



NOVEMBER 2020

50p

THE PARISH OF MELTHAM

CHRIST THE KING

ST JAMES' 175TH ANNIVERSARY

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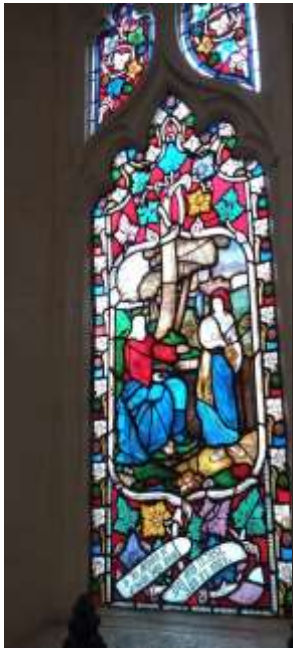
This candlestick is one of two made by Rev Peter Rolls, the other is in St Barts' Church.



Above: Stained glass window of Royal Coat of Arms of Queen Victoria.



Left: Original Bishops Throne, made for the Church dated 1845.



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Coronavirus Outbreak Prayer.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of
your mercy in this time
of uncertainty and
distress.

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the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are
brought low;
that we may rejoice in
your comfort knowing
that nothing can
separate us from your
love
in Christ Jesus our
Lord.
Amen.

A note from the editor ...

Hello!

Welcome to the Anniversary edition celebrating 175 years of St James' Church. This month is jam packed full of memories, photos and tributes to St James' Church, including letters from past vicars. If you're not familiar with the Church then take a look at page 9 and have a trip through time.

However, it is not just about the anniversary there is an update from the Foodbank (pg12) and don't miss out on what's been happening at St Mary's (pg 17). Learn about the Virtual Crisis coffee morning (pg 13) & Meltham Shoebox Appeal (pg 33).

Finally I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all who have contributed to this issue, I was a little nervous in trying to get everything just right for this special edition so hopefully I have.

The next edition is the Christmas one. So PLEASE send in contributions as soon as you can as the deadline is an early one:

Monday 16th November.

Send your submissions via:

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or

via the vicarage letterbox.
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God bless, Fiona.

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Meltham Prayer chain has representatives from every church in Meltham and serves to pray for any need or difficulty.

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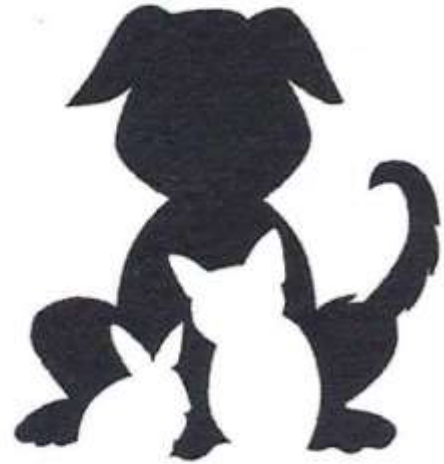
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Letter from your Vicar.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month!

This of course rightly makes us think of Armistice Day, the end of the first World War, all those who have lost their lives in wars since (especially the second world war) and Remembrance Day.

Curiously, it was also when the Bishop of Ripon consecrated St James Church, Meltham Mills, 175 years ago. We are unsure of what kind of celebration may have been held to mark the 50th anniversary in 1895, but no doubt the 75th and 100th anniversaries of this Church will have been overshadowed by observing in 1920 the second Armistice day and in 1945 the end of the war in Europe and ongoing war in the Pacific.

This year is the 175th anniversary of the consecration of St James and that explains why there is rightly a focus on the history of that Church within this edition of this magazine. I believe that whilst we should never be bound by our history, we should always be informed by it. Our history tells us something about how we arrived at the place that we now find ourselves. It is a part of the story of who we are and will inevitably have an effect on who we will be. If we ignore it, we may lose the valuable lessons that we could, and perhaps should have learned from it. When we try to ignore our history, it has a habit of not going away but instead influencing us through our subconscious thoughts and this may have a less than positive result.

But our history is a story that we choose how to tell. Facts are facts, but how we interpret them is our choice. And how we choose to react to them will influence the next part of the story, the part of the story that we are in the process of writing now through the choices and action of this generation.

Our history here in Meltham and as a country is a rich one. It is full of the good, the bad, and the indifferent. I believe that we have a duty to remember it, to consider it carefully, and to build on it in a way that can lead us into a better and hopefully more peaceful future.

God Bless,

Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)



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St James' Church a look back through the years.

Having only arrived in Meltham in the summer of 2018 I was very much uneducated in the History of the Parish and each of the churches within it. So when I realised that the 175th anniversary of St James was coming up I started to research the history. Now John has been boring me for years about Church history as it is one of his favourite topics and I must confess there may have been a number of 'that's interesting love' with a somewhat blank look on my face. However this time, St James' seemed to grab my attention.

