

THE PARISH OF MELTHAM

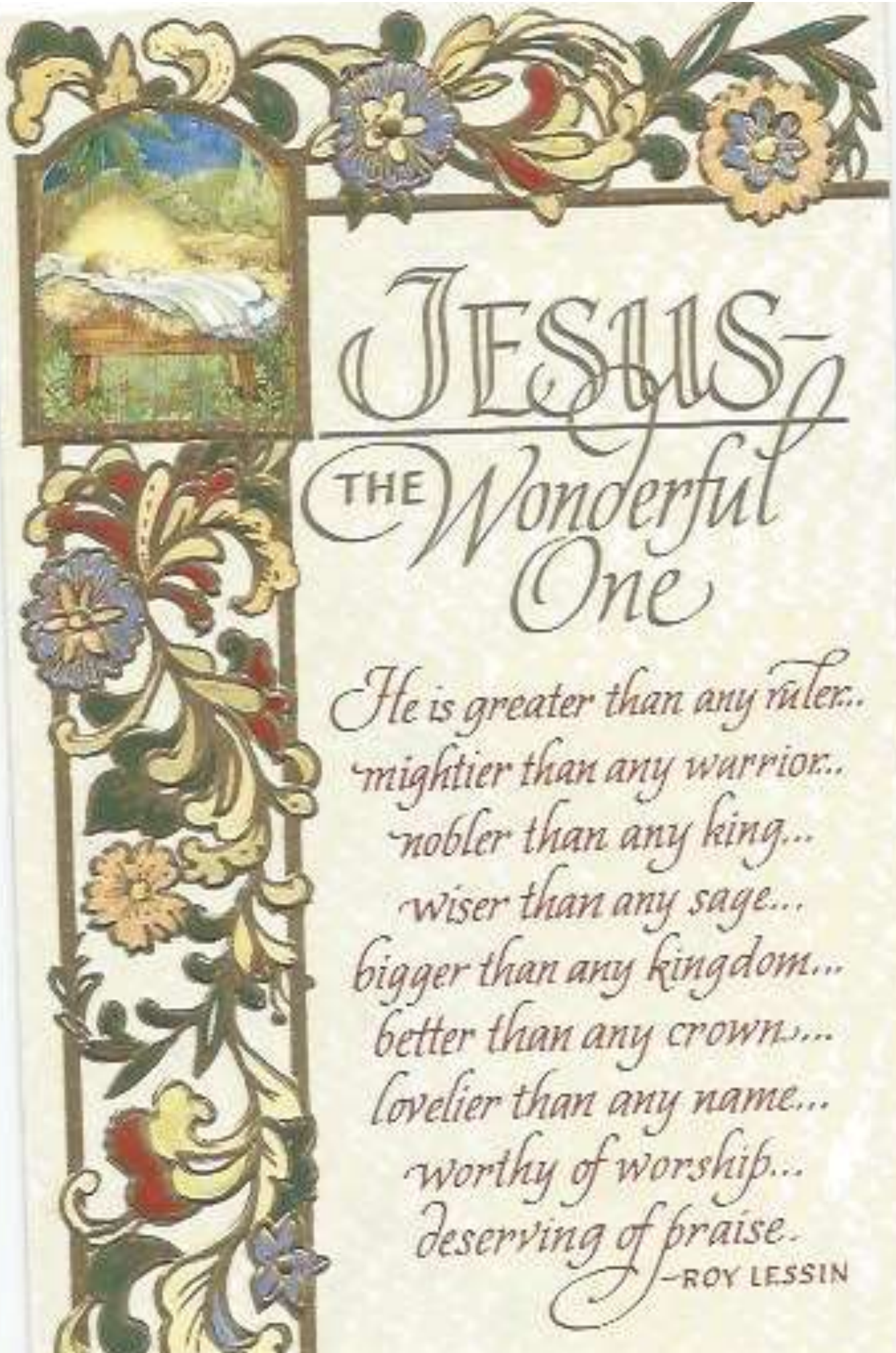
CHRIST THE KING

50p



DECEMBER 2020

www.melthamparish.co.uk



JESUS

THE Wonderful One

*He is greater than any ruler...
mightier than any warrior...
nobler than any king...
wiser than any sage...
bigger than any kingdom...
better than any crown...
lovelier than any name...
worthy of worship...
deserving of praise.*

-ROY LESSIN

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VICAR OF THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING

REV JOHN DRACUP: email: revjohndracup@gmail.com / 07983 937132

PARISH OFFICE CONTACT – email: parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

