



APCM

Annual Reports

For the Parish of
Meltham, Christ the King



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Vicars report 2020

The Bible has a lot to say about unity; In the Old Testament the books of Joshua and Judges we see the tribes of Israel repeatedly called to stand together. The prophets spend much time and energy imploring the people of Israel and Judah to take care of each other, this being put most simply as “love your neighbour”. In the New Testament Jesus says, “a divided house cannot stand” and St Paul says; actually, St Paul says rather a lot on the whole unity and love topic.

One of my favourite examples is Ephesians 4 where Paul is using the metaphor of the body and all its many different parts to give a picture of unity in wonderful diversity. In verse 16 Paul talks about the ligaments or sinews holding all the parts together so that, as each part does its own work it supports and enables other parts to grow.

Across our parish this year there have been many wonderful things happening. There is much to celebrate, many people who deserve to be thanked, and of course much to thank God for too. However, what we have not seen much evidence of is growth. It is the nature of all truly healthy Churches that they will grow. It is clear from scripture that God’s intention is that his Church should grow continually for the building up of those already within, and for the salvation of those outside. With all the many wonderful things that we do across the parish it would be hard to argue that we are not sufficiently active. Unfortunately, too often these activities are not well joined to each other. The ligaments or sinews that Paul talks about need developing so that we can work together in greater unity so that each part can enable other parts to grow.

Over the last year much time and effort has been invested in creating a new Parish constitution. One of the reasons for this is that there have been some irregularities in the governance structure of the parish, however, whilst correcting these irregularities is undoubtedly important it is not the only reason for looking at how we work together as a parish. In June we had a PCC away day where we discussed the structure of our parish governance and considered the effectiveness of the existing system. The conclusion was that we had a lot of needless duplication and that many of the things we consider to be really important like, worship and mission, were being squeezed out by things like, fabric and finance. It is clear that this system has not been as affective in supporting our mission or in helping us to work together as we would wish it to be.

The hope and aim is that our new constitution will: Deal with the irregularities, allow us to address all of our priorities in a more efficient and meaningful way, and perhaps most importantly, help us to work together more effectively and with far greater unity so that by God’s grace, we will grow in every way. (spiritually, numerically, and financially)

I can't finish without thanking everyone for all of their considerable efforts and I would like to offer a special thank you to all of our Church Wardens for everything they do often working quietly behind the scenes. To our finance team lead by Ruth Murray-Webster who have faced the task of bringing our parish finances together in a manner that will enable them to be examined as one set of accounts with great positivity and constructiveness. To Sue Priestly our PCC secretary who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes preparing agendas and producing minutes and to help me bring some of our paperwork up to date. Finally thank you to all our clergy, readers, and pastoral workers who do much more than ensuring that we continue to have regular services in all our Churches. I would also like to welcome Jacqueline and Patrice to the team, they have of course contributed to ministry in this parish for some time, but this last year saw them both licenced to the parish. I'm sure that we would all like to give them our thanks and offer them our support as they seek to serve our parish in the years to come.

I am sorry that I am not able to thank every person individually but that would make this report unreadably long. Please be assured that all your efforts are greatly appreciated, and I am grateful for all you do, and my wife and I thank God for each one of you and the fellowship we share.

Parish of Meltham, Christ the King.

Church Warden Report for APCM 2020

St James' Meltham Mills.

Buildings and Fabrics Report

The building remains largely in good order thanks to the diligent work of the Maintenance team under the direction of our Finance Officer, Richard Whiteley, Church Warden, Mike Still and Judith and Paul Powell. I.

All regular servicing of electrical goods and Fire appliances have taken place in accordance with Health & Safety Regulations. Our boiler has been regularly serviced and somehow keeps going! We are aware that it is now very elderly and we shall seriously have to consider how best we can manage our heating needs for the future.

We have completed most of the recommendations of the 2017 Quinquennial Inspection. All matters relating to Health & Safety have been addressed.

Outstanding works are largely of a 'heritage' nature such as repairing and repainting the wrought iron work hand rails and repairing the little bridge into the park.

The Architect Russel Trudgon would also like us to consider replacing the stone finials on the Church Tower and protecting our stained glass windows with a fine grade wire mesh. He recommended reinstating the Commemorative stone tablet celebrating the life of the first Vicar of Meltham Mills, the Rev David Meredith. Grants may be available to help with the expense likely to occur with the 'Heritage' projects.

Following a severe storm in March 2019, the Church Tower drain became blocked causing water to cascade down the tower steps. Fortunately no real long term damage occurred but it is taking a long time for the walls, stairways etc to dry out.

This 'weather event' has caused a delay to the redecoration of the Tower Entrance.

Permission has been granted by the Archdeacon for the Tower entrance to be redecorated as soon as the conditions are suitable and the weather is warmer.

In October the gutters and gullies over the organ pipes on the South side of the church became blocked causing a leak into the worship area of the church. A further leak occurred on the North side above the Vicar's Vestry. Two local builders inspected the areas and gave quotations for repairing and making good the damage. The quote given by John Harrison was accepted by the PCC and the work was done at the beginning of March. The prolonged spells of severe weather had made it unsafe for working on the roof any sooner.

After a very long consultation period a Faculty was granted by the Registrar for a large conifer tree adjacent to the church porch on the South Side to be removed. The tree was felled in January 2020 by ABBADON Tree Specialists. We shall seek advice on how best the conifer should be replaced by a more suitable tree and in a more suitable position.

The church grounds continue to look well cared for and attractive. Here again we are extremely grateful to Alison and Richard Whiteley and Mike, who have spent very many hours clearing, tidying,

weeding, planting and generally taking care of everything horticultural. Occasionally they have persuaded others to join them on a Saturday morning to form a small work party to tackle the larger tasks such as tree pruning and clearing large overgrown areas of nettles and brush wood.

Once again the OCC shoebox team have made generous gifts to the church, especially in the kitchen area. They kindly bought us a new cooker, a new fridge and two new kettles. We do thank them most sincerely for their kindness.

Rev John is hoping to convert the upstairs Vestry into a small Parish Office for storing files, resources etc and where the Parish Administrator can occasionally work. This conversion will take place gradually over the next few months.

Our longstanding church cleaner Debbie Leach decided to retire after Christmas and a new cleaner, Anna Rockett has taken her place. We wish Debbie a happy retirement and we wish Anna well in her new role of keeping St James fresh and clean.

I know I speak for all the congregation of St James when I say how much we appreciate the goodwill shown and hard work done by the Building and Maintenance team of St James and for the support given by the newly formed Parish Buildings Committee.

Thank you to you all.

Jenny Mathers 2020

St Marys Church Report

Annual Church Maintenance

Church Yard – Thanks must go to the gardening team who have been keeping the church gardens tidy the team includes, Peter Pearson, Keven Moore, Diane and Michael Taylor, John Andrews.

Part of a tree fell from the church yard onto the public road. No damage was reported.

All trees have been surveyed and are all sturdy. This was paid for out of the Godfrey Beaumont money.

Part of the plasterboard ceiling in one of the toilets fell in due to water leaking through, also a minor leak in the kitchen this is an old flat roof that covers both areas, this has been looked at by the fabric team. No work has been done yet.

Several slates on the church roof have moved and some are resting in the gutter, this has also been looked at by the fabric team.

A pile of rotting vegetation, grass cuttings leaves etc. which has gathered over many years around the back of the building was causing damp in the vestry. This has started to be removed by Keven

Out of control brambles around the back of the building have been severely pruned.