St James' Church was built in 1845, commissioned by James Brook, a wealthy mill owner. Unfortunately he died before the consecration service on 11th November at 11am. His sons continued his legacy of Meltham Mills. I could continue along this history trip but I know a lot of you reading this will already know a lot more about it than I do. Instead I would like to focus my attention more on a letter I noticed as part of the presentation for the heritage event held in the Church 3 years ago. It was written by Rev W. Brook-Hirst to the 'Examiner' for the 1945 centenary year celebrations.

"Every Sunday morning we march two and two to the Church, and from my grandfather's pew—the Hirst family pew from the foundation of the Church—in the top corner of the gallery in the north transept, I had a clear view of the pulpit, lectern reading desk, the main entrance and a considerable portion of the congregation. "

The writer was the son of Jonas Brook Hirst and grandson of Charles Brook Hirst. The writer talks about sitting in 'The Hirst family pew'. This was a box pew which had 3 sides, positioned in the north gallery it isn't like the pews we would associate with church now. This was during the time where the church used 'Pew rents' as the main source of income for the church. Those in a privileged position were able to pay to have the 'best' seats available. These usually had best view, the renters could bring in cushions and heaters for comfort and warmth and it also meant no one else could sit there. Interestingly these were usually at the front. Today in direct contrast the front of a church is usually the last to be filled as most people like to sit towards the back almost not wanting to be seen.

However the writer couldn't see everything, he wouldn't be able to see the communion table or all the illuminated texts from the King James Bible, one was over the East window which was written 'For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come'. This verse is also written in Christ Church, Helme but interestingly there, the wrong verse number has been quoted. (cont...)



Picture postcard of St James' Church decorated for the Harvest Festival in 1907. Years before electricity.

Life and memories of St James' Meltham Mills

Down the years one of the features of St James has been a willingness to try new ways of worship and a determination to support organisations outside the church.

There was a music group that was lead by Christine Rolls bringing new songs into worship. The Meditation Service gave members the opportunity to reflect as did the Oasis quiet days. Attempts were made to have food, and other activities plus worship at Meltham CoE School once a month. There have been Cafe Church services and the Breakfast Communion which effectively blended food, discussion and a Communion liturgy.

5 Alive began as a way to provide a service for families whose children were playing sport on a Sunday morning and as a way over food to develop relationships followed by creative ways of learning and sharing together. This has brought in families who may have not found the morning service met their needs. Covid-19 has put a halt on this service for the foreseeable future.

The church has supported St Georges Crypt for the homeless originally by carol singing round the Parish and then through donations at Carols in the Park. The Crisis Coffee Morning, the church's one big fundraising event which took place in November has raised thousands of pounds for the homeless and showed the value of creativity of members as well as the benefits of access to homes in beautiful parts of the country to bid to stay in. The Church faithfully supported CMS - originally through June Perrin in Pakistan and then through a number of mission partners in Brazil, and Paraguay then more recently in Spain. Members of the congregation have been heavily involved in both Jigsaw working in the Philippines and Meltham Mustard seed in Kyema in Uganda.

We have made mistakes down the years but I hope that we keep listening to God about how we worship and how we support the work He is doing across his world.
Nigel Priestly (Lay Reader)



St. James' holds many different memories for us. It was where Richard made his first statement of faith as he was baptised and confirmed as an adult in 1982. In 1986, we were honoured to have Rev Peter Rolls conduct our marriage ceremony. This was extra special as it was the first wedding that Peter had taken. Our children were baptised here and my parent's funerals were held here. But there are so many other ways in which the church building and the church family have played a part in our lives over the years and we continue to be supported and enriched by the people who worship here. Alison Whitley.



As I was walking this morning I was thinking about what the church has meant to me and some of the highlights and lowlights. I'll just share some of the highlights.

The first memory I have of being in St. James was as a visitor sitting in a pew with my mum watching the Preschool nativity. My nephew, Tom, was playing Joseph that year and as he walked down the aisle with Mary being the cheerful soul he is he yelled, "Hiya Nan, hiya Sarah," as he went past.

Lots of my memories are linked with children and young people in the church. The Wipe Out Poverty car wash we did with Pathfinders to raise money for Christian Aid. The Tear Fund TV evening we did with the Youth Group and Pathfinders and having to retrieve one of the Youth Group members from the park and persuade him to come back when he had a fit of nerves about his performance. The glory of the early morning sun shining through the beautiful stained glass windows in the hall after a largely sleepless night at a Pathfinder "sleepover". The Pathfinders being surprised that we have a picture of Mr. Bean in our church. (That might get you thinking).

I always think one great thing about being part of a church is that you are part of such a mix of people. So you have friendships with different age groups and people whose path would otherwise be unlikely to cross with yours. There was the quiet wisdom of Mary Dearden, who was wonderful to listen to in house group. The telegram from the Queen on Mrs. Bingley's window sill, facing out so everyone could see it, on the occasion of her and Mr. Bingley's Diamond Wedding anniversary. The joy of Jane and Peter Wong's wedding. The church came together and everyone did something to produce a traditional English wedding and reception for them, the day before their Chinese wedding. God is Our Strength and Refuge and Christian's Awake always bring memories of Harry Preston. Hearing about fair trade and Traidcraft from Ruth Wilson for the first time, strangely enough in the room I'm sat in now.