Website: www.melthamparish.co.uk / Diocese website: www.leeds.anglican.org

CLERGY in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Assistant Priest Rev. Dennis Shields 850074

Assistant Priest Rev. Peter Rolls 340342

Assistant Priest Rev. John Radcliffe 348806

Assistant Priest Rev. Judy Kenworthy 851158

AUTHORISED READERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Mandy Aspland 851789 Hester Deacon 657069

Nigel Priestley 852005 Chris Ryan 851528

Jacqueline France 01484 663867

AUTHORISED PASTORAL MINISTERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Christine Bleasdale 305553 Christine Woods 852268 Patrice Curtis 851498

CHURCH OFFICIALS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Parish safeguarding Officer Patrice Curtis 851498

Parish Treasurer Ruth Murray-Webster 07974 943443

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

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

Secretary Pam Murgatroyd 349857 **Treasurer** Peter Blackburn 850128

ST. JAMES'

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Secretary Alison Whiteley 319295 **Treasurer** Richard Whiteley 319295

ST. MARY'S

Churchwardens Kim Howe 852811 / Clive Pearson 844289

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

Safeguarding Officer Vicky Ramsay

CHRIST CHURCH

Churchwardens Irene Harrop 664163 **Secretary** Janet Rockett 851424

Treasurer Jenny Hill 850274 **Safeguarding Officer** Janet Rockett 851424

All magazine enquiries.

melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com

Or via The Vicarage, 150 Huddersfield Road, Meltham, HD9 4AL

Coronavirus Outbreak Prayer.

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

Sustain and support
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 ...

Happy Christmas!

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the parish magazine. This month we have included things to lift your spirits and enter into the festivities with lots of Christmas cheer!

Due to ongoing Covid 19 a lot of the usual Christmas events have had to be cancelled and those already planned may have to be at the last minute. However its not all bad we still will have the Christmas Day services and not forgetting Christmas Jumper Sunday! If you fancy reading something a little more advent focused, Rosie has suggested a lovely book on page 31.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the magazine this year it has been difficult but we made it through. The deadline for the January edition is again an early one :

Monday 14th December.

Send your submissions via:

melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com

or

via the vicarage letterbox.
(150 Huddersfield Rd, HD9 4AL)

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a better New Year!

Fiona.

Meltham Prayer Chain

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

Confidentiality is always respected.

If you would like to ask for prayers to be said, please contact

Rev Peter Rolls 340342

Lay reader Hester Deacon 657069

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Letter from your Vicar.

Mary and Joseph, along with the whole nation were ordered by Caesar to return to their hometowns for a census. Mass travel, families and communities mixing on a grand scale, and all by order of the government. Quite a contrast with this Christmas! Our government may relax the rules to allow some travel, some mixing of families but, it certainly isn't being encouraged.

For us, the gathering of families at Christmas is a source of joy. I'm sure many families at the first Christmas were pleased to see each other. However, their joy was tarnished by the knowledge that they had been forced together for a census that was designed to increase the power of the Roman Empire. This year our joy will be tarnished by thoughts of those we can't see.

Like now the first Christmas was set in a difficult time. Like now people were looking for hope and who could have thought that hope would be born in a stable? Many people missed it, though they were looking for it, they looked in the wrong places. A few people found it, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men all found Jesus, and all received hope but, it seems that none of them quite understood it.

Today we have some hope, hope that next year will be better than this one, hope that a vaccine will soon help, surely next year will be better. Of course, before all this life had plenty of challenges and many of them will still be there. We will face new challenges too as we rebuild our economy and our lives. But we have got hope.

Like everyone I hope for a better year, like everyone I hope for a successful vaccine. I thank God for the skills and hard work of all those who have worked towards making that a possibility, as well as all those who have worked so hard to look after us all this year.

My hope for next year is in the same place it was last year. My hope is in the same place as hope was found by Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men. My hope is not just in a baby born in a manger, my hope is in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Looking at a baby in a manger and seeing hope, receiving real hope big enough to face all of life's challenges, how do you explain that? No one at the first Christmas fully understood it. Receiving hope required faith much more than understanding. And this remains true today.

So, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and, in the hope we have in Jesus, a wonderful new year.

God bless

Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)





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Christmas Services **in the Parish of Meltham**



Everyone is welcome to come to any of the services but please be aware that these are all subject to the latest government guidance at the time. This will include Face coverings, hand sanitisation and social distancing. It may also mean some planned services may have to be cancelled so please check our website or facebook page for the latest information.

Melthamparish.co.uk and on facebook 'Parish of Christ the King Meltham'

Sunday 20th December, 'Carols in the Carpark'

5pm at Morrisons carpark.

