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Christ the King
MELTHAM

PARISH MAGAZINE
DECEMBER 2017



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IN THIS ISSUE

Parish Officials	Page 4
Letter from your Clergy	Page 5
St Bartholomew's & St Mary's Rotas	Page 6
St James' & Christ Church Rotas	Page 7
Readings & Services in the Parish	Page 8
Communication During the Vacancy / Growth & Development Meeting	Page 10
Rev Charlene's Announcement of Appointment	Page 12
Praying During the Interregnum / Women's Fellowship	Page 13
Operation Christmas Child / Church Drop In Hour	Page 14
Helme Ladies	Page 16
Community Christmas Cards	Page 17
St Mary's / Bell House Report	Page 19
Remembrance Day Report / From the Registers	Page 20
Care Home Services	Page 21
A few from Denis A / Churches Together / 200 Club	Page 23
Church Hall Diary	Page 24
Pam's New Years Eve Party Invite	Page 25
January Deadline	Page 27
Testimony Time	Page 28
Oasis Advent Quiet Day	Page 29
Jesus Illusion	Page 31
Christmas Poem by John Betjamin	Page 34



**St. Bartholomew's, Meltham; Christ Church, Helme;
St. James, Meltham Mills; St. Mary the Virgin, Wilshaw**

VICAR OF THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Interregnum

enquiry email address - parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

CLERGY in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Curate Rev. Charlene Smith 851334
email charlene.smith1979@gmail.com

Assistant Priest Rev. Dennis Shields 850074

Assistant Priest Rev. Peter Rolls 340342

Assistant Priest Rev. John Radcliffe 348806

Assistant Priest Rev. Judy Kenworthy 851158

AUTHORISED READERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Mandy Aspland 851789 Hester Deacon 657069

Nigel Priestley 852005 Chris Ryan 851528

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

(vacant)

PARISH TREASURER

Pam Murgatroyd 349857

AUTHORISED PASTORAL MINISTERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Christine Bleasdale 305553 Christine Woods 852268

CHURCH OFFICIALS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

Churchwarden Alistair Storey - 851498 **Safeguarding Officer** Ann Halstead 316422

Secretary John Mitchell 850684 **Treasurer** Peter Blackburn 850128

ST. JAMES'

Churchwarden Jenny Mathers 850839 **Safeguarding Officer** Mike Still - 854889

Secretary Alison Whiteley 319295 **Treasurer** Richard Walker 850214

ST. MARY'S

Churchwardens Kim Howe 852811 Clive Pearson 844289

Secretary Monteena Shepherd 663318 **Treasurer** Peter Pearson 850488

Safeguarding Officers Vicky Ramsay

CHRIST CHURCH

Churchwardens Pat Radford 851480 Irene Harrop 664163

Secretary Janet Rockett 851424 **Treasurer** Jenny Hill 850274

Safeguarding Officer Janet Rockett 851424

A letter from your Clergy

As I sit to write this letter we are still in November, the month when we remember all saints and all souls, our faithful departed and those who have fallen in war.

As you read this it will be December and a New Lectionary Year, which we could begin by remembering God in all the ways that he deals with us - and by counting our blessings. We know that for all of us there will be some things that we find hard to give thanks for and that there are many for whom it must be much harder still – yet even in these, there is God. One day we may know the how's and the why's (and maybe by then it might not be so hard to deal with) – but in the meantime we have something to hold on to, as Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 13.12-13. (Why not look it up?) In the meantime, we must continue to pray for: everyone to love God and one another; goodwill towards all; peace and justice; love and reconciliation, and; for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Paul's thanks to God is quite interesting for us to consider, as follows: 'I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him ... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (Please see: 1 Cor. 1.3-8).

How are we using the gifts God has given us? Are we feeling more spiritually enlightened and empowered than we were a year ago? 'God is faithful', Paul reminds us (1 Cor. 1.9), meaning that he is still willing to share his gifts with us, including those of: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?

This is of course the exciting time of Advent, when we remember God's great love for us and wait to celebrate Christ's first coming, to bring light to the world. It is during this season that we: light our Advent Candles week by week and open our Advent Calendars daily; buy our Christmas trees, wreaths and gifts; send out our Christmas cards, sing Christmas Carols, re-enact the Nativity, and so on. It is a truly magical time, especially for children but adults too, as we prepare in anticipation of Christmas Day and all that follows. For me it has always been a brilliant and wonderful time of year, where the motto is angelic: 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.' Truly brilliant!

Advent is a time of waiting. Isaiah tells us that: 'God works for those who wait for him' (Isa. 64.4). He also tells us of God's invitation to: 'Come now, let us argue it out' (Isa. 1.18). The question is: will we take up the challenge? Can we spare the time from our busy lives – which are even busier during the run-up to Christmas – to consider what the Lord may be asking of us now?

As Christians, during Advent we are also reminded of Jesus' promise to return again (please see: Mark 13.24-27). In Mark 13.4 his disciples have already asked him eagerly about the future 'end of the age' and Jesus commands them to 'wait and watch' for his return (please read: Mark 13. 32-33). We might find it helpful to think about waiting and watching for the coming of the kingdom of God, by trying to act as people who have already begun to dwell there.