Future maintenance

We are looking into replacing the two old heaters in the Sunday school. One of which is not working anymore, and the other is quite noisy these were brand new in 1963 approx.

Also, we are looking at installing a supplementary heating system in the church, consisting of placing heating under all the pews so the congregation are kept warm. Cost estimated at £11,000 including re-wiring.

And also looking at decorating and repairing the inside church building. We have a quotation from Dean Wilks. Cost est. £3490.00

Health & Safety

There have been no health and safety issues in the last year. All health and safety policies have been kept up to date.

Fire equipment checks are all up to date

All headstones have been checked and are all sound.

Terrier

The terrier is up to date.

Quinquennial Report

The quinquennial report has been carried out and we are awaiting the report which will be included in the report for the APCM.

Christ Church Helme

Church Warden Report

29th April 2020

The Terrier is up to date and no changes have been made to it.

The Quinquennial Report

Our latest report was done in September 2017 and will be due again in 2022 We were pleased that there was no Priority Items to address. However there is always an ongoing list for the future and these are being carried out as and when. They are minor decorating issues.

Fabric/Buildings

Once again we visit the Spire at Helme, the wooden shingles are missing half way up the spire maybe 14-18 . We have received the faculty for its repair and I am trying to get a date from the company to do it. This I fear may take a while as it was pointed out that the Cherry Pickers weight exceeds what the soddoned ground can take and we have to wait for it to dry out.

The Incumbent Board is now finished and in place.

The Graveyard and Trees are our most pressing jobs now the former as we have no graves left and the latter as it has been too long since we have had the Trees checked and any action taken.

As our organ needs repair, at a cost of between £1200 and £1500 Revd John wants to make our sound system as good as it can be and he has been in touch with a sound company to come and change some of the speakers and move the sound equipment round the corner to a better accessible space. This will also repair the Loop System for the hard of hearing.

The heating still plagues us or the lack of it. Although we should be grateful the boiler is working now, however we are all aware of how unpredictable it is and we look forward to creating the funds to upgrade. The clock continues to need adjusting.

Irene Harrop



St Bartholomew's AGM Church Warden's Report

9th February 2020

Introduction

The AGM this year sees a departure from the way we have operated in previous years. Firstly, the name has changed: it is no longer the AGM of the DCC as this has been replaced by the St Bartholomew's Steering Group. We'll no longer elect churchwardens, officers and PCC representatives at this AGM; this will be done at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). To facilitate these changes, a new constitution has been drawn up, in consultation with the diocese, to regularise our situation regarding Church of England rules and recognising the four parish churches that we have within the parish of Meltham, Christ the King. This constitution will need to be ratified at the Extraordinary Parochial Meeting to be held on 19th February.

Church Life

Congregation numbers at St Bartholomew's declined slightly in 2019 compared to 2018, averaging just over 60 on Sunday mornings in 2019 compared to 70 previously. This probably comes as no surprise given the number of funerals that were held during the year. Many of them were for long standing parishioners who gave dedicated and much valued service to our church over many years. We will miss them.

Smart Barts, however, continues to thrive. There was, again, a well-attended nativity service before Christmas which proved to be very enjoyable. Indeed, all the services over the Christmas and Advent period were enjoyable. Well done to the vicar who had the stamina to see it all through.

We didn't expect a repeat of the 2018 Remembrance Day service, when the church was full to overflowing, but were pleasantly surprised when the church was again full in 2019. We were also more prepared and able to cope with the number of people who attended.

Church Building and Fabric

The Quinquennial Inspection for St Bartholomew's was completed during the summer of 2019. The inspector's report recognised the considerable work that had been carried out since the previous inspection, which has eliminated the most urgent concerns. It did, however, recommend further essential work, including chancel repairs and internal redecoration, which needs to be carried out within the next five years. The work required is currently being considered by the Fabric Committee but is not in the budget for 2020.

Surveys have not been carried out on the trees we have on church land, including the cemeteries, for several years. As this is a legal requirement, several quotes have been obtained by the Fabric Committee and a tree survey will be carried out in the coming months.

After several incidents with some youngsters causing damage in the church last summer it was decided to keep the church locked until we could make it more secure. Locksmiths were engaged to provide keys for some of the internal doors and cupboards. These can now be locked, so the church can be open again during the day (10am-3pm Monday to Friday except school holidays).

Summary

I'd like to thank Catherine Moulson for all her dedicated work and Sylvia Tancock, who recently stood down from her deputy warden duties after many years' service.

Thanks also to Peter Murgatroyd for overseeing day to day church maintenance. In his role as tower captain we have seen (or should that be heard?) the bell ringers go from strength to strength.

Thank you, too, to Ann Halstead and her team of helpers who do so much to encourage our youngsters throughout the year.

To conclude I'd like to thank everyone else in the church family for their contribution in making the parish run smoothly.

Alistair Storey

Church Warden

St Bartholomew's Church

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR , THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING

It is hereby certified that the number of electors upon the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish, as prepared for the Annual Meeting held on:

Wednesday 28th October 2020

The number of Parishioners on the roll in 2019 was 196

We have had pleasure in adding 5 new Parishioners to the roll this year

Sadly we have removed 4 Parishioner from the roll

The number of Parishioners on the roll in 2020 is 197

An increase of 1

Signed

Jennifer Hill

Electoral Roll Officer 21st October 2020

PCC Secretary's report 2019

In the last year the PCC held 6 meetings in the months of: May, July, September, October, November, and January. All meetings were well attended and quorate .

In addition to these meetings the PCC held an away day in June, and an Extraordinary Parochial Church Meeting was held in February.

In our May meeting, being the first meeting after the last APCM we elected.

Sue Priestly – Secretary

Pat Beastow – Lay Chair

Ruth Murray-Webster – Treasurer

Jenny Hill – Electoral Roll officer

Pam Murgatroyd and Ruth Murray-Webster (alongside the Vicar and Church wardens) – Standing Committee

At this meeting we were joined by Arch Deacon Anne Dawtry and Judith Calvert (Leeds Diocesan Mission and Pastoral secretary). They advised the PCC of a number of irregularities in our Parish governance and offered advise on our pursuing a new pastoral measure/constitution. It was agreed that this would be the subject of focus for our PCC away day in June and that the PCC would support the Vicar and Secretary in working with the diocese to prepare a new pastoral measure/constitution for the parish.

During discussions with the diocese the need for the PCC to have adequate oversight of all financial matters was made clear to the parish. It was apparent that this would be especially problematic for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Therefore, an amicable arrangement was sought that would allow them to continue as an independent society. We thank their members for their constructive approach throughout that process and wish them the very best for the future.

This new pastoral measure was presented to the PCC in January, approved by the parish at an extraordinary Parochial Church Meeting On 19th February, and by the Diocesan Bishops Council on 6th March.

During the year it became apparent that Terry Savage would not be able to complete the independent examination of our accounts. As a result of this the PCC appointed Margaret Swinden to act as independent examiner. We are deeply grateful to Terry for the help he has given to the parish in this respect in the past and similarly grateful to Margaret for her assistance this year.

We would like to finish by thanking all PCC members for their efforts through the year, and all those who have accepted extra responsibilities or have help the PCC through the various working groups that support them.

Sue Priestly

PCC Secretary Meltham, Christ the King

Deanery Synod report 2020

Deanery Synod has met on three occasions this year.

The synod meeting on 24th June was a joint meeting of Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirkburton and was held at St. Paul's Church Armitage Bridge. This was largely a social meeting though there was one item of business discussed. This related to the proposed reorganisation of deanery's. If this went ahead it would see the deanery's of Almondbury, Huddersfield, and Kirkburton joined to form a new deanery known as the deanery of South Kirklees. The discussion identified the possibility of both benefits and difficulties.

