row 9 (K2tog) to end. [30 sts]

Row 10 (S2kpo) to end. [10 sts]

Break off yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread tail through remaining 10 sts and pull tight, then fasten off yarn.

Join the edges of the poppy together and sew the black button in the centre of the poppy.



Crochet a Poppy

To crochet a poppy you will need a

- CA 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- red and black DK yarn

Using Black, make a crochet magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout), 15tr into the loop. [16 tr]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in bl of each st around. [16 dc]

Fasten off.

Join Dark Red into any st.

Round 3 Ch1, dc in each st around. [16 dc]

Round 4 Ch1, 2dc in each st around. [32 dc]

Round 5 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, 2tr in each dc st round. [64 tr]

Round 6 Repeat Round 5. [128 tr]

Round 7 *Ch3 (does not count as st), tr in the next 14 sts, ch2, ss into next 2 tr; repeat from * around. [8 petals]

Fasten off and weave in ends.



Correction

Lych Gate Centenary

We will be celebrating the centenary of our beautiful war memorial lych gate at the end of our Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th November; we will gather to mark the 2 minutes silence around the lych gate at 11am. (Those needing warmth and support can of course remain inside church)

We are going to cover the lych gate in crocheted and knitted poppies thanks, so please get your needles or hooks going and deliver any you make to the vicarage as soon as possible. We will decorate the lych gate on Thursday 10th November, extras can be added after.

Thank you!

What a fabulous response to our request for plants for The Orchard garden, it will be wonderful to see something we have planted together grow into a lush garden. There is plenty of room for more, so keep them coming. We did have one amusing moment, when the Garden Gang came to collect donated plants and enthusiastically gathered up not just the donations but the pretty pots I keep at the vicarage door too!

Remembering

November as ever brings with it Remembrance Sunday and our Memorial service. Due to my own on going grief, I am incredibly grateful that the Venerable Simon Fisher, Archdeacon of St Helens and Warrington is coming to preach at our Remembrance service on the morning of Remembrance Sunday. The Ven Simon was Vicar of St John's in Tuebrook prior to becoming Archdeacon and I have always appreciated his intelligent wisdom. I hope you are able to come and benefit from his sermon.



That same afternoon, Rev Gregor will be leading our memorial service, again with my huge gratitude. As Rev Gregor has taken many of the funerals at Christ Church and at the crem for those in our parish, it is fitting that he is there to support them in this shared act of remembering.

Invitations are going to those that have had a funeral with us alongside a holding cross, a tea light, a leaflet of prayers and some words of hope so that those unable to attend have a comforting gift to reassure them of our love and prayers.

Fostering

Are you interested in fostering? Would you like to chat to experts and find out more? A Fostering Service Information evening is being held at St Helens Parish Church on Wednesday 7th November at 7pm. Please come along to find out more.

We are Family



It is such a joy to baptise new children into the extended Church family, the most recent Christening at Chist Church was for little Sonny, who smiled, giggled and played with the water delightfully. His older brother Bobby was one of my first Baptisms, so precious to welcome them back.

As we welcome children through baptism it is very much on my mind that we have the opportunity to re-start some of our children's group once the Orchard is ready.

In the wake of Covid room hire at school was initially not possible and then it seemed wise to wait for our own venue.

Now we are close to that, I would love to hear from you if you'd like help get children's and youth groups off the ground again, or if you have any ideas for those groups.



In addition to children's groups, I'd also love to hear any ideas you may have for activities in the Orchard. Please let me know.