I hope you have found this letter helpful, as it is intended to be. It includes ideas from *The Canterbury Preacher's Companion 2006*, pages 1-2, edited by Dr J Critchlow. Thank you for reading it.

On behalf of Charlene, Judy, John, Peter and me, I have great pleasure in offering you our love and best wishes for Advent and Christmas 2017.

Yours in Christ, Dennis x

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S DECEMBER 2017 ROTA

DATE	ALTAR FLOWERS	SIDESPERSONS	COFFEE	CHURCH OPEN
3rd December	Advent Flowers	Mrs J Swallow Mrs A Woodings	Mrs C Mitchell Mrs V Poole	2nd Dec Mrs S Gregory
10th December	Advent	Mrs C Ward Mrs E Radcliffe	Mrs B Jennings Mrs V Armitage	9th Dec Mrs V White
17th December	Advent	Mr J Mitchell Mrs C Mitchell	Mrs M Thorley Ben Wadsworth	16th Dec Mr N Webb
24th December Midnight 11.45pm	Christmas Flowers	Mrs P Murgatroyd Mrs C Woodroffe Mr A Ball Mrs M Ball	No Coffee	23rd Dec Mrs G Taylor
25th December	Christmas Flowers	Mrs R Styan Mrs P Maffin	No Coffee	-
31st December	Christmas Flowers	Mrs M Thorley Mrs J Hilton	Mrs C Moulson Mrs M Ball	30th Dec Mrs B Furniss

ST MARY'S DECEMBER 2017 ROTA

Date	Service	Readings	Prayers
3rd December	11.15am Morning Worship	Angela	Kim
10th December	11.15am HC	John	Jacqueline
17th December	6pm Carol Service	N/A	Jacqueline
25th December	11.15am Christmas Day HC	John	Kim
31st December	9.30am Parish Communion at St Bart's	N/A	N/A
7th January	11.15am HC	Angela	Kim

ST JAMES' ROTA - DECEMBER 2017

Date	Service	Preacher	Leader	Celebrant	Reader
3rd December	9.30am HC / (4pm)	C Ryan / Carols in	the Park)	P Rolls	D Leach
10th December	5pm 5 Alive				Team
17th December	9.30am Meditation & Carols		C Rolls & H Deacon		A Whiteley
24th December	4pm Crib Service				TBA
25th December	9.30am HC	P Rolls		P Rolls	R Walker
31st December	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION ST BARTHOLOMEW'S			

CHRIST CHURCH ROTA - DECEMBER 2017

Date	Flowers	Inter- cessions	Side Person	Altar Server	Coffee	Reader
3rd December 11.15am	Monica	Clergy (CAROLS	Kevin IN THE	Jenny B PARK	Moyra 4PM)	Janet
10th December	Monica	Clergy (CHRISTINGLE	Kevin SERVICE -	Christine HELM	Janet 4PM)	Pat
17th December	Vacant	Clergy	Kevin	Janet	Eileen	Irene
24th December	CHRISTMAS EVE—NO SERVICE MIDNIGHT MASS—ST BARTHOLOMEW’S, 11.45PM					
25th December	Cyril	CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30AM				Eileen
31st December	PARISH COMMUNION—ST BARTHOLOMEW’S, 9.30AM					

PLEASE NOTE If anyone would like to place flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one, please call either Eileen Hague on **851164** or Margaret Tunnacliffe on **850724** **Thank you**

READINGS IN THE PARISH DECEMBER 2017

Date/Day	Theme	1st Reading	Gospel
3rd December	The Coming of the Son of Man	Isaiah 64.1-9	Mark 13.24-end
10th December	The Proclamation of John the Baptist	Isaiah 40.1-11	Mark 1.1-8
17th December	The Word Became Flesh	Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end	John 1.6-8, 19-28
24th December	The Birth of Jesus Foretold	2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16	Luke 1.26-38
25th December	The Birth of Jesus	Isaiah 9.2-7	Luke 2.1-14
31st December	The Shepherds & The Angels	Isaiah 61.10-62.3	Luke 2.15-21

SERVICES IN THE PARISH DECEMBER 2017

Date	St Bartholomew's	St James	St Mary's	Christ Church
3rd December	9.30am HC (4.00pm - Carols)	9.30am HC In The Park)	11.15am MW	11.15am Bap
10th December	9.30am HC	5.00pm 5 Alive	11.15am HC	11.15am HC 4.00pm Christingle
17th December	9.30am Carols / Nativity	9.30am MW/ Med/ Carols	6.00pm Carol Service	11.15am HC
24th December	9.30am HC 11.45pm Midnight Mass	4.00pm Crib Service		
25th December	9.30am HC	9.30am HC	11.15am HC	10.30am HC
31st December	9.30am Parish Communion / Baptism at St Bartholomew's			

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COMMUNICATION DURING VACANCY

PARISH NUMBER: 01484 850050

Parish Email: parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

Website: www.melthamparish.co.uk

Diocese Website: www.leeds.anglican.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 01484 850050

Monday to Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm

OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS:

For all general enquiries please call during our parish office hours:

01484 850050 Mon to Thurs 9.30am –12.30pm.