This event will be ticketed, please see the website or facebook page for further details.

Christmas Eve

Mid-night Communion at 11.30 St Bartholomew's

Christmas Day

9.30am St Bartholomew's

9.30am St James' Meltham Mills

10am Christ Church, Helme

11.15am St Mary's, Wilshaw



Christmas Jumper Sunday!

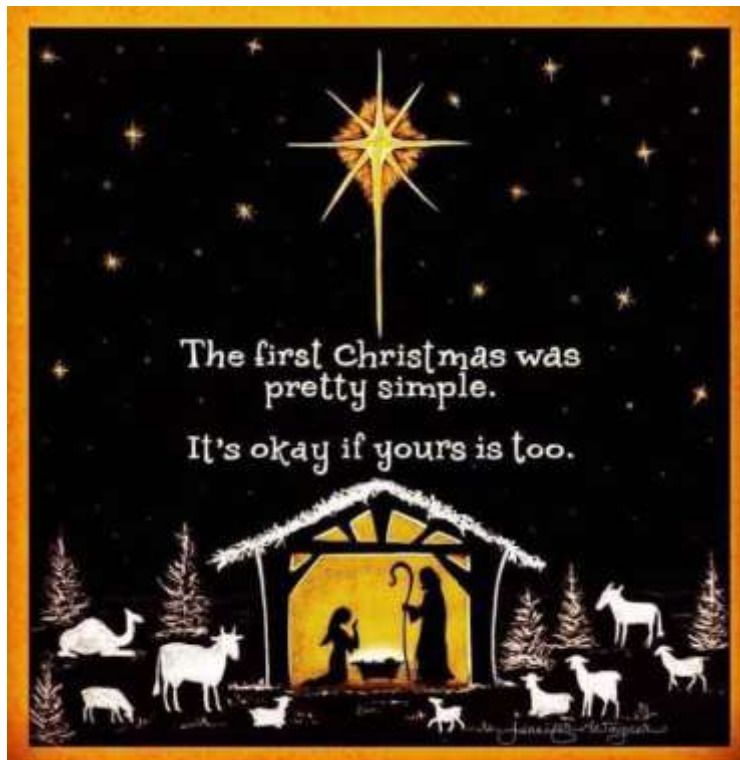
We've all got 'em! Those fabulous, loud cheesy Christmas Jumpers.

Wear yours to church on
SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER!

Choir Notes

With the current situation, we've had no singing in church now for quite some time, and this looks set to continue unfortunately. As we start the new church year, and prepare for Christmas, it's such a shame as we usually have some really nice music to sing during Advent. And then, what about all the carols this year? At this stage, it's unclear what will be allowed but unfortunately it seems unlikely that we will be able to come out carol singing. I am however, thinking how we might be able to somehow do this virtually! If anyone has any bright ideas, then please let me know.

Simon Ball



Congratulations

To the fellowship of St James' Church.

Congratulations on your 175th Anniversary of Christian witness in the Parish of Meltham. May God continue to bless you in all you seek to do in His name.

The Lord is good His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations.

Psalm 100 v 5

George A Mellor.

CROSSROADS CENTRE



Please contribute to Meltham Food Bank

They especially need the following items:

Sugar, s s long life milk, tinned veg, tinned fruit, rice pudding, soup, rice, noodles, pasta sauce, custard, cereals, tinned meat, tinned pasta meals, Jams, pet food, washing powder, washing up liquid, shampoo, shaving cream & shower gel.

Drop into the bins at Morrisons or the Coop. Fresh & frozen veg welcome but these must be delivered to the centre only.



Financial donations are also welcome.

Post through the centre door, labelled clearly 'Food bank'. **Mon - Fri 10—12.30.**

Food Bank

Work is well underway in the Meltham Food Bank at the Crossroads Centre in the basement of The Old Town Hall. The work is being done by Danny Bray Building Services. The size and available storage space has been increased and a hygienic work space for food storage and preparation is being created.

Sue Priestley the Chair of Meltham Crossroads is grateful for the funding from the National Lottery, One Community, Kirklees Council and the Holme Valley North Councillors Local Project Fund

The Foodbank is preparing for a busy Christmas season of delivering food parcels to between 60-70 clients. They also ensure that those with children receive a gift for Christmas.



The Tale of Three Trees

Original Author Unknown

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."



Years passed and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me" He muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river. Instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.



One evening a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.



One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.



So the next time you feel down because you didn't get what you want, just sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you.