So many memories, so many people, these are just a selection of what sprang to mind. How fortunate I've been to share the last few of St. James' church 175 years with so many lovely and inspirational folk.

Sarah Glover



My Journey to St James' Meltham Mills was a short one!

I had been a member of St Bartholomew's church choir from a young age. When I was 15 Peter Rolls asked my parents if I would like to be confirmed. I joined a group led by Peter which was to affect my life in a way that I could not have planned. After Confirmation we formed a group which met in the cellar of the Vicarage called the Cellar dwellers with an age range of about 16 to 24. Lifelong friends were made, a more personal faith developed and at 16 I met Nigel who 5 years later became my husband. Living and working in the area for the last 40 years we have been privileged to part of St James and enjoyed close relationships with the many clergy who have served in our parish and made many new friends.

Sue Priestley



Food Bank

The battle against CoVid is changing almost daily, none of us can be sure how this is going to affect us in the future.

But as we as a country and local community fight the 2nd wave, we are so grateful to all of our supporters and volunteers. This year at Harvest festivals it has been more difficult for people to give donations. Many festivals were unable to take place, However we would like to thank you for your faithfulness of gifts of food and finance from those which did go ahead.

As I write this our refurbishment is well underway and will transform our base. Whilst it makes operating more of a challenge at present it will be worth it.

I have already alluded to the second wave of Co Vid and while we hope it will not be too severe, we need to prepare for the worst. From the news, you will know that much government support for Jobs and Business is being cut back, as well as the damage to people and business that may be done by tighter restrictions.

If you are an individual or family that loses their income it is devastating. As a Foodbank will always pray and endeavour to meet all genuine requests for help in our local area, we work hard to protect confidentiality. None of us are immune from falling on hard times. So if we can help in anyway please contact us.

Foodbank phone number 07564 764 137 or pop in the Crossroads Centre.

Debbie on behalf of the Foodbank Team

Have you ever wondered what the Crossroads Centre is all about?

Well here is a brief outline of how the project has helped the local community.

In February 2021 we will be celebrating the opening of the Crossroads shop 25 years ago. Its aim was 'to provide the churches of Meltham Churches Together with opportunities to serve the community of Meltham in practical ways as a witness to the love of God'

In 1997 we opened the Crossroads Centre offering Advice from many different organisations and in about 2015 we started the Meltham Foodbank. Many local people, organisations and schools have benefited from the grants we have been able to give.

In this time of need the Shop, the Advice Centre and the Foodbank are very busy and we give thanks for those who came before us. We are very grateful to those who give up their time and energy to make these three separate but together organisations a blessing in our community and to those who we feel fortunate to support.

New volunteers welcome. If you would like to volunteer please pop into the centre (opp the Post Office) it's open Mon—Fri 10am to 1pm.

Virtual 'Crisis' Coffee Morning

- As you will have guessed, we are unable to hold the Crisis' coffee morning in St. James' Church this year. However, we know that some people have been preparing for it since January. So, at the Crossroads pop up shop on **November 7th** we will be selling handmade crafts and Mandy's gift baskets and sweets.
- **If you have any items for the craft stall, please could you get them to Caroline or Richard and me before 4th November as Caroline is wrapping items in cellophane before the event.**
- Additionally, we have set up a 'Just Giving' page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richard-whiteley4>. You could have coffee and a slice of cake on **November 28th** (you may even be able to meet up with a friend) and have a virtual coffee morning and donate or you can, of course, donate at any time.

Thank you
Alison and Richard



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MEMORIES OF LONG AGO:

From The Reverend John and Kay Morison (1968—1971)

Kay and I, with our very young children (aged 2 and 4 years old) came to St. James' Meltham Mills to share in the parish life after the retirement of my elderly predecessor - that was right back in 1968. Now we are the elderly ones, being retired now for 21 years after a varied ministry both at home and overseas. Way back in 1968, after living in a terrace curate's house in Cornwall, the Victorian Vicarage at Meltham Mills (pictured in 1909) seemed vast and cold. We were told that previously in the winter, the Vicar woke up in the morning with the glass of water by his bedside turned into ice! Central heating was installed, but only downstairs. However the friendly welcome of Church members meant that most encouragingly, the life of St. James warmed up too.



It was the time when the life of the Church of England was beginning to be warmed up by God's Spirit and a little group of church members including Peter and Janet Rolls and Keith and Christine Walker, others including John and Enid Radcliffe, gathered regularly for Prayer and Bible Study based on the early church life in the Acts of the Apostles. St. James' came freshly alive and grew in depth and numbers.

Soon the Reverend Eddie Roberts, with his wife Pam, joined us. Eddie became a non stipendiary colleague, while continuing his teaching career, and the spiritual and social work of the parish grew on and continues to this day.