“CHURCH DROP IN”

Thursday evenings 6.00pm-7.00pm

St Bartholomew’s Church, Meltham.

For Baptism/Weddings, arrangement for Banns or any other non-urgent enquiry please attend our “Church Drop In” where you can speak to a member of the clergy, church warden, or member of the pastoral team.

FOR FUNERALS AND ALL URGENT ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL:

Revd Charlene Smith 07766227510.

Communication Deadlines: if you wish to make a contribution to either our Parish Magazine or Weekly news please adhere to the deadlines.

Parish Magazine: submit before 15th of each month to parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

Weekly News: submit by Wednesday each week to parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

--- THANK YOU ---

Growth & Development Meeting

This meeting was held on 8th November with 9 people attending. Many interesting ideas were discussed, which we hope to develop at the next meeting. We held a time of prayer, praying for each of the four churches.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30 in St James' Church and we would love to see you there.



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on
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT



The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines, the Bishop of Leeds, is pleased to announce that the Revd Charlene Smith, currently serving as Assistant Curate in the Parish of Christ the King, Meltham, has been appointed as Priest in Charge of Ackworth St Cuthbert in the Wakefield Episcopal Area.

The Licensing Service will take place on 13 February 2018 at St Cuthbert's at 7.30pm.

All are welcome to the Licensing service. Please pray for myself, Chris and Owen and we prepare for this new chapter in our lives, as I will pray for you. Our last service in Meltham will be on the 14th January at St Bartholomew's Church 9.30am.

God's Blessing Charlene

Congratulations!

Rev Charlene, we prayerfully wish you, Chris and Owen all the best in your new Parish and home...

Although you will be sadly missed, we thank God for you, for all you have done and for this exciting new venture!

PRAYING DURING THE INTERREGNUM

It is really important that during our time of interregnum, we pray regularly for our Church and for the appointment of our next Vicar. You may wish to use this prayer:

**God our Father,
you have welcomed each one of us in Jesus
and called us to be his body in this place.
Send us your Holy Spirit,
at this time of uncertainty and change,
to fill us with vision and energy;
make us faithful in prayer and worship,
that we may be true to our calling
to bring new life to our community.
Guide with your heavenly wisdom
those who are to choose a new Incumbent for this parish,
that the one whom we receive
may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people:
ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith,
and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your son,
our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

St Bartholomew's Women's Fellowship

There will be no meeting in December.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 30th January, 2018 at 7.30pm in church.

This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting.

New members are always welcome so why not come and join us in the New Year! Last Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm in church followed by a speaker and refreshments.

A last minute change of plan in November meant that a most enjoyable lunch was held at Meltham Golf Club where we had a Christmas meal.

Also don't forget the Christmas Fayre on 2nd December in the Church Hall, 10.00am—4.00pm. There will be stalls including Bottle and Chocolate Tombola, Preserves by Milly's Preserves, Jewellery and Gifts, cards, cakes and much more. As well as mulled wine and mince pies, turkey sandwiches at lunchtime and entertainment by Honley Male Voice Choir.

- Catherine Moulson



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE WITH US WHAT HAS HAPPENED THIS YEAR AT OUR
MELTHAM WAREHOUSE WHERE THOUSANDS OF SHOEBOXES WERE PREPARED FOR SEND-
ING TO CHILDREN OVERSEAS

YOU ARE INVITED TO COME ALONG TO OUR

CELEBRATION SHOEBOX SERVICE

Sunday 10TH DECEMBER, 11.00am @ St James' Church,

Huddersfield Road, Meltham Mills.

with our Guests — HONLEY GIRLS CHOIR

AFTER THE SERVICE EVERYONE IS INVITED TO STAY FOR A SOUP LUNCH £3

CHURCH DROP IN HOUR

Church Drop In Hour takes place at

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH,

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HD9 5NW.

Church Drop In Hour runs weekly between

6.00PM AND 7.00PM ON THURSDAYS.

(excluding 21st & 28th December over the Christmas period)

Arrangements for Banns, Marriage, Baptism or any other non-urgent matter
may be made between these hours.

When you arrive you will be greeted by a member of our congregation, there
will be tea or coffee available and if you bring your children with you,
we can direct them to the toy box while you make your arrangements/
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Please note that when making arrangements for a Wedding, it is important
that we meet both you and your
partner.

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HELME LADIES

We had absolutely superb weather for our weekend away in mid-October to Stamford in Lincolnshire and Sandringham House in Norfolk. It was an early start just after 7.00am at Huddersfield bus station and after another couple of pick-ups we were on our way to Stamford. This is a beautiful town built entirely in stone, very reminiscent of the Cotswold villages. The lack of a railway in Victorian times was responsible for a complete lack of industrial development. There is no urban sprawl, no large stores and no obnoxious bright signs. Instead there is a conserved town including small high quality shops eating establishments and a Saturday open market set on either side of a very attractive River Welland. We split up into groups and wandered around savouring everything there was to see and enjoying the beautiful sunshine in a visit which was really enjoyable.