The synod meeting held on 9th October was an open to anyone from our Churches that wished to attend and was a joint meeting of Almondbury, Huddersfield and Kirkburton and was held at St Barnabas Church Crossland Moor. The subject considered was Lay Training and included a presentation from our diocesan Lay training Team.

The synod meeting on 11th March was open to anyone from our Churches that wished to attend and was a joint meeting of Almondbury with Kirkburton and Huddersfield and was held at St. Paul's Church Armitage Bridge. The future of the deanery's was discussed and it was explained that having taken into account all the considerations offered over the previous years, the Bishop of Leeds had formed the new deanery of Almondbury with Kirkburton by Bishops Pastoral Order. This seemed to most members, to be a reasonable resolution to the issue.

Safeguarding report

The PCC has now decided that an annual review of safeguarding will take place and that safeguarding will continue to be a standing item on all PCC agendas.

During the year it came to the PCC's attention that the safeguarding policy adoption statement displayed in each of our Parish Churches was not the same as the one currently being issued by the diocese. To avoid any doubt or confusion the PCC decided to pass a new resolution adopting the diocesan safeguarding policy. This, along with the A3 "promoting a Safer Church" poster containing the appropriate diocesan and parish contacts, and the promoting a safer Church booklet are all displayed in each of our parish Churches and on our website.

We continue to work to maintain a register of all those who have an appropriate DBS certificate and update these, as necessary.

It is my belief that, the PCC has complied with the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure section 5.

Patrice Curtis-Storey

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Parish of Meltham Christ the King
Financial Report for Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Date to be arranged

This financial report is provided for the PCC of the Parish of Meltham Christ the King (the Parish) for their Annual Parochial Church Meeting (ACPM) to be held as soon as we can meet face to face after 29th April 2020. It provides details of the receipts and payments associated with the Parish for 2019.

The Parish incorporates four churches – Christ Church, St Bartholomew’s, St James’, St Mary’s – and the sub-organisations operating as part of the Parish comprising the Church Hall, Gilbert & Sullivan Society, St Bartholomew’s Church Choir and Women’s Fellowship.

Receipts and payments are separated into unrestricted and restricted funds and this report comments on notable receipts and/or payments during the year.

The Parish receipts and payments have been consolidated from records prepared by individual member of the parish finance team for the church or society in question and I thank them for their cooperation in preparing the accounts and this report.

The accounts have been independently verified by xxx and his report is provided below.

Ruth Murray-Webster
Parish Treasurer

Independent Examiner’s Statement

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parish of Meltham, Christ The King, for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (“the Act”).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Margaret Swinden
16th April 2020

Approval of accounts: _____
Revd John Dracup

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

Receipts and Payments Accounts - Parish of Christ The King

Budget	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving		49,818	1,224	51,042	49,257
Collections at Services		7,576	846	8,422	10,497
All other giving / voluntary receipts	3a	12,241	1,983	14,224	189,664
Gift Aid Recovered		15,137	276	15,413	13,375
		84,773	4,329	89,102	262,792
Activities for Generating Funds	3b	21,347	15,528	36,875	39,767
Investment Income	3c	83	202	285	246
Church Activities	3d	39,417	560	39,977	57,171
Total Receipts		145,620	20,619	166,239	359,977
Payments					
Church Activities:					
Diocesan Parish Contribution		55,000	0	55,000	68,531
Clergy and staffing costs		5,359	580	5,939	12,864
Church Running Expenses	3e	50,647	11,962	62,609	243,711
Hall Running Costs		21,090	1,968	23,058	18,801
Mission Giving and Donations	3f	1,287	6,991	8,278	12,858
		133,383	21,501	154,884	356,765
Cost of Generating Funds		5,052	7,702	12,754	17,955
Total Payments		138,435	29,203	167,638	374,720
Excess of receipts over payments		7,185	-8,584	-1,399	-14,743
Transfers between funds	2	8,975	-8,975	0	0
		16,160	-17,559	-1,399	-14,743
Cash at Bank and in hand at 1 Jan		65,525	54,645	120,170	134,913
Cash at Bank and in hand at 31 Dec		81,685	37,086	118,771	120,170

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
Cash Funds					
Bank Current Accounts		70,805	24,504	95,309	95,368
Deposit Funds		10,880	12,582	23,462	24,802
		81,685	37,086	118,771	120,170
Investment Assets					
Investment funds at market value		587	1,800	2,387	521

Notes

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis

2 The movement in restricted funds during the year

The Parish had £118,771 cash in the bank or in hand at 31 December 2019, of which £37,086 was restricted for specific purposes, see detailed breakdown on page 3.

Once the 2018 numbers are corrected for the £178K grant for the St Bartholomew's church roof, net receipts and payments are comparable between 2018 and 2019 but there are some differences worthy of note by PCC members (all numbers rounded to the nearest £1000).

- The unrestricted balance is £16K higher than the previous year but this largely reflects different treatment of some funds with the Church Choir, Women's Fellowship, Church Hall Fabric and 200 Club now treated as unrestricted funds albeit designated for use by the group in question.
- Underlying giving and gift aid collection (including legacies) is static. We know that we are underclaiming gift aid and this is a priority for the finance team to sort in 2020, alongside other initiatives associated with generosity and giving given that our 2020 budget is for c.40% of our budgeted outgoings to be funded by regular giving and this would be closer to 30% if we paid our whole diocesan share which is our aim over the coming years.
- Diocesan share was £55K (of the £82K ask from the Diocese). This included £5.5K raised through regular giving direct to the Parish account.
- Fee income was £7K less than in 2018 (fewer funerals)
- Church House costs were £3K more than in 2019 (essential repairs)
- Utility costs were static and insurance costs were £4K less than in 2018 reflecting excellent work by Pam Murgatroyd in negotiating lower costs.
- Mission and giving was £4.5K less than in 2018
- Magazine income was £3K less than in 2018 caused by a failure to collect advertising fees once Amelia left her role as Parish Administrator. This is being addressed now so 2020 accounts will correct this.

	Bal B/Fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal C/fwd
Restricted - St Bartholomew's					
Church Roof	4,957	0	-4,790	0	167
Church Choir	4,323	934	-261	-4,996	0
Gilbert & Sullivan Society	6,859	10,218	-8,275	-1,380	7,422
Womens Fellowship	1,231	1,561	-1,734	-1,058	0
Church Hall Fabric Fund	2,359	40	-2,008	-391	0
Mums and Tots	130	500	-380	0	250
Mission & Giving	0	955	-955	0	0
Organ Fund	4,307	210	0	0	4,517
Total	24,166	14,418	-18,403	-7,825	12,356
Church Hall					
Church Hall Roof	6,583	55	0	0	6,638
	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6,583	55	0	0	6,638
Restricted - St James'					
Children Overseas Relief Fund	2,000	285	-299	0	1,986
Mustard Seed	65	1,215	-1,280	0	0
Grave Upkeep - H&H Banks	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
Jigsaw Ministries	0	405	-405	0	0
Crisis	0	3,757	-3,757	0	0
Total	3,065	5,662	-5,741	0	2,986
Restricted - St Mary					
Childrens work	39	0	-39	0	0
Churchyard	981	0	0	-981	0
Mission	405	0	-236	-169	0
Organ Fund	2,310	18	0	0	2,328
Other charitable giving	20	0	-20	0	0
Total	3,755	18	-295	-1,150	2,328
Restricted - Helme					
Mission	402	0	-402	0	0
Helme Memorial Fund	0	366	0	0	366
Total	402	366	-402	0	366
Restricted - Parish Account					
Godfrey Beaumont	16,674	100	-4,362	0	12,412
Total	16,674	100	-4,362	0	12,412
Overall Total	54,645	20,619	-29,203	-8,975	37,086