When I was unexpectedly called to a new post as Diocesan Youth Officer for Coventry Diocese in 1971, the Bishop of Wakefield allowed Eddie to take over immediately as Priest in Charge, then in due course as Vicar, so St. James' was not without a Pastor for a single week due to the usual Interregnum - and in those far off days those could be long. The Lord was looking after you....

Now that's a long time ago, much has happened, the parishes in Meltham have been combined, but the presence of God's Spirit is still very evident and active in the Township and the life of the lovely church of St. James'. Some of the people mentioned above have died, far too young, but others are still with you to remind you of those early days.

It's a real joy to hear how your life continues after half a century - and it's significant that both Peter and John were subsequently called to the ordained ministry. So our congratulations and thoughts and prayers are with you, as you celebrate your 175th Anniversary.

May our Lord bless you all!

The Reverend John and Kay Morison (And yes.....We are still alive, well into our 80s - the bracing air of the Pennines in our younger days may well have something to do with that!)

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St Mary's Report

Here we are again at the beginning of a new month and a new season. I think that this season is my favourite with the harvest and all the beautiful autumn colours - a chance to remember God's generosity to us and to appreciate his incredible creativity as we thank Him for loving us and for providing all that we need.

During September we have shared in two Communion services and a Service of the Word. Rev John Dracup was celebrant on 13th September and spoke about how generous God is when it comes to forgiveness and how we need to follow His example in forgiving others. On the following Sunday Rev John again led our worship. This was a Service of the Word and we were reminded that we cannot earn our way to heaven because we could never do enough - eternal life is a gift from God earned not by us but by Christ on the cross. On Sunday 27th September Rev Judy Kenworthy led the worship and was celebrant. She reminded us that it is not outward appearances that are important to God but what is in our hearts. Faith is not about obeying rules but accepting God's grace-his amazing gift to us. Following the service a bouquet of flowers and a thank you card was presented to Elizabeth Pearson to mark 30 years as St Mary's church organist.

On Sunday 4th October we enjoyed our harvest festival- not quite what we normally enjoy but the best we could do under covid restrictions. Kim Howe led this and the music group played for one of our hymns. In place of the usual Bible reading we watched a cartoon based on the parable of the sower. Kim gave a talk based on the word "harvest" and was helped by Joshua, Evie, Abbey, Bethany, Jonah and Dillon. We played a game to see how many different words we could find in "harvest" and Kim gave us clues. She showed us a teapot- tea / a box of cereals and a bowl- eat and so on. She also reminded us that God has given us the earth, that He will save it and us and that we should give our hearts to him. *(I wonder how many more words you can find in the word harvest) gifts of tinned and dried goods, brought to Church the previous day, were given to Meltham foodbank and flowers and cards were taken to Bell House care home. We sang happy birthday to Peter Pearson and John Shepherd who share the same birthday and our thanks go to the HD9 club and Jonah and Dillon for decorating the letters that spelt out "harvest". On 11th October we once again welcomed Rev John as he led a communion service and we heard about St Bartholomew otherwise known as Nathanael one of Jesus' twelve disciples.*

All our services have been shared by people in church and people on zoom and our thanks go to Jacqueline France and Judith Moore for running the zoom connection, to Liz for putting the presentation together and playing the organ and to all who have led services, read lessons, offered prayers and worked the technical things in Church.

Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers in these difficult times and if you are feeling worried or fed up just remember :

“That today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday and all will be well. “

God bless you and keep you safe.

Rev Judy Kennworthy

St James' Church a look back through the years. (cont...)

"The assembling of the congregation was a source of perennial interest. I eagerly watched the main entrance for the advent of Mr. Edward Brook and his family from Meltham Hall; the Misses Hirst, from Hill Cottage (now known as Wood Cottage), followed by the tall, upright, soldierly bearing of Mr T Julius Hirst; Mrs Charles John Brook and her two young ladies from Harewood Lodge; Mr Denton Scholes and his two sisters, followed by the slow, somewhat pompous, walk of Mr Scholes, the manager; the patriarchal form and appearance of Mr William Barnford and his family from Bent Ley, one of the best-filled pews in the Church, and many others, The Carliles, of Thick-Hollins Hall, and Mr A C Armitage of mount Cottage (now known as Durker Roods) entered at the west door outside my range of vision.

There were other personalities that attracted my attention. The portly form of Mr Hill, the coachman from Healey House, could be seen any Sunday morning walking along Hall Heys in his black silk hat, white cravat, plum coloured coat with black silk trimming, black breeches and stockings and bright buckled shoes. He never entered the Church late. All the coachmen from the big houses came in uniform...

...All the gentry, and employers of labour were there, and the rest of the congregation consisted of employees and dependants."