We stayed overnight at the Park Hotel in Peterborough which was first class with excellent food and very accommodating staff. After dinner we all gathered for a chat about the day and at one stage digressed to our teenage years in the 1960s and the Teddy Boy era. About the fun had at the Starlight Ballroom and Chinny's on East Parade. About having to miss the last dance in order to catch the last bus home to Meltham. How times have changed!!

The next morning we arrived at Sandringham House as it opened. We made our way around the beautiful gardens and lake which was at its colourful best in the morning sun and then into the house. What a delight we had. It really did feel 'lived in' and it seemed as though our Queen had just popped out to the shops. The bright daylight flowing through the windows was a huge difference to rooms in houses preserved by the National Trust which are often in subdued light. There was also an exhibition in the old stables where some of the gifts Her Majesty had received over the decades were on display. In the garage was an excellent collection of royal vehicles on show which also traversed the decades. There was simply so much to see and the café was good as well. Finally as our time at Sandringham was coming to an end we crossed to the local church which our Royal Family attend at Christmas. A beautiful church indeed with lovely painted arches together with an alter made of silver and a pulpit made of wood and silver. As we headed home we were all agreed that the weekend had been an unforgettable experience.

On Tuesday 24th October we were back in Helme Church for an Auction Sale. This has become almost an annual event and one eagerly anticipated, not because of the items for sale but because of the hilarity of our two auctioneers, Margaret Tiffany and Dorothy Strachan, who create laugh after laugh as they part us from our cash. We had lots of items for sale including kitchenware, jewellery, toiletries, scarves, desk lamps and a pair of boots. As items were held up for sale they were described in the most amusing of ways and then the bids came. Not quite Bargain Hunt, just very slowly and in some cases just to the maiden bid. The evening passed really well and we all ended up with one or two items but most importantly the group made some £26.10 which will be added to our funds for distribution to our chosen charities at the end of the year.

Hazel Gibson (leader) Contact telephone 01484 852711.

COMMUNITY CARD GROUP, MELTHAM



Recycling cards to help the Welcome Centre,
Huddersfield

Once again thank you for your support over this last
year.

Christmas Cards – Packs of 10 for £3 and individual cards for Family and
Friends 50p each - are now on sale in the churches along with Gift tags –
Pack of 10 50p

In the new year we will be happy to receive all your used Christmas Cards
and these can be left in the green boxes in your church.

We would also ask that you continue to leave all your other used Greetings
Cards over the year as we are always needing them particularly General
Birthday Cards and Cards with no Greeting on.

You can also deliver any used Cards to St James Church on a Friday
morning 10-12noon when we will be working. We would be happy to see
you and over a cup of coffee you can see the work we do.



- Christine Rolls.

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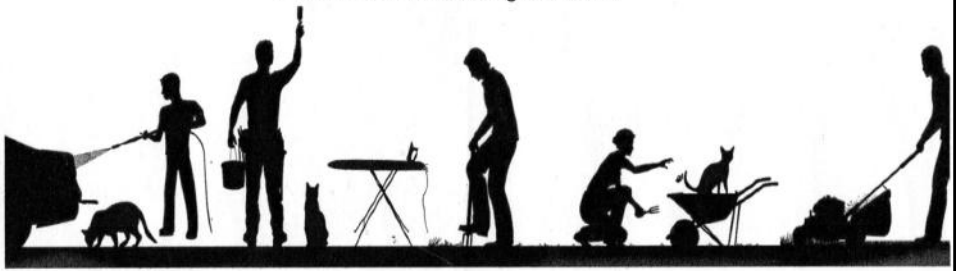
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ST MARY'S REPORT

There was no service at St Mary's on 22nd October which gave us the opportunity to share worship in one of the other churches in the parish. Some of us were able to meet CMS mission partners Felipe and Sarah Yanez who spoke of their work with a food and clothes bank in Malaga, Spain.

The following Sunday St Mary's hosted the united parish communion service which was lead by Rev Judy Kenworthy who also gave the talk. Rev Charlene Smith was celebrant assisted at the alter by Kim Howe and Irene Harrop. Richard Styan and Patrice Storey read the lessons, Jacqueline France lead the prayers and Elizabeth Pearson was organist. People from all four churches in the parish attended and it was good to see the church so full. Coffee was served in the Sunday School after the service.

At 1pm that same day over thirty people took part in 'Wilshaw Welly Walk' - a 5 mile sponsored walk to raise money for Wilshaw Village Hall. There was a competition for the best decorated welly, the youngest walker and the largest family group and the weather was glorious. Refreshments were served on the walkers return and prizes presented to the winners of the competitions.

A service of Holy Communion took place at St Mary's on 5th November. Elizabeth played the organ, John Andrews read the lessons, Peter Pearson was sidesman and Kim offered the prayers. Rev Judy spoke about All Saints and of how, in society, it has been squeezed out by Hallow'een and Bonfire parties. However witches and spiders, gunpowder, treason and plot will not have the last say, God will! So out your trust in Him.