Points to note on restricted funds:

- The Parish did not receive income from the Godfrey Beaumont fund in 2018 or 2019 so these funds should become available to boost funding beyond the c. £12,400 in hand for purposes specifically covered by the Godfrey Beaumont legacy, i.e. activities that are directly related to fabric and the enablement of ministry. Our 2020 budget assumes receipt of £30K from Godfrey Beaumont for 2018-2020 inclusive and we understand signatories are now in place for this to happen.
- The Helme Memorial Fund is included in these consolidated accounts for the first time.
- The organ funds for St Bartholomew's and St Mary's are restricted but with no plans in 2020 to spend any of the money.
- The Church Hall roof restricted fund is largely unchanged for the year.
- The Gilbert & Sullivan fund will not feature in future years as the Parish society is now closed and the £7422 fund used to pay £2000 to church hall with the balance transferred to the new Society (as agreed at the January 2020 PCC).

Detailed breakdown of receipts – notes 3a) to 3d)

		Unrestricted Fund	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
Receipts					
a) All other giving / receipts					
Donations		4,661	1,874	6,535	188,817
Godfrey Beaumont		0	0	0	0
Legacies		7,000	0	7,000	0
Sundries		580	109	689	847
Parish Contribution from Churches		0	0	0	0
Total		12,241	1,983	14,224	189,664
b) Activities for generating funds					
Coffee Mornings		2,153	3,757	5,910	5,978
Other Fund Raising Events		19,194	11,771	30,965	33,789
Total		21,347	15,528	36,875	39,767
c) Investment Income					
Dividends & Sale of Investments		0	0	0	0
Bank and CBF Fund interest		83	202	285	246
Total		83	202	285	246
d) Church Activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals		13,771	560	14,331	22,143
Parish Magazine income		1,385	0	1,385	2,874
Church lettings		24,261	0	24,261	26,160
Insurance Claims		0	0	0	5,994
Total		39,417	560	39,977	57,171

Detailed breakdown of payments – notes 3e) and 3f)

		Unrestricted Fund	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
	Payments				
e)	Church Running Expenses				
	Utilities	14,671	0	14,671	14,952
	Church & Churchyard Maintenance	10,399	5,666	16,065	197,081
	Cleaning	4,345	0	4,345	3,823
	Insurance	8,378	0	8,378	12,975
	Parish Magazine	2,318	0	2,318	1,890
	Professional Fees	1,656	0	1,656	0
	Bank Charges	45	0	45	50
	Parish Contribution	3,000	0	3,000	4,803
	Printing, copying and office consumables	0	1,677	1,677	1,283
	Magazines, books, courses and fees	0	0	0	1,814
	Mission & Outreach	505	3,823	4,328	1,712
	Church House costs	3,842	0	3,842	1,099
	Candles and other consumables	158	112	270	757
	Sundries	1,329	684	2,013	1,472
	Total	50,647	11,962	62,609	243,711
f)	Mission Giving and Donations				
	<u>From St Bartholomew's:</u>				
	British Legion	0	594	594	886
	Childrens Society	0	109	109	133
	The Welcome Centre	0	0	0	2,810
	Kirkwood Hospice	0	252	252	262
	<u>Church Hall</u>				
	General Giving	0	0	0	0
	<u>From St James'</u>				
	CMS	1,000	0	1,000	2,000
	Meltham Mustard Seed	0	1,280	1,280	1,040
	Crisis	0	3,757	3,757	3,540
	Creche in Brazil	0	204	204	889
	St Georges Crypt	0	0	0	38
	Jigsaw Ministries	0	500	500	0
	<u>From St Mary's</u>				
	Home Missions	0	295	295	215
	Other Church Societies	0	0	0	50
	Leprosy Mission	0	0	0	20
	<u>From Helme</u>				
	Children's Society	0	0	0	125
		0	0	0	
	<u>From Parish Account:</u>				
	Jigsaw Ministries	287	0	287	240
	Leeds DBF	0	0	0	610
	Total	1,287	6,991	8,278	12,858

Section B

5 Alive Report 2020

The vision for 5 Alive remains the same as it has always been - to provide a multisensory, interactive, intergenerational worship service, based on the Common Worship Service of the Word, with opportunity to share food and fellowship with one another. Traditional all-age services often aim to deliver content that all ages can 'understand'. At 5 alive we accept that none of us can fully understand the mystery that is God. So we concentrate on creating a worship space that nurtures meaningful encounter and response to God. Bible stories are presented creatively and wondered about together. There is also invitation to all to respond through creative prayer activities which help us to say sorry, to give thanks and to pray for peace and healing in our world. Our desire is for everyone, no matter what age, to come close to God and respond to God's love. There is a shared sense that we are all in it together, helping one another to love well, live free and to learn to follow Jesus each day.

In the earlier part of 2019 we followed the lectionary readings and enjoyed exploring the church year, especially helpful since 5 Alive happened to fall on Palm Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. In the Autumn term we explored some Bible passages which teach about human flourishing and well-being: the tree growing by a stream (Psalm 1), the vine and the branches (John 15), and the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5). During this time, each month, everyone was invited to make a small picture from the craft materials available on their table. These were then combined to make a huge mosaic inspired by our theme. It now hangs in front of the organ pipes in St James' Church.

The challenges for the coming year:

- Maintain and improve the inclusivity, so all are welcomed and have opportunity to engage as they feel able
- Develop another community project, like the mosaic, which symbolises our togetherness and values individual responses
- Find ways to lament the world-wide climate emergency and take steps as a congregation and as individuals to treasure and be good stewards of creation
- Organise, if possible, one 5 Alive Eucharistic service and one baptism service.
- To invite new people and to help those who attend a service for the first time to grow in their sense of belonging to the church family.

Thanks go to everyone who contributes to 5 Alive – the cake-makers and sandwich-bringers, the music-makers, dancers and singers, the planners and pray-ers, the tidy-uppers and care-givers, the joy-bringers and mischief-makers, the thoughtful ones and the chatty ones, the creative ones and the reflective ones. Thank you all for the unique gifts and contribution you all make to each gathering. We are hugely grateful to those who have faithfully journeyed with us over the years and pleased to welcome some new faces. Our heavenly Father calls us all by name and holds us all together in love.

The 5 Alive Planning Team (Mandy Aspland, Nigel and Sue Priestley, Jan Sambrook and Fiona Dracup)

St James' – Finance Report
Year to 31st December 2019

The table below summarises the financial performance of St James' in 2019.