The above seems to suggest, coming to Church was a pageantry of all the gentry arriving. Was it about showing who they were and how good they looked? To some it may have been a comfort, knowing that they had an interest in the community where they lived and worked. Maybe others didn't feel the same. The writer shows that St James' Church was for the privileged and as an employee you were expected to come every Sunday, on time, as your job and subsequently your life, depended on it. Even on a Sunday the Coachmen were in uniform, still working. Fortunately today, coming in to Church on a Sunday is a personal choice. No one is watching your every move, there is no register to check your attendance and see how many of your family have joined you. The dress code is as formal as you like and you can sit where you want. (However in the year of Covid 19 keeping a safe distance from each other and wearing a face covering and 'checking in' is a necessity.) Fortunately for me, the vicar doesn't even mind if your late! You are welcome, just as you are, even if your still in your PJ's!

"There was no surpliced choir, and the members took their places individually. Collections were a rarity."

How interesting, the choir were not 'robed' and the choir didn't process either, they were already seated in the stalls waiting to start. Maybe the procession of the gentry taking their seats was enough.

Can you imagine not having a collection?, how amazing would it be that the needs of the Church were met by those who could afford it. Or would this have to come with a price? Who were the decision makers?

It would be years before the first Parochial Church Council (PCC) would be formed. These were not created in churches until after the first world war (approx. 1919) It was during that year that the new vicar arrived at St James'. A PCC didn't need to be formed until after the current vicar left. I suspect therefore this could have been in 1932 owing to the fact that the decision to finally abolish the pew rents came thirteen years later in 1945. This was at a cost to the church of over £1200, (see pic, inside cover) the cost then of a large house.

Moving on from the letter and skipping to times of living memory around the 1960's onwards and the future of St James' is beginning to be questioned. The 'Church school' had closed in 1962 and the vicar at that time, Rev Arthur Nixon, retired in 1965. With the expansion of David Brown Tractors the area of Meltham Mills and the community living there was changing. Three years later the diocese agreed to keep the church open and appointed a vicar, Rev John Morison. (see page 15)

From this point on for nearly 20 years St James' future was uncertain, but God had other plans. Growth could be seen as groups began to form within the Church. One called 'The Cellar Dwellers' (see pic, inside back cover) met in the vicarage cellar. This group included ages between 16-24 and was a place to worship and understand the Bible more. It was obvious during my various conversations with church members that this group left a positive mark on many during this time.

As the church grew so did the many other groups, these included the Sunday School, Pathfinders (ages 11-14), Banner group, dance and drama groups and also a Senior citizens group. With all this growth they need more space so in 1981 careful thought and prayer was given as to how best the church could be used in the life of the community of Meltham. In 1986 the whole church was re-ordered. The pews were removed and the church sectioned off giving a worship area and a large multi purpose hall. Three years later the parish grew, literally, St James, St Bartholomew's and St Mary's Wilshaw all joined together as the Parish of Christ the King, Meltham was formed. Christ Church, Helme joined in 2001 and then became known as 'The Parish of Meltham, Christ the King'.

St James' church over its 175 years has gone through many wonderful changes; but at the heart has always put God and the community of Meltham at the centre. From when the church was established in 1845, to the abolishment of pew rents in 1945 to the reordering of the church in 1986 and parish in 1989. Then up unto now living this by the multiple charities they support like The Crossroads', Crisis and Meltham Mustard Seed.

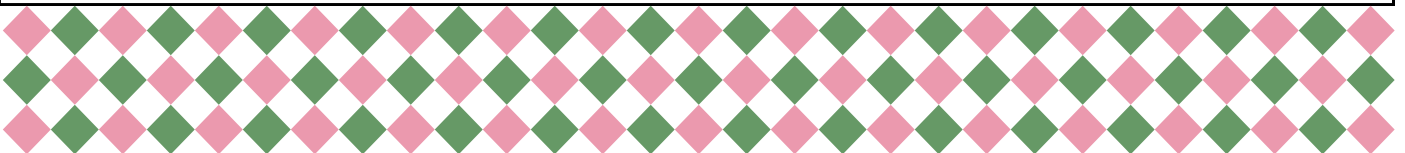
The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said recently that "the job of the church collectively is to be like the Jesus of the gospels and transform the societies in which they find themselves. Therefore, says Paul, as people and communities who have received grace, work out how to live and give grace to others."

Fiona Dracup

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Baptisms - We welcome you into the Lord's family

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Wendy Wilford

Mary Knight

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)

To contact our vicar Rev John Dracup: 07983 937132 parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

200 CLUB : October winners:


181	£50 Mrs. C. Moulson
192	£10 Mrs. J. Horsman
735	£10 Mr. C. Brearley
921	£10 Vacant Number
603	£10 Mr. A. Lawton
204	£10 Mr. J. Jacobs

There are still several vacancies in the 200 Club. If you would like to become a member & support the Church Hall, please contact Michael Farrel 07768258257
m.farrellphd@btinternet.com
David Earnshaw 341968,
C Moulson 850171

Haydn and Maureen Webster

would like to thank everyone who contributed to making their 60th wedding anniversary on

15th October so special, despite lockdown. Thank you for wonderful cards, letters, cake, video clips and especially to Simon and Stephanie Ball, Cath Glover and Ben Glover for the wonderful virtual choir recording of the anthem we had on our wedding day in St Bartholomews all those years ago. It was very special to be able to receive communion the day before and feel close to our Church family. We feel very loved. Thank you.