Funerals

Albert Livesey

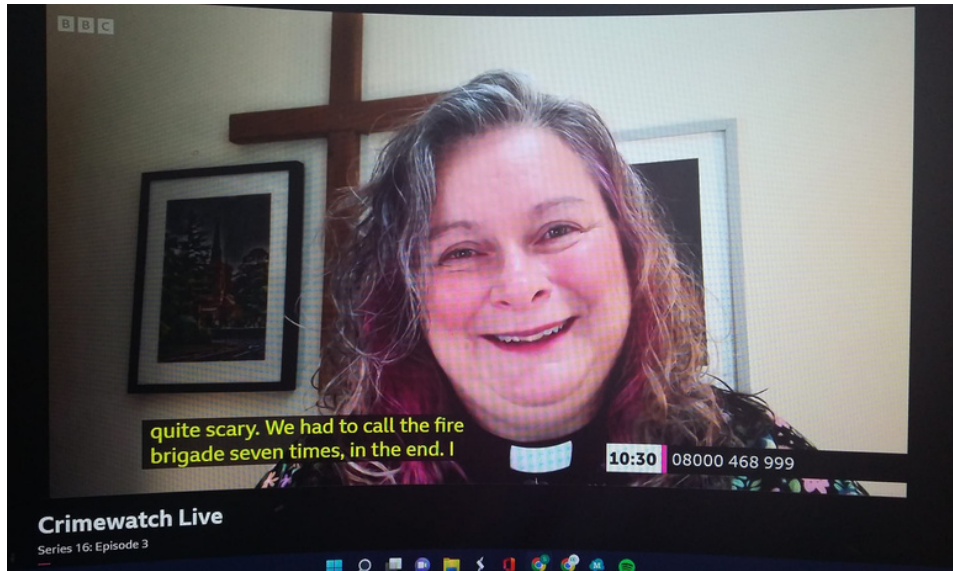
If I could pick and choose what TV show I would appear on, Strictly would be my first choice, maybe an extra part in Casualty or Dr Who.

So it was a bit of a strange twist in a relatively normal week to get an email from Crimewatch asking if I would be available to be interviewed!

They said I needed to be available from 7 to 11 in order to do two run throughs and then the live broadcast. I was delighted to say yes, and then slightly perturbed when I discovered the new series is in the morning - slightly less comfortable for this night owl!

The interview formed part of a feature on heritage crime so my part of the feature was to show that crimes against heritage sites are not, as some might think, victimless.

Not Quite Strictly!



It was good to be able to share the heartwarming side of the story too, as we had such incredible responses from our community with free paving laid and flowers from the toddler group. I couldn't tame my sense of humour for 4 minutes and 59 seconds, so I did joke that the Prescott fire crew might think I had a thing for one of them after calling them out so many times in this spring. My parents now have the dubious capacity to brag that both their children have been on Crimewatch! (my brother is a police officer) Hopefully the new technologies being used and the efforts to show the cost to communities will mean less heritage crime in the future.



Crimewatch Live

Special Moments with Jennie Platt

I recently enjoyed a visit to Grasmere to capture the autumn colours and gaze up at the Lion and the Lamb. The café by the church is a favourite stop and William Wordsworth's grave was attracting interest as usual. I share with you some autumn words by Dorothy Wordsworth (1771-1855) sister of William and herself an English author and diarist. In The Grasmere Journals, 1880 10th October she wrote, 'the yellow autumnal hills wrapped in sunshine, and overhung with partial mists, the green and yellow trees, and the snow-topped mountains. It was a most heavenly morning.'

The beauty of autumn colours is widespread for all of us to appreciate. The Millennium Oak at the end of Broadway and a view down Millfields captures glorious colours on trees that we do not always appreciate. Similarly, ferns, possibly a little bland greenery, claim their fame in the autumn. The autumn harvest of nuts and fungi has also been rich this year. Acorns are piling up under oak trees alongside the popular conkers. The rising and setting of the sun, including a partial eclipse, has been spectacular and the Hunter's moon reassured us of the vastness and beauty of God's world.

I finish with an image that made me smile. This ancient boat called Driftwood is clearly valuable as it has its own parking space. It captures my imagination and sailors must have many tales of adventures. As Christmas approaches hopefully we can share happy times together recalling happy adventures.

Best Wishes. Jennie Platt





The Holy Bible

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

- PHILIPPIANS
- REVELATION
- COLOSSIANS
- ROMANS
- JOHN
- MATTHEW
- THESSALONIANS
- JUDE
- LUKE
- PHILEMON
- TITUS
- CORINTHIANS
- JAMES
- HEBREWS
- PETER
- MARK
- TIMOTHY
- ACTS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2858/>

In November we wear Poppies to mark Remembrance Sunday and show our gratitude for the dedication of our servicemen and women. Below is a colouring picture of a Poppy for you to decorate. This month's Wordsearch is about the different books that make up the New Testament of The Bible. Can you find them all?