Last Sunday it was Remembrance Day and as well as supporting the United Remembrance Day Service at St Bartholomew's Church at 10.45am, we held a service at St Mary's at 2pm. This was lead by Rev Judy along with members of the core group and congregation and it was good to welcome representatives of the Royal British Legion to our little church. Clive Pearson and John Andrews read the lessons, Elizabeth Pearson was organist and read the poem "In Flanders Fields" and Kim lead the intercessions. Peter, Judith Moore, Elizabeth, Clive and Kim helped us to remember the fallen of the 1st WW, the 2nd WW, civilian victims of war, those left at home, those who lost loved ones and those killed in more recent conflicts. A candle was lit for each and a display of pictures was created to help with our remembrance. We then moved to the war memorial which is inside church, The wreath was laid by Peter Foden of the Royal British Legion and the standard bearer, John Fox lowered the flag following the singing of the National Anthem. Names on the Roll of Honour and the memorial were read out and a minutes silence was observed followed by the Last Post. Our thanks go to all who planned and took part in this moving service.

BELL HOUSE REPORT

Bell House residents took part in a service of Holy Communion on Wednesday 1st November. The service, hymns and prayers all had remembrance theme and Rev Judy led our worship. The reading was from Micah 4 vv 1-4 and look forward to a time when all wars will end. We observed a minutes silence in memory of all those who died to keep us free, we looked back with gratitude and forward with new determination to work and pray for peace.

MELTHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

On Remembrance Sunday the community of Meltham came together to share in a service of Remembrance. The service was preceded by a parade from the Carlisle Institute. The parade was led by Meltham and Meltham Mills Band and marshalled by Peter Foden. Civic leaders, British Legion members, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and representatives of various organisations and the army paraded to the church and attended the service along with members from all seven churches. Rev John Radcliffe and Rev Charlene Smith led the service and received the flags which were brought in to church during the first hymn, along with the many poppy wreaths. The names of those who are remembered on the war memorials in the parish were read out and the bell tolled for them. Cllr Terry Lyons read the first lesson and the Mayor of Meltham, Cllr Jean Wrathall read the Gospel. Simon Ball was organist, the choir sang an anthem, Rev Charlene led the prayers and Rev John gave the talk. Meltham and Meltham Mills Band accompanied some of the hymns and it was good to see the church so full. John Fox, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, collected the standard followed by the scouts and guides who collected their flags and assembled at the front of the church. Following the National Anthem two minutes silence was observed and the Last Post was sounded. During the last hymn, various representatives collected their wreaths and followed the flags as they were paraded out of church. The wreaths were placed below the war memorial plaques which record the fallen of two world wars and more recent conflicts. The parade re-assembled, returning to the Carlisle car park for dismissal and coffee and cake was served in the church hall following the service.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Mabel Dowling, Noeline Large,

Pat Lewenden, & Edith Taylor,

Anyone wishing to have their loved ones names included in the book of Remembrance at St Bartholomew's please contact Jean Collison : Telephone 851816 (there is a small fee of £5 for church expenses)

Marriages and Baptisms, to be arranged :

Ring (01484) 850050

or email: parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

Helme Hall

have their service of

Holy Communion

On Thursday

21st December 2017, 2.00pm

in the lounge.



All are welcome

Greenacres

Songs of Praise

Tuesday 12th December 2017

At 1.30pm

Holy Communion

Tuesday 19th December 2017

at 1.30 pm

All are welcome

Bell House

have their Holy Communion service

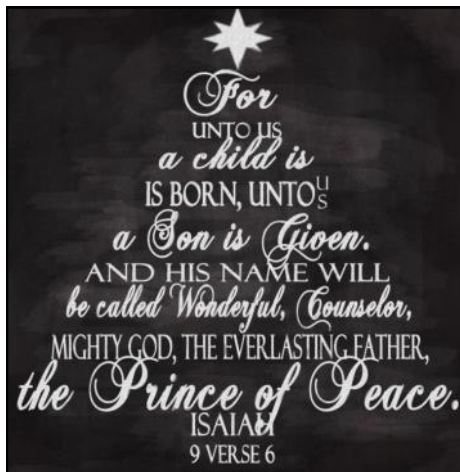
on

Wednesday

6th December at 10.30am in the

Lounge

All are welcome



‘Thank you’

For all your kind wishes, cards and flowers in my recent illness.

- Barbara Jennings



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etc.

Fred's wife wanted a Christmas tree in every room in the house.
 Fred said "No! That's going way over the top!"
 So after a lot of arguing they reached a compromise...
 And now they are having a Christmas tree in every
 room in the house.



One night a Viking nicknamed 'Rudolph the Red' was looking out
 of the window when he said "It's going to rain."

"How do you know that?" His wife asked, to
 which he replied " Rudolph the Red knows **rain dear**"

I made a little Snowman, as perfect as can be.
 I thought I'd keep him as a pet, and let him sleep with me.
 I made him some pyjamas, and a pillow for his head.
 But last night he disappeared, and wet my blooming bed!



Wishing all a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas!

- Denis A

Meltham Churches Together
'Praying with and for our community'

In December we will be praying in
St Bartholomew's

6th December (Baptist)
13th December (Methodist)
20th December (St James)
27th December (Catholic)

All welcome!