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2020 – Celebrating 175 years at St James' Church

By Peter Rolls, (Assistant Priest, present day)

This is the church that reached out and welcomed both my wife and I in the January of 1963. Frank Dolby unknown to us at the time arrived one Saturday with a wheelbarrow full of plants for the garden of our new build house. He worked with my father -in-law at David Brown Tractors. On leaving our drive he called out “Peter I go to St James Church I will pick you up tomorrow and introduce you” – the rest as they say is History. They were warm and welcoming to us.

Over my Fifty-Seven years encompassing the 125th 150th & the 175th Anniversaries, St James Church has played its part following the evangelical tradition of Simeon Trustee Churches. In 2020 it is vastly different as to when I joined its Congregation. I can recall the seventies when ladies in smart hats met with young people who wore studded leather jackets who were a part of the cellar group. One lady called me over to say how she was missing the old service book but after musing for a moment or two said ‘but it’s better to see the young people in church.’ One of those young people was called and trained by the Church Army and is now back in Meltham and recently preached in St James’.

Over the past 25 years we have continued to strengthen our links with the other Churches in Meltham, we have seen the growth of the Crossroads shop, Crossroads Centre, Meltham Food Bank and our involvement in this work. We have also continued to support our overseas missionaries, the work of CRISIS and St George’s Crypt, and support the work of Shoeboxes in Meltham. One year, during the Shoebox Campaign which was using the whole of the church building, a member of the Brook family, by coincidence, visited the church and as he looked around at all the shoebox work he was asked what he felt about the use of the building in this way, “I think it adequately fits the ethos of its founder James Brook” he said and “he wished more churches were as forward thinking as what he had observed”

As we move into the future, whatever this might hold, we remember the words of Psalm 127 v 1

Unless the Lord Builds the House, those who build it labour in vain.



Hello Everyone. I have such fond memories of my time in Meltham and I am so glad to have kept in touch with many of you. You are a wonderful group of people if occasionally a bit stubborn and outspoken! But as a Yorkshire woman myself I know they can be great qualities! My love and prayers are with you all. Keep looking after each other and my God richly bless you.

Chrissie Little, (Curate 1991-94)

M.R.V



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Church Groundwork group



Wilshaw are a hardy bunch, not stopped by a bit of wet weather on 3rd October they set about clearing out a pile of compost that had accumulated over the years. A group of 8 continued on 17th and made a big hole in the problem!! We will be back to finish off in the spring when it dry's a bit.

In addition to shifting several tons of soil, well that what my body told me in the afternoon. We had a great time putting the world to rights, if I listed the subjects debated we would fill the magazine. But trust me Boris and the Westminster bubble, when you get stuck give us a shout and we can sort the country out in 24 hours!!

The next one is **November 14th** Weather permitting we are at Calmlands clearing shrubs and bushes so bring loppers, branch saws etc.

Bring your own flask of tea, and come for a morning feeding your destructive instincts and debating skills!!

November 28th will be at St James' Church, clearing bushes and shrubs.

We usually make a start about 9.30am and finish about 12.30ish

Keep an eye on the church website/ facebook page for updates.

These are your last chance for a free workout before Christmas.

Contact Mike Still 07867951512 for more details, or just turn up.



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Why not have a 2 course meal delivered to your door on Christmas Eve, all boxed up with instructions on how to reheat it on Christmas Day?

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Daily Bible Readings for the month of November

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 st (Sun)	Matt 5: 1-12	Rev 7:9-end
2 nd	Daniel 1	Rev 1
3 rd	Daniel 2:1-24	Rev 2:1-11
4 th	Daniel 2:25-end	Rev 2:12-end
5 th	Daniel 3:1-18	Rev3:1-13
6 th	Daniel 3:19-end	Rev 3:14-end
7 th	Daniel 4:1-18	Rev 4
8 th (Sun)	Matt 25:1-13	1 Thess 4:13-end
9 th	Daniel 4:19-end	Rev 5
10 th	Daniel 5:1-12	Rev 6
11 th	Daniel 5:13-end	Rev 7:1-4, 9-end
12 th	Daniel 6	Rev 8
13 th	Daniel 7:1-14	Rev 9:1-12
14 th	Daniel 7:15-end	Rev 9:13-end
15 th (Sun)	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end	Matt 25:14-30
16 th	Daniel 8:1-14	Rev 10
17 th	Daniel 8:15-end	Rev 11:1-14
18 th	Daniel 9:1-19	Rev 11:15-end
19 th	Daniel 9:20-end	Rev 12
20 th	Daniel 10:1-11:1	Rev 13:1-10
21 st	Daniel 12	Rev 13:11-end
22 nd (Sun)	Ezekiel 34:11-24	Matt 25:31-end
23 rd	Isaiah 40:1-11	Rev 14:1-13
24 th	Isaiah 40:12-26	Rev 14:14-end of 15
25 th	Isaiah 40:27-41:7	Rev 16:1-11
26 th	Isaiah 41:8-20	Rev 12-end
27 th	Isaiah 41:21-42:9	Rev 17
28 th	Isaiah 42:10-17	Rev 18
29 th (Sun)	Isaiah 64:1-9	Mark 13:24-37
30 th	Zech 8:20-end	John 12:20-32
Please use the Daily Prayer from October magazine. (centre page)		

DIMPS

by Ville

**11 Station Street
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HD9 5NX
tel. 01484 850960**

Congratulations St James!