Receipts and Payments Accounts - St James'					
	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving		25,400	1,224	26,624	26,669
Collections at Services		1,998		1,998	1,907
All other giving / receipts	3a	266	405	671	435
Gift Aid Recovered		6,893	276	7,169	7,218
		34,557	1,905	36,462	36,229
Activities for Generating Funds	3b	0	3,757	3,757	3,540
Investment Income	3c	11	0	11	12
Church Activities	3d	2,113	0	2,113	4,343
Total Receipts		36,681	5,662	42,343	44,124
Payments					
Church Activities:					
Parish Share		23,035		23,035	19,285
Clergy and staffing costs				0	0
Church Running Expenses	3e	13,680	0	13,680	13,096
Hall Running Costs				0	0
Mission Giving and Donations	3f	1,000	5,741	6,741	7,507
		37,715	5,741	43,456	39,888
Cost of Generating Funds				0	0
Total Payments		37,715	5,741	43,456	39,888
Excess of receipts over payments		-1,034	-79	-1,113	4,236
Transfers between funds	2			0	0
		-1,034	-79	-1,113	4,236
Cash at Bank and in hand at 1 Jan		25,590	3,065	28,655	24,419
Cash at Bank and in hand at 31 Dec		24,556	2,986	27,542	28,655

Points to celebrate:

- Total Voluntary Receipts (this is giving) increased slightly in 2019.
- Our fundraiser for CRISIS generated its highest income ever
- We gave away over 15% of our total income, whilst paying our Parish Share in full
- We start 2020 with unrestricted cash reserves of over £24,500. Equivalent to almost 8 months operating costs

Future challenges:

- We had a deficit of over £1,000 this year (surplus was £4,763 in 2018), mainly due to £4,000 increase in our Parish Share (subsidised by the Parish Account in 2018).
- We face a budget deficit of £4,281 in 2020, in our unrestricted fund. Planned giving is expected to fall and costs are generally increasing.
- Our cash reserves will fall to 6 months future costs by the end of 2020, which is the recommended level of reserves to hold according to the Charities Commission.

Richard Whiteley

MELTHAM COMMUNITY CARD GROUP 2019 – in support of The Welcome Centre Huddersfield

MELTHAM GROUP

We have had another good year with lots of cards made, lots of cards sold and an enjoyable time working together.

Our group consists of 12 people some who come most weeks and others who come when they are able.

It hasn't been the easiest year for a number of our members due to illness or other of life's difficulties As usual we meet in St James' Church each Friday from January to the end of October.

OUTLETS

We continue to have outlets in the Meltham Churches, St Joseph's Roman Catholic church, and various businesses both in Meltham and Netherton. We also have a number of events where we sell our cards.

SALES

This year sales continued to be steady but good. We made virtually the same amount of money as last year

At Christmas we were able to sell 117 packs of 10 Christmas cards, 103 individual cards, 10 notebooks, 51 packs of tags and 25 gift bags giving us a total of £450.50. (We need to remember that this is not net profit as from this amount we have to take the expenses incurred in making the cards) We have this year been able to send from Meltham £1,250 to the Community Cards Treasurer - £100 more than last year (once again we have to remember that this amount does not cover all expenses incurred as most stock is purchased in bulk by Community Cards.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY CARDS

At this year's AGM it was reported that the first donation from Community Cards to the Welcome Centre was made in 2013 and with this year's donation a total of £21,000 has been sent.

TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY CARDS

This year Christine Rolls was invited to become a Trustee of the Community Card Group.

THANKS

Thanks go to all those who have collected greetings cards for re-cycling, to all our outlets who allow us to sell the cards, to all our contact people who make sure that our outlets are stocked, to all members of our group who meet each Friday, to Meltham Churches Together for their support, to St James church who allow us to meet in their hall and thanks to Monica and the wider group of Community Cards for their continued help and support.

Christine Rolls

Mission Report

Mission at St James' relies on the different skills and calling of the skilled and committed community who meet there. It can involve the use of the church building at St James' or it may be out in the community.

It may be making cards as a group on a Friday or working alongside some people who may never have been in a church building, filling shoeboxes with love. It may be supporting those families where dementia is having a powerful impact. The Oasis Quiet Days provide the opportunity for sharing God's love with those who want time to reflect.

'Crisis' continues to draw in those who often don't otherwise come into the building but who on this one day want to respond to the challenges facing the homeless.

'5 Alive' reaches out to families who by and large don't come to other services at St James' but some of whom did play a part in the Carol Service – another new addition to our Christmas services as we sought to reach out to those who wanted a Candlelit Carol service.

In terms of the work outside the building, several members of St James' are involved in the work of Crossroads and Meltham Foodbank. The move to the Old Town Hall opens new mission opportunities.

An effective sound system plus a beautifully still night made 'Carols in the Park' special to the 450+ people who came to sing.

This year there were new projects – Father Christmas had a grotto with elves after 'Carols in the Park'. Thanks are due to OCC team who made this happen and who provided over 150 free Christmas presents to the children who came.

A Harvest Home and Silent Auction for the Food Bank took place at the Waggon pub and Harvest hymns were heartily sung. The aim was to continue bringing together the Christians in our local churches with the regulars at the Waggon.

'Carols in the Pub' this year was so popular that the whole downstairs was full. We are now having to think about how to improve the sound system. There was singing until the early hours and we are indebted to the brilliance and flexibility of Simon Ball.

Mick Pearse, a miner who became a Social Worker then set up a charity SFAC told his fascinating story at the Waggon. Mission is partly about showing how faith in Jesus can radically change a life – and Mick's story touched many.

Mission is also supporting those who take God's love to communities abroad. We had the pleasure of a visit from the Lee Family updating the church on Jigsaw. We continue to support Felipe and Sarah Yanez working in Malaga. Jane Collins has been inspired to raise money to enable sugar grown in Uganda to make Meltham Mustard Seed self-supporting

So the brothers and sisters at St James' have had a busy year with mission in its many different forms and thanks go to all those who support this work with prayer. *Nigel Priestley*

The Meltham Shoe Box Team 2019

Supporting Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Reasons to celebrate

This was the 16th year that the Meltham Group had supported OCC, collecting donated gift filled shoeboxes from towns around West Yorkshire. We are fortunate to have the support from Meltham Churches Together, The Crossroads Project, St. James' Church and Taytrans Meltham Mills, together with around 200 volunteers some who have been part of the team since 2004. In 2019 we received 11500 gift filled shoeboxes. The boxes went by sea to Liberia and by lorry to Belarus, into the hands of needy children who I am sure will have been delighted by the generosity of gifts in the boxes.

Each year a group has met every Friday, starting after Easter, at St. James' church to enjoy a social time, eating cake and coffee and sharing lunch together. In between all the eating and drinking we sort donated gifts ready to store until November, when they will be used as fillers for the donated boxes which may have room for a little extra item.

Thanks go to the church family at St. James' for hosting the shoebox team and the Crossroads shop for donating many small items for the boxes and the grant they have awarded each year enabling the hire of a van.

Future plans

Due to national reorganisation of Operation Christmas Child small processing centres such as St. James' are no longer required.

The Meltham shoebox team have considered the future and have decided that from 2020 we will no longer support OCC but will support the original shoebox project based in Wrexham now operating within Teams 4 You. Most of the boxes they receive are delivered to children in Eastern Europe.

Gift filled shoeboxes can be donated in much the same way OCC boxes are. The Meltham Shoebox Team will be delighted to receive boxes in November 2020 at St. James' Church

Leaflets are available with suggestions regarding shoebox contents. The suggested donation is £2.50. The boxes are not used for Christian Evangelism in any way. We expect to host various social events in 2020 to support the teams work. A quiz night and Harvest Home plus a concert from the Honley Girls Choir with an afternoon tea, are at the planning stage!

The Friday Shoebox Team will begin to meet once again on the 17 April 9.30 - 2pm at St. James' Church and we always have room for more volunteers.

Judith Powell

THURSDAY EVENING HOUSEGROUP

We have enjoyed another year of fellowship, bible study and prayer at Val White's new home, meeting weekly during term-time.

This group has met regularly for several years and is now at full capacity with 11 members.

Studies include concise bible passages, written by Liz Babbs, a look at the letter of St Paul to Philemon a Christian convert in Colossae; and more recently "The echo of God", Advent meditations by David Adam, with music provided by group members. We are now looking at St Paul's letter to the church in Philippi and some members attended a study day at Mirfield on this subject – very interesting.