200 Club
DECEMBER winners were

£50	329	Mrs S. Sinclair
£10	974	Mrs P. Beastow
£10	509	Mrs S. Farrell
£10	493	Mrs A. Halstead
£10	000	Mr M. Townsend

CHURCH HALL DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2017

WEEKLY BOOKINGS:

Every Tuesday	Pilates	10.00am
	‘Good as Gold’ -	
	With Pam Cox	2.00pm
	Slimming World	5.30 and 7.30pm
Every Wednesday	Zumba Gold	10.00am
Every Friday	Baby Sensory	10.00am
	G & S Rehearsal	7.45pm

MONTHLY BOOKINGS:

1st Tuesday	Women’s Institute	7.30pm
2nd Wednesday	Flower Club	7.00pm
1st & 3rd Thursdays	Cloverleaf Club	1.00pm - 3.00pm
2nd Thursday	Over 60’s Club	2.00pm
Last Tuesday (Church)	Women’s Fellowship	7.30pm

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS - Doors open 9.30am

2nd December	St Bart’s Christmas Fayre	10.00am - 4.00pm
9th	Scouts	
16th	Catholic Christmas coffee morning	

OTHER BOOKINGS

Saturday 2nd	CHRISTMAS FAYRE - 10am - 4pm
	CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 7.30pm
Monday 4th	Crossroads Christmas Party - 7.00pm
Thursday 7th	Hospice Lunch - 12.00pm
Sunday 31st	NEW YEARS EVE PARTY - 7.00pm
Tickets available from the Flower Box—£3 each or £10 for a family of 4, bring food to share and your own drinks (-see poem)	

Please note that all bookings for the Church Hall should be made with
Pam Murgatroyd to avoid disappointment or duplication.
Contact details : 01484 349857 or 07761 393502 pammurg.mgt@gmail.com



**AN INVITE TO OUR 3rd NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
FROM PAM & PETER MURGATROYD**

Tell me, "What do you do on New Year's Eve,

Do you sit at home alone,

Do you try to talk to relatives

And can't get through on the phone?"

There's no reason to be lonely

Or be alone and sad.

Why not have a night out

With lots of fun to be had?

We'll be at the Parish Church Hall,

So bring food to share and a drink.

Join in Pam's New Year's party,

It'll be lots more fun than you think.

It's only 3 pounds per person

Or ten for a family of four.

And we can see the New Year in

With more fun than you've had before.

There'll be dancing and games for all ages,

No one too young or too old.

So get your tickets quickly

Before they have all been sold.

Gail has some at the Flower Box,

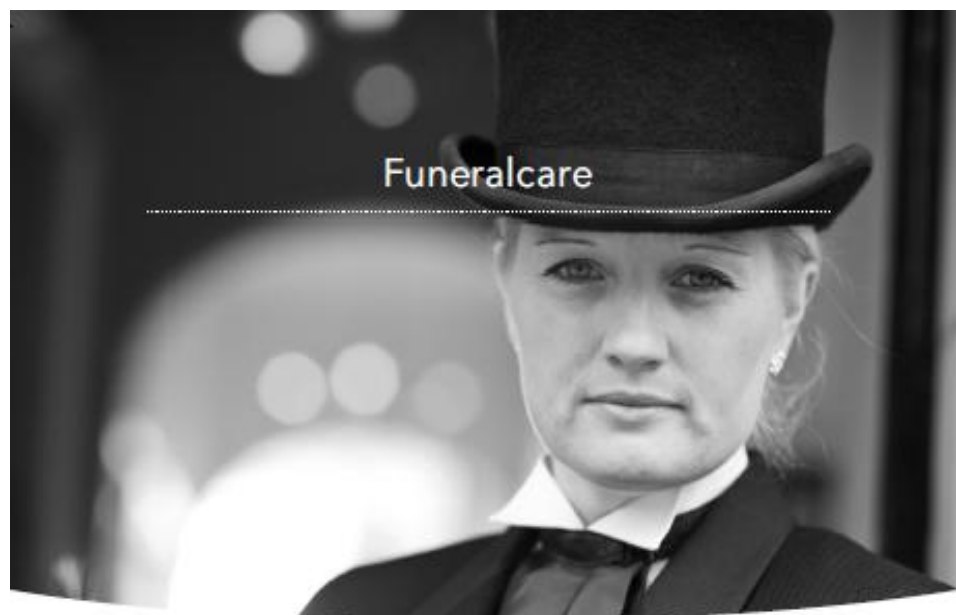
Or ring me, I have some to sell.

So come along and join us

And bring some of your friends as well.

On Sunday 31st December 2017 into 2018 at Meltham Parish Church Hall doors open at 7pm.
Bring food to share and your own drinks. £3 per ticket or £10 for a family ticket for four from
the Flower Box or ring Pam on 07761 393502.

Don't be alone, come and let in the New Year with us!



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A big thank you to Catherine and the Church friends for the flowers and good wishes sent to me during my illness.

Someone above must have helped me through it.

I hope you are all blessed by the same thing.

My best wishes for 2018

Kind regards

Anne Jones



A polite notice!..

For anyone wishing to contribute to the January magazine, if you could please send all items in by **December 10th!**

We are having to bring it forward this month due to the Christmas break.