175 years of the church building, an obvious Christian presence in Meltham Mills.

What will I always remember from my time with you? I often told you that, for me, the Church is the people not the building so my memories are of 'people'.

Sharing the Café style harvest with Eric Priestley at my table (I arrived part way through because of taking the service at St Bartholomew's). Eric and I had a chat about the readings but mostly we enjoyed the nibbles on our table.

Having Judith P take me to hospital because I fell into a grave whilst walking back to the Vicarage having ignored all the health and safety put in place following the fallen phinial. A knee split open with lots of stitches and a tetanus jab! I constantly thank God for Judith being there that night!

There are many other things that I could write but those two will have to suffice. I've over run on my word count. I thank God for each and every one of you. May God bless you and lead you into the next 175 years.

With my love and my prayers,
Revd. Maureen (2009-2017)
Xxx



Our family moved to Meltham Mills in October 1979 when my husband, David was instituted as Vicar of St James' Church. It was a big move for us leaving family and friends behind but, with much prayer felt this was where God was leading us. Right from the start we felt a warm welcome and supported. We shared good and hard times together! The worship and fellowship, music group, bible studies were good times of learning together and sharing fellowship. For the children there was Sunday School, Pathfinders, Drama group, all fun to be part of and experience. To accommodate all these groups and activities the church went through some reconstruction and structural changes to provide the community with both a place of worship and a meeting place in the hall.

As I read the magazine each month, it is wonderful to read about all that is still going on in St James' utilising the building, welcoming, caring and continually reaching out to the community.

Thank God for 175 years of St James'. For all who have come and gone through the doors and those who are yet to step through and experience the warm welcome St James' still offers today in the name of Christ the King.

I'm thankful for the ten years we spent in Meltham as a family and the long lasting friendships that were made there and continue today.

May God continue to work within you all and bless you richly.

Dorothy Turner

Meltham Family Page

HD9 Club The young people continue to meet once a fortnight on zoom and have had a games night, written letters to the residents of Bell House and decorated harvest letters for the Harvest Festival as well as planning future meetings. Jacqueline, Kim and James continue leading this group and anyone between the ages of 11yrs - 17yrs are welcome to join them.

Interesting facts

- Remembrance is called as Veterans Day in the USA.
- Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth, to observe the end of the First World War.
- The armistice treaty was signed at 5am on 11th November 1918 but did not come into effect until 11am (making it 11:00 on the 11th day of the 11th month).
- Remembrance Day used to be called Armistice Day, however Remembrance Day is now usually used (to demonstrate that other conflicts in addition to WW1 are remembered).
- In 19th century poetry, poppies often symbolised sleep or oblivion – perhaps alluding to effects of opium. When Flanders poppies were one of the first plants to grow on the former battlefields of France and Belgium, the poppy became a fitting symbol of lives lost.

Poppy Poppy

Poppy, Poppy what do you say?
Wear me on Remembrance Day
Poppy, Poppy what do you tell?
Many soldiers in battle fell
Poppy, poppy what should we know?
That peace on Earth should grow, grow, grow!



- ? What is your earliest memory?
- ? What is your favourite memory?
- ? Is there a memory you'd prefer to forget?

Poppy craft for kids (or adults who feel like kids!)

1. Find 2 bun cases. Easiest to use red but you could paint or colour them.
2. Cut around the edges to create more defined petal shapes. Cut one smaller than the other.
3. On the smaller case, draw a black 'middle' and stick the smaller case to the larger case.
4. Stick the flower to a stem (lollipop stick, straw etc.)



Now is the Greatest Need – This Christmas please consider a Shoebox Appeal...

Every year the charity Teams4U sends Christmas shoeboxes, packed full of love and hope, to children in deprived communities overseas. Since their first appeal in 2013, T4U have given over 221,000 shoeboxes, spreading a bit of the magic and joy of the Christmas season.

“Every shoebox contains a memory, one that over the years they will remember and treasure. Each box tells the child ‘someone, somewhere, cares for you, has thought of you.’” Raul Gherle, Romania



In these challenging times, whilst the world is reeling from the effects of the pandemic, children everywhere are struggling without school, without friends, and some, even, without toys or something to do. For these children, in orphanages or living in the most marginalised communities, this pandemic has made the world an ever bleaker and desperate place.