We sponsor a 9 year old boy, Kyle, who is being educated by the charity Jigsaw Ministries in the Philippines. He sent us a Christmas card he had made with a message in both English and Spanish.

The MCT Lent studies will be used by the group again this year, and our thanks go to Val White for her hospitality.

Hester Deacon

Youth Group Update

2019 was an exciting year at St Mary's as Kim and I ventured into the youth territory of Wilshaw (& surrounding area's). We both had a strong calling to do this & both felt unsure! We tried to ignore the calling but it just kept coming back!

After taking advise from various sources we planned our first pizza night to hopefully gather the local youths and see what sort of things they'd like to do. Nobody turned up!

But what about our calling we thought! Well, Kim's niece & nephew came along to support us, they were very keen & decided we needed to 'up' our advertising and make it more attractive to the youth. And what a difference that made.

At our second meeting we had 4 nice young people who were very keen. This grew and we now have 8 regulars. Since then we've had various games nights, a baking night, a craft night and a Christmas party. 4 of our young people attended the carol service and 2 of them did readings! Kim and I were like proud parents.

2020 – the story so far:

Our first meeting back was the 10th January. We were unsure if the young people would return. But they did! I guess that means we must be doing something right?!

We watched a video showing cats & kittens playing out different New Year's resolutions & then discussed our own resolutions. Then we watched a video of Billie Eilish doing carpool karaoke with James Corden. You don't know who Billie Eilish is?? Get with it, all our young people know who Billie is 😊.

Our next meeting was run by 2 of our young people. They organised a quiz night. What a fantastic job they did too. They brought exciting fun quiz's that every-one enjoyed (including a crisp flavour guessing quiz) and prizes too.

We have a few more evenings planned including sweet making, camel racing & more evenings organised by the young people (so that every-one gets a turn).

We're now looking at the Mother Day service to see if our young people can plan that & hopefully bring their Mum's along.

So watch this space and see what else 2020 brings.

God does work in mysterious way 😊

Jacqueline

Helme Ladies Annual Report 2019

After the AGM there was no change of those in office, as the programme for the year was decided. All in all we have had a very good year with lots of fun on the way.

We have had 3 very good talks, Yorkshire Air Ambulance how donations are vital to keep the helicopter flying, an extremely amusing talk by an ex-headmistress and Susan Whitwam again from Colne Valley Museum, this time poems and stories in Yorkshire dialect.

There were 4 visits to the theatre, the Avalanche Dodgers panto and 'Vicar of Dibley' in Marsden and twice to the LBT to see 'Our House' and 'Cats'.

Our annual lunch to the Bulls Head at Blackmoorfoot was very well supported and enjoyed by all. We had afternoon tea at Quirky again and Christmas lunch at the Meltham golf club, this was so good we have already booked for next Christmas!

Something different was a visit to Colne Valley Museum when they opened specially for us and after a guided tour sat down to coffee and biscuits.

The series of summer stalls was very well attended but two walks had to be abandoned due to very wet weather, but we all met for the suppers.

Our weekend away to Hereford and the Wye Valley could have been a disaster due to poor weather forecasts. As it happened the forecasters were wrong, thank goodness, and we had a good weekend. We had two events with lunch attached, the plant sale and the carol service, both events were very well attended and raised money for our charity fund. My thanks to the Helme Pie Ladies for the catering.

Oh, I must not forget the coffee morning, which started slowly but soon was buzzing. I think the cake stall was just about wiped out and also the tombola. Thank you all for helping. I must be mad because I always seem to end up washing up. Our charity donations this year are: -Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Yorkshire Cancer Research, Alzheimers and Guide Dogs for the Blind. They have received £200 each.

To all of you who have helped in any way to make this successful, thank you.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH STEERING GROUP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2019

Peter and I first met the Mitchells when we moved to Meltham in 2007 and went to our 1st coffee morning at the church hall. John & Celia came and sat with us and very soon we had volunteered to steward at the Art Exhibition, Peter was joining Probus and I was volunteering at Crossroads Shop. It didn't stop there because the Mitchells are very persuasive and Peter and I had soon joined them and Catherine Moulson to become the 'M Squad'.

I stepped into John's shoes as secretary in March last year after he had served at St Barts for nearly 25 years. I took over with the proviso that I would definitely not be serving for the next 25 years, nor was I going to be responsible for fundraising, which needs the energy and enthusiasm of a much younger person.

The Mitch had organised his usual fundraising events for last year with a very successful Yorkshire Day event in the church hall but with a less than usual success of Last Night of the Proms with the band. Unfortunately there were 2 other events in the area that night, so it affected attendance at them all. The band will be doing a concert next November, with more of a Remembrance theme, which they will organise themselves. A Yorkshire Day event is being planned for 1st August 2020 but being organised by two from outside church, who will be raising funds for the church hall, no doubt with some input from John Mitch.

Please be aware that there is a vacancy for a fundraiser for church.
Maybe a 'B Squad' could be set up – The Balls, the Bollands?

2019 had commenced with the DCC but by September, changes were made and we became a Steering Group along with the other 3 churches and the Church Hall. There were also to be Finance & Fabric Steering Groups, all for us to regularise the Parish of Meltham, Christ the King. I took over as secretary in an easy year with meetings down to one every 2 months instead of monthly. These were well attended, although longer than usual with so much for us to learn. Us old 'uns are not as quick to absorb new stuff!

I am sure that 2020 will have lots more changes with the church steering groups concentrating more on Worship, Prayer & services rather than the building, finance and the business of running the church. The last 3 will be the responsibility of the PCC as they always should have been. I will help to support Rev John in his difficult task of regularising our Parish and introducing the long overdue constitution which will draw our 4 churches together.

I am happy to serve the church as long as I am needed and able with the help of Peter, my Rock, by my side to put me right when I might be wrong and to help me keep things in perspective. I want to thank the Mitchells for believing in me and getting me into this and thanks to Catherine for her support and I hope that they can all see me safely through 2020 with God's help.

Regards & best wishes
Pam Murgatroyd
Church Secretary
29th January 2020

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH STEERING GROUP FABRIC REPORTS FOR 2019

CHURCH HOUSE, 3 Greens End Road

In July, a report was made by the tenant of the house to Bramleys, the Estate Agent. Large chunks of plaster were falling from the roof after high winds and one of the coping stones on the corner of the roof had become dislodged, was hanging over the edge and was dangerous. The agent gave a quote of £1200 + VAT and the Fabric Report was submitted by email to the Fabric Group and was agreed as an emergency.

The tenant has been reporting water leaking into his living area through the wall adjoining the Swan Pub. This is getting worse and after an investigation by the contractor repairing the previous damage, 2 quotes were received to carry out the same work to prevent this. The quote accepted by the PCC in October was from John Harrison was for £450 and we are still waiting for the weather to be fit to carry out this repair.

Pam Murgatroyd
Fabric Officer
January 2020

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

In September 2019, a new system was set up in the Parish for the reporting of any maintenance to be carried out. Any such reporting is now done via the Fabric Steering Group and then to the PCC to be agreed. The only major work to be done at St Barts now is the decorating, for which we will need a faculty, especially as the rear wall in the gallery is in need of plastering. Although some money has been designated towards this work from a legacy received by the church, the balance of the cost has not been added to the budget for 2020.