Thank you!

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Testimony Time...

As we approach the Christmas period and festivities, it brings me so much joy to think of Jesus' birth, the night my Lord & Saviour came into the world, in such a unique and special way, still taught, sung about and acted out in schools and churches around the world.

However, this wasn't always my focus at Christmas. Although I was raised going to church so the Nativity has always been a part of it, for me there were some years ago where it was just a small part, the presents and the parties were much more of a focus. This is because during my teenage years, going out with friends and fitting in were much more of a priority than going to church was and I soon became more of an irregular attendee than a regular one. As I grew older, my relationship with God grew smaller and as time went on, hanging out with friends turned into parties, clubbing, drinking, drugs, bad relationships and weight and health problems. After years of substance abuse, my life being a mess and not attending church, I started to see the numbers 333... everywhere! Up to 15/20 times a day, wherever I would be these numbers were in front of me. As some of you may know, the number 3 is a Holy number, representing the Trinity. This, along with other encounters, It was clear that God was reaching out to me and while sitting at rock bottom, I responded. I went to church and experienced the Holy Spirit that night ,receiving instant healing of my addictions and of my messy lifestyle, He transformed me. The following week during an Easter service I declared Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and gave my life to Him, receiving forgiveness and starting a new chapter with Jesus at the centre.

In the years since then, my relationship with God has gotten stronger and deeper , day by day, and I am fortunate enough, not just to be part of a Church but to work in Churches too, one role I have now as a youth worker enables me to help young people, some going through similar experiences to my past. It makes me thankful not just that I was saved from that life, but that I lived it too and that God can be glorified through it.

So as I reflect on what God has done for me , it makes me appreciate this time of year even more, an innocent and pure baby being born in a stable, who would eventually carry my sins to the cross, so that I could know Him today.

Merry Christmas—from Amelia

***'Today in the town of David a Saviour, has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.'* - Luke 2:11**

(If you have a testimony that you would like to share of what God has done in your life then please email it into parishofchristtheking@gmail.com)



OASIS - A Quiet Day for Advent

St James Church, Meltham Mills

Wednesday 6th December, 10.30am - 3.00pm

Coffee served from 10.00am

Enjoy some peaceful time for reflection, reading and refreshment before the busyness of Christmas really begin!

Come and join us

Please bring a packed lunch if staying all day



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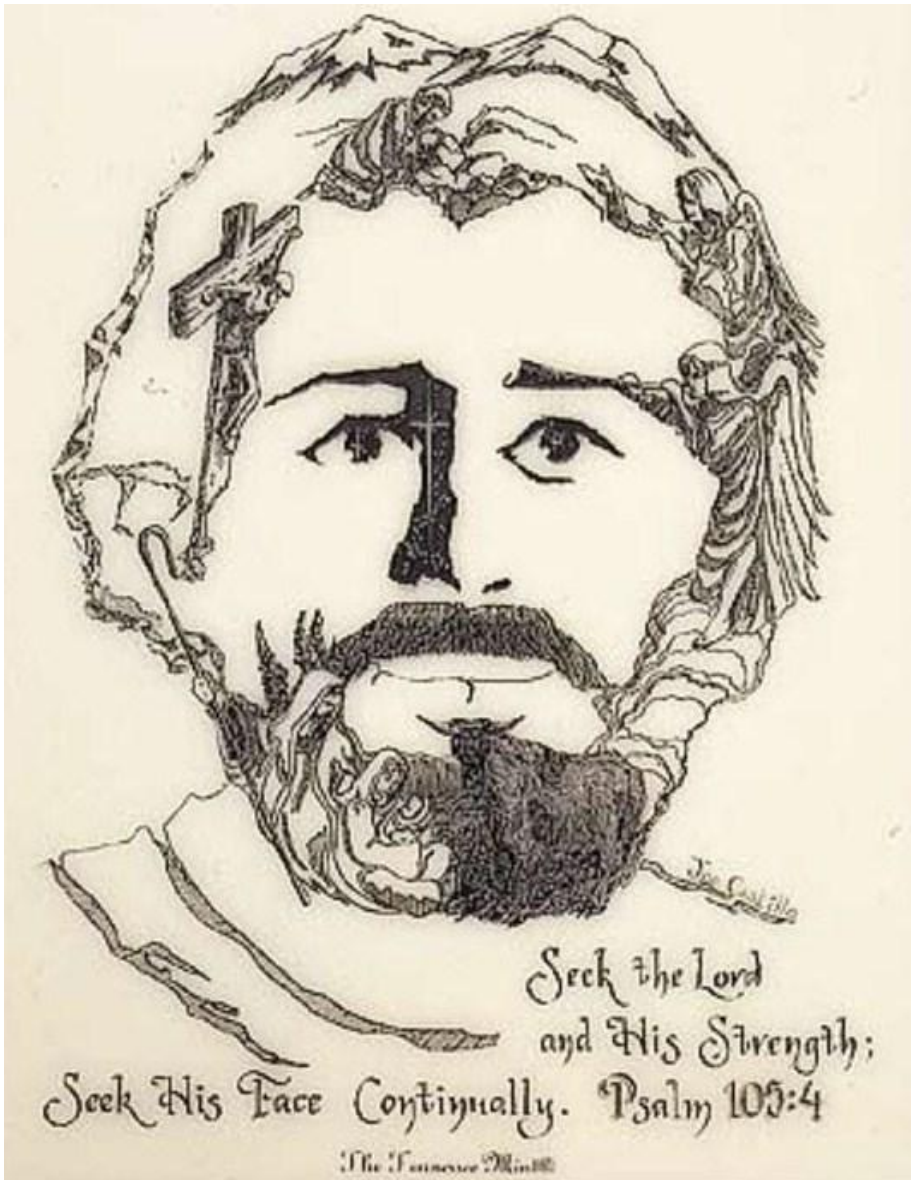
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Jesus Illusion...