“Christmas is coming, whether we’re there for these children or not. But, I think, right now we need to be more present for them. Now is the biggest need.” Dima Nachyna, Belarus

How can you help?

Teams4U say each gift is like a Christmas stocking in a shoebox – an assortment of essential items such as stationery for school, toiletries, winter woollies, hair accessories etc. plus a few small toys and sweets. You can drop these off at the following drop-off points: **Crossroads Shop. Meltham. St. James Church Meltham.**



The charity requests a small monetary donation of **£2.50** in addition to each shoebox to help support the costs of transportation.

For more information on the Shoebox Appeal and to find your nearest drop-off point please call T4U's regional coordinator for West Yorkshire. Meltham Shoe box 07954784317

Unable to make a box yourself:

This year, in addition to accepting donated shoeboxes, T4U have a Sponsor-a-Box scheme and for **£15** will make up a gift on your behalf. Visit their website www.teams4u.com or ring their office to learn more: **01978 310110.**

This season please consider giving a few practical gifts, all wrapped up in hope, that will bring a little bit of Christmas sparkle and joy into a child's life.

My Links to Meltham Mills

My link with St James Church goes back to the late 1880s when my Great, Great, Grandad was headmaster of St James school. My family down the ages from Great Grandparents to my mum were part of the worshipping community at Meltham Mills.

My link started when I was baptized as a baby at St James. Years later I started going to the Cellar Dwellers, a youth group who met twice a week beneath the old vicarage. It was here that I first met God, I had never believed before. There someone said "John, Jesus loves you so much He died on the cross for you" That was the start of a lifelong journey.

In 1977 I was initially offered a job as assistant warden and then warden at a Church Army hostel in Brixton, London. I worked there for 2 years when I was accepted for training at the Church Army College, Blackheath and in 1982 I was commissioned and accepted into the Church of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was then that I discovered another link. Church Army was started by the Revd Wilson Carlile in 1882 and his uncle built the Carlile Institute here in Meltham. Wilson Carliles brother built Helme Hall and all his children were baptized at St James.

It has been my privilege to be licenced to work in 9 parishes including Firthmoor in Darlington, Gleadless Valley in Sheffield, Middleton, Leeds and Shevington in Wigan. My final parish was Farsley in Leeds. I retired at the beginning of this year and 43 years later here I am linked again to St James.

Things are different as we now enter the church by a different door, there are no pews, there is a kitchen. As a result of Covid 19 we have to sit at a safe distance, wear masks and there is no singing but things are the same because the church members are still a thriving worshipping community. Here we get to the final link, Church Army's motto is "Concern into Action", this can be seen by the church members here being involved in community groups such as the Crossroads centre, foodbank, mustard seed and shoebox appeal.

Captain John Smith CA

Despite being the long time organist and choirmaster at St Bart's, I've always liked visiting St James' Church on occasion. Always a warm and friendly welcome, I found it a special place and it was always a real treat if the opportunity arose to play the fine 3 manual Jardine organ – the tone of which I always found pretty special - most interesting and enjoyable to play – far superior to St Bart's I must admit! At this point I should mention the even longer time organist and choirmaster – Harry Preston. Harry was a true gent who impressively was organist for just short of 70 years playing the organ up until he sadly passed away at the grand age of 91 – it is said he only went on holidays Monday to Saturday to ensure he didn't miss Sunday services. Back before my time, I'm told St James' had a fine choir to go with the organ, with over 20 voices, many of whom were in the Huddersfield Choral Society, singing for 3 services on a Sunday – 8am Communion, 10:45am Matins and 6:30pm Evensong.

Another true gent I should also mention was Philip Stead who was Churchwarden for many years and a lifelong worshipper at St James'. A man of strong faith, with a great sense of humour. He had a love for music and in particular church organs, having a massive collection of recordings. Sadly, the organ suffered extensive water damage from a roof leak a few years ago, and was too expensive to repair. However, as many others probably do, I have fond memories of Harry, Philip and of course, the organ!

Simon Ball.

Photos of St James' Church across the years.



Right:
Rev David
Meredith first
incumbent
1845-1850



Left: 1921
Above:
Unsure of the
date, do you
know?



Below: 1994
(Left to right)
Rev Tony Vigers,
Rev Chrissie Little,
Rev Peter Rolls.

Above right: Harvest 2020,
during the Covid
pandemic. Led by
Rev John Dracup



Left: 1986
Newly re-
ordered

Right: 'Cellar
Dwellers'
1973



Right: 2020
A Socially
distant
service
during the
Covid
pandemic.



'Harry' Preston, Organist from 1929-1999



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St James' Meltham Mills 9.30am
St Mary's, Wilshaw 11.15am*^
Christ Church, Helme 11.15am

Wednesday morning 10.30-11am St Bartholomew's,
spoken BCP service

***All current government guidelines WILL be adhered to so please keep your distance and wear a face covering. It is also subject to any government changes advised.**

** This service will be streamed live, but able to view anytime. See our website for the link:
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*^ You can actively join in this service via Zoom.
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