Minor work carried out:

One of the four main lights in the Nave failed and proved difficult to access for repair. The lighting fitting had to be lowered to ground level before any work could be carried out. It was discovered that the ballast resistor in the fitting had failed and replacements are no longer available, however an LED replacement was obtained and fitted in its place. This required a qualified electrician to do the work. All the cost for this was around £300 but was generously funded by one of our parishioners.

The interior of the Nave has had high level cobwebs removed and failed floodlight bulbs replaced at no cost thanks to the generous assistance from some of our local Fire Brigade.

Some of the brambles and undergrowth has been removed from the closed graveyard to the North side of the church by volunteers and efforts are ongoing to tidy up Westgate as well.

Peter Murgatroyd
January 2020

CHURCH CHOIR REPORT - 2019

We have continued to lead the music during worship at St Bartholomew's throughout the church year. We sung for several funerals including sadly, some of our own congregation members. We've not had any weddings to sing for this year.

On Palm Sunday, we performed Olivet to Calvary which was well attended. We welcomed back Richard Cook as tenor soloist to sing alongside our own Ben Glover who sang the baritone solo part. It was good to have Richard sing with us again after all these years. We were able to augment the choir to 27 voices – it was an amazing sound, and we were thankful for those who joined us to swell the chorus – it wouldn't really be possible without them.

In May, we had a choir trip out to see the Marsden Parish Church Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society perform the play 'Vicar of Dibley' – a hilarious comedy based on the hugely popular BBC series. The performance was fantastic and the people who played the characters did so brilliantly and resembled them very closely.

During Autumn, we started to learn some new music for a Sung Morning Prayer service (Mattins style) following some discussions with Rev'd John. It's not clear yet when or if we will have this type of service, but it could be an option for us to use if we are ever short of clergy who are able to take a communion service. If we do start to use it regularly, we hope to encourage additional singers to join us, who maybe cannot commit to singing in the choir every week but would like to sing occasionally.

After a long lay off, Walter Young managed to join us back in the choir and we were also delighted to welcome into the stalls, his new guide dog Harvey who has settled in really well.

We managed to get out and about the village for 2 nights carol singing just before Christmas - weather wise, one was perfect, the other not so - we got a bit wet! The 3rd scheduled night was not fit to turn out. It was good to spread some Christmas cheer at the various doorsteps we visited.

As always, we welcome any people who are interested in joining us in the choir.

Simon K Ball

Organist and Choirmaster

Bell Tower Captain's Report 2019

The last year has seen a steady increase in the number of ringers joining us for practice on Thursday evenings. We continue to get support from other towers and a good spirit of friendship is growing between our tower and Marsden, Armitage Bridge, Kirkheaton and Huddersfield Parish.

No weddings requested the use of our bells this year.

We have started to ring during the Saturday coffee mornings sponsored by St. Bart's Church, (six Saturdays during the year) This gives us an extra opportunity to practise more complicated methods whilst at the same time announcing the coffee morning to visitors.

You will be aware that VE day this coming year is the 75th. anniversary of the announcement of cessation of hostilities in Europe and major celebrations are being planned nationally to mark this momentous occasion. There are a number of initiatives involving bells which are being coordinated nationally by the Central Council of Church Bellringers on the bank holiday of Friday May 8th. Meltham is planning a parade and festivities with the support of Meltham Town Council.

Meltham is not taking part in this year's Heritage Open day, but I am considering opening the tower for visitors sometime in the summer. It always proves to be a popular event.

Peter Murgatroyd, Tower Captain, January 2020

Gilbert & Sullivan Society Report for St Bartholomew's Church AGM 2020

The past twelve months have had its ups and downs for Meltham Parish Church Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

Sadly at the beginning of the year our Musical Director, Jim Newby, died but although he is missed we were able to appoint Tricia Moores who helped to make our Spring Show and our Main Show, Iolanthe successful. Iolanthe was very well received but unfortunately did not make any profit for the Society.

Meg Hanscomb, one of our long serving members died in April and of course is sadly missed,

In addition to the 2 shows the Society organised 2 coffee mornings, a musical bingo evening and a quiz evening, these 4 events were arranged to raise funds for the Society to enable it to put on the Main Show.

Rehearsals are now in progress for the Spring Show in April and there is a coffee morning in February 2020

Alison Topping

Secretary

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S MUMS & TOTS

The number of children attending the group depends on the weather, illness and siblings being off school. They are a happy and friendly group. The babies crawl on the floor while the tots play with their many toys. They also do creative work which they put on their notice board at the back of church.

The Mums & Grandmas enjoy a natter while having a cup of tea or coffee. The Tots have fruit & drinks at the end of each session.

They meet at 9.15am every Tuesday morning and leave at 11,30am except in the school holidays. There is no cost so all are welcome.

Catherine Moulson

January 2020

SMART BARTS

Smart Barts continues to grow, even though some weeks numbers are low. Some of our children enjoyed a visit to the bell tower and we thank Peter and Ben for sharing this time with us. For Mother's Day the children decorated plant pots and supplied soil and sunflower seeds, we were



hoping to fill our board with photos of sunflowers but sadly we only received a few. At Easter the children enjoyed their Easter eggs, and want to say a big thank you for the person in our church family who provided them. We always have fun learning about the Love of Jesus and his stories, and we especially loved hearing about his miracles. We are so thankful to the women's fellowship for providing the funds for us to upgrade our room as our children are out growing in age and size we needed suitable work space for everyone. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Thorley who gave us money from the donations she received for her excellent scarecrow, and to the anonymous donation church received for Smart Barts. We used this money for books, craft supplies, felt tip pens, card and paint. It was lovely for the children to take part in the Harvest Festival Service and gather all the gifts for the food bank. Our nativity was the Christmas Journey, and we all had a fun time telling the wonderful news of Christ's birth, where we ended with So here it is Merry Christmas, I am not sure what Slade would have thought, but we gave it our best shot.

Anne Halstead

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR MELTHAM PARISH CHURCH HALL 2019-20

Another year of changes for the Church Hall including a new framework for our meetings, ways of reporting back to the DCC (now the Steering Group) and the PCC with any major repairs needed for the hall.

To say that this has been a very wet weather year would be an understatement and has resulted in some unplanned sewer/drainage work and a leak in the wall of the kitchen window. Fortunately, funds were available to fix the former and the latter remains in abeyance.

On the hall bookings side, we have sadly lost a regular renter in Baby Sensory but on the whole we have had a steady flow of ad-hoc bookings. However, we are considering new ways of advertising and promoting the hall.

On the bright side, the Co-op are still providing free tea and coffee for our Saturday Coffee Mornings which are extremely popular and I believe we have a small waiting list for these.

Overall, with the ever-increasing rise in electricity prices, other maintenance costs and the loss of a regular renter, we face a challenging year ahead but I am confident that the Church Hall Committee will meet this challenge with faith, determination and humour.

Jean Wrathall

Chair

Meltham Parish Church Hall Committee

MELTHAM PARISH CHURCH HALL

FABRIC REPORT FOR THE AGM – 2019

I took on the role of Fabrics Officer in 2018 in the hope that I could spend some time on work required to replace the windows and doors in the hall to save on energy. However, due to various problems, the need for urgent maintenance work took priority.

The first of these was in early July 2019 and reported by the church as they were setting up for Meltham Memories. Sighting of asbestos was reported and Edwin erected a wall to partition the area affected off from the rest of the cellar. The cost of £299 was covered by the hall fund.

They had also reported flooding in the cellar and water pouring through the wall. This turned out to be sewage coming from the toilets and kitchen overflows. This was repaired by Edwin Swannick at a cost of £1,824 which was paid for from hall funds. However, rainwater was still draining off the roof and car park into the cellar and 2 gulleys had to be replaced at the back of the hall with a trench between them to help drain the rainwater. This was at a cost of £1,968, paid for from the Hall Fabric Fund.