The 'longer' you look at this picture, the 'more' you see.



The lines that the artist has used to draw this picture of Christ revealing scenes from Jesus' life... AMAZING!



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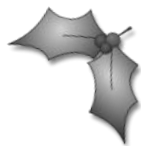
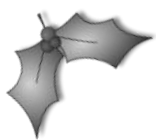
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'Christmas' by John Betjamen

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas
Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

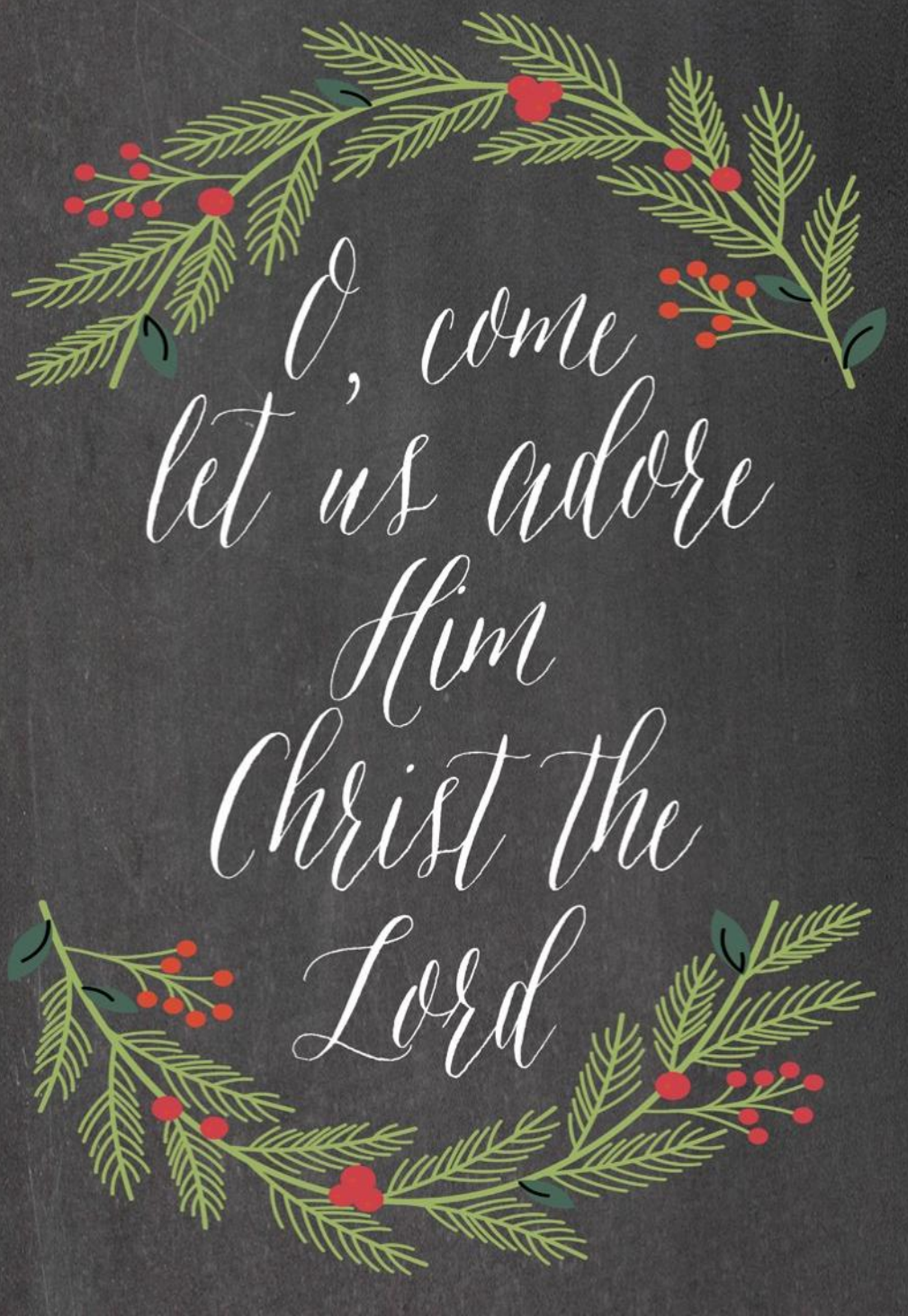
And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

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O, come
let us adore
Him
Christ the
Lord