A few months ago, it was noted that fungus was appearing at the side of the kitchen window. An investigation into the space above the kitchen, it was discovered that this was being caused by water coming in at the unused chimney. This is now in the process of being investigated further.

The new framework within the Parish has now brought the hall under the jurisdiction of the PCC as, it seems, it should always have been. Any more maintenance work required at the hall now needs permission from them, while first being passed by the Parish Fabric Steering Group.

No further action has been taken regarding new windows and doors due to all the maintenance work that has been carried out over the past year.

Regards

Pam Murgatroyd
Fabrics Officer
January 2020

Meltham Churches Together Report for 2019

2019 has been a busy year as usual for Meltham Churches Together.

The committee representing every church in Meltham meets every other month and besides planning services, listed below, we hear reports from several ecumenical groups working in our community. These include the Crossroads Project, which comprises the Shop, Advice Centre and Food Bank, Operation Christmas Child sending abroad shoeboxes full of gifts to areas of need, the Community Card Group which recycles cards and raises funds for the Welcome Centre, and Mustard Seed working to provide care and education for orphaned children in Kyema Uganda.

We worshipped together as Christians in Meltham on a number of occasions, including the Women's World Day of Prayer service in March and the Covenant service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We provided Lent Study Groups and early morning meditation services were held throughout Holy Week, prepared by Rev Peter Rolls and led by different members each morning.

The Good Friday service was followed by sharing a soup, cheese and bread lunch together and we joined the '5 Alive' service at St James at Pentecost. We shared the Remembrance Service in St Bartholomew's church in November and Carols in the Park which has become a popular community event with around 400 people joining together to sing Carols accompanied by Meltham and Meltham Mills brass band. The arrival of Father Christmas this year made it an extra special event.

A new and very successful event was the provision of 'A Christmas Journey' for the Primary school children from the three schools in Meltham. Aimed at ages six to seven, 180 children, over three days, enjoyed experiencing the Christmas story in an interactive way. They visited Mary's kitchen, the hillside outside Bethlehem, the stable and a Wise Man's palace in turn and through Godly Play heard the story of Creation and later why Jesus came to put things right. Sincere thanks go to all the volunteers who helped to make this possible.

Two ecumenical house groups continued to meet throughout the year. One at Pat Radford's home led by Rev. Peter Rolls fortnightly on Monday evenings and a second group at the Methodist Church ran fortnightly on Wednesday mornings in Lent and Advent.

Churches Together prayers held each Wednesday morning at 10am for 30 minutes continued throughout the year, led by a rota of clergy and members of each denomination including our Quaker friend Helen Brockley. This opportunity to meet, offer support and pray together each week is proving to be a great encouragement to all those who come along each week. Everyone is very welcome.

Jean Burhouse

Crossroads Project

2019 was a busy and challenging year for the many people involved with the Crossroads Project. The opportunity to rent the shop behind the Crossroads shop, previously Jack Pearson's betting shop, was too good an opportunity to miss. We were able to obtain and modify the shops to create a larger sales area, storage area and a safer and more spacious work environment. Our thanks go to the many shop volunteers, family and friends who worked so hard to get the shop up and running. It looks fantastic and the Meltham Community supports it brilliantly providing goods, clothes, shoes, books bric a brac and much for customers to buy.

The Grant Committee meets regularly and continues to support others with small grants.

In October we finally were able to move into the new Crossroads Centre based in the Old Town Hall. A joint venture between the Town Council, Max Bradley our landlord and ourselves has secured us the use of the building for 20 years!

The Meltham Food Bank is now based at the Centre and we have welcomed a great many new volunteers to help run the Food bank and support its aims of providing food and other essentials to those who need it. Chris Smith has continued to run our Debt and Benefit Service on a Wednesday with most appointments being taken and many people contacting Chris by phone for help to sort out their finances and help them to budget more effectively.

Ridley and Hall Solicitors are now available each Thursday which greatly adds to our capacity to support those who need it.

Both the shop and the Centre have seen a rise in people coming through their doors. In the shop people find bargains galore and plenty of choice and a warm and friendly welcome. In the Centre also a warm welcome awaits with offers of hot drinks and at times tea and toast.

The Roger Furmedge room in the Centre is a comfortable available space for use by local charities and services dealing with general wellbeing and loneliness. It is much appreciated for the warmth and facilities it provides

We are very grateful for all the practical support you give to this Meltham Churches Together project, for your prayers and interest in what we do. It will be interesting to see what 2020 brings.

Sue Priestley and Chris Smith

Pastoral Care Report

The last year

It's not easy to write a report about what we do!

It's important to say that we are part of the Parish Pastoral Care team which organises 4 seasonal communions for people who find it difficult to access normal services, a baptism party in September and a memorial service for those who have been bereaved around All Saints Day in November.

It's also important to say that we are not the group that "do" the pastoral care, indeed we are very aware and very thankful for practical and emotional support being offered by so many in the congregation to members of our church family

We continue to meet every two months to share concerns and to pray for needs and for the life of the church.

Future plans

In the coming year we plan to hold 3 ladies supper and speaker evenings which have proved popular social events; we will continue to offer opportunities to receive prayer after services, and we plan to update the Church Directory.

Finally, if you are aware of situations where we might be able to offer help, please continue to let us know.

Christine Bleasdale, Jane Collins, Hester Deacon, Daphne Green, Carol Hunt, Jenny Mather, Margaret Oakes, Debbie Still, Christine Woods

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT 2020

The Fellowship has entered into its 45th year, moving on from The Mother's Union. We now meet in the afternoon in Church at 2pm on the last Tuesday of every month. Our membership is now 30, but sadly in 2019 we lost one of our dear members, Mary Crawshaw, who had recently returned to us after the loss of Duncan, her husband. We all miss her in many ways, she was wise and very caring. May she rest in Peace.

Our speakers have been varied and enjoyable. We had an outing in June to Wentworth Garden Centre for Afternoon Tea. In November we had our Christmas lunch at the Golf Club. We always support the church at any events that take place and our funds are available for whatever may be required. We purchased a larger table last year for the older Smart Barts children.

Thank you for all your support.

Catherine Moulson

January 2020

MELTHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER CHAIN REPORT JAN 2020

It's a good number of years ago now since St James' Church Meltham Mills set up a prayer chain to meet the need of its congregation either for their own needs or to request prayers for people they knew to be in need of prayers.

The time came when it was felt by those on the prayer rota that it could be Parish based. It was later decided that this ministry of prayer should become ecumenical.

It was with joy that at a meeting of Meltham Churches Together the Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches were positive about finding a person from their congregations to be first contact for requests and perhaps a few of their people to be on the prayer rota.

This year we have revised and renewed the working practice of the group. We miss Mary Crawshaw and recruited Carol Hunt and Jean Burhouse.

It is always important to stress the confidential nature of this ministry. There are fifteen people in the team who are trained in handling calls.

They write the request down word for word and date it this avoids 'Chinese Whispers'

There is encouragement to pray fervently in order that we can be the instruments that moves the heart God (James 5:16)

Having prayed then you ring the next person on the prayer rota and so the prayers multiply.

The prayer chain is both a comfort and a help to those who make the requests on behalf of themselves or others. Let us resolve to play our part by encouraging people to allow us to place them on the prayer chain however large or small their need might seem. God knows their need and desires to hear our prayers for those he has given to us to care for.

Peter Rolls