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St Mary's Report

We have had quiet a "saintly" time over the last month up here on the edge of the parish. On Sunday October 11th Rev John spoke about St Bartholomew - one of Jesus' disciples - who was a sincere believer and totally honest - a good example to follow. The next week Rev Judy gave a talk about St Luke a doctor who accompanied St Paul on some of his missionary journeys. As well as writing his own gospel he is also believed to have written the book of Acts and to have written many of St Paul's letters to the early church on St Paul's behalf. He was clever, brave, trustworthy and committed - a good friend and another good example for us to follow in such difficult times.

On Sunday 25th October Rev Judy led a service of Holy Communion and we learnt about St Jude, St Simon and Nehemia an Old Testament prophet. They all answered God's call and spread God's word and if we follow their example, we will help to build up God's kingdom. Following the service there was a short discussion about what work people would like to see done in the future regarding the church building. This discussion included people on zoom as well as those in church.

On Sunday 1st November lay reader Jacqueline France led a Service of the Word and her talk was based on the Beattitudes reminding us that those who struggle in this world can be sure they will be blessed in the next so we must never give up hope. The hymns chosen reminded us that it was All Saints Day. At the end of this service an Act of Remembrance took place at the war memorial as we were not sure we would be able to do this the following week - due to the second full coronavirus lockdown. Rev Judy led this and Shirley Langrick read out the names on the Roll of Honour and the memorial before laying the wreath. We then observed two minutes silence. There was no service the following week at St Mary's and services in church have once again been paused. They will however continue on Zoom.

Our thanks go to Lucy, Clive, Val and Peter Harvey, John Andrews and Shirley for reading our lessons, to Lucy, Kim and Jacqueline for leading prayers and to Elizabeth and Peter for preparing the power point presentations and the music week on week. Thankyou also to those who lead the worship and to those wonderful people who turned up twice, despite the poor weather, to tidy the graveyard area at the back of St Mary's church - it looks so much better.

As we continue under lockdown remember that:-

Jesus is our rock, our fortress and our might.

He is our captain in the well fought fight

He in the darkness, is our one true light

Alleluia - remember we are not alone with Jesus by our side so let's keep on going with hope in our hearts and a prayer on our lips.

Can we take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas.

Bell House Care Home

Sadly we are still unable to resume our monthly services at Bell House and were unable to hold an Act of Remembrance there in November. We send our love to all the residents and to their wonderful carers and assure them that we pray for them often.

Daily Bible Readings for the month of December

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 st	Isaiah 43: 1-13	Revelation 20
2 nd	Isaiah 43: 14-end	Revelation 21: 1-8
3 rd	Isaiah 44: 1-8	Revelation 2: 9-21
4 th	Isaiah 44 9:-23	Revelation 21: 22-22,5
5 th	Isaiah 44: 24-45,13	Revelation 22:6-end
6 th (Sun)	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
7 th	Isaiah 45:14-end	1 Thessalonians 1
8 th	Isaiah 46	1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
9 th	Isaiah 47	1 Thessalonians 2:13-end
10 th	Isaiah 48: 1-11	1 Thessalonians 3
11 th	Isaiah 48:12-end	1Thessalonians 4:1-12
12 th	Isaiah 49:1-13	1 Thessalonians 4:13-end
13 th (Sun)	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
14 th	Isaiah 49:14-25	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
15 th	Isaiah 50	1 Thessalonians 5:12-end
16 th	Isaiah 51:1-8	2 Thessalonians 1
17 th	Isaiah 51:9-16	2 Thessalonians 2
18 th	Isaiah 51:17-end	2 Thessalonians 3
19 th	Isaiah 52:1-12	Jude
20 th (Sun)	Romans 16:25-end	Luke 1:26-38
21 st	Isaiah 52:13-end of 53	2 Peter 1:1-15
22 nd	Isaiah 54	2 Peter 1:16-23
23 rd	Isaiah 55	2 Peter 2:4-end
24 th	Isaiah 56:1-6	2 Peter 3
25 th	Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-14
26 th	Genesis 4:1-10	Acts 6
27 th (Sun)	1 John 1	John 21:19b-end
28 th	Jeremiah 31:1-17	Matthew 18:1-10
29 th	Isaiah 57:15-end	John 1:1-18
30 th	Isaiah 59:1-15a	John 1:19-28
31 st	Isaiah 59:15b-end	John 1:29-34

Daily Prayer

Opening prayer, before Christmas Day

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory forever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever. **Amen.**

Opening, from Christmas Day

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of heaven and earth, to you be praise and glory forever. As your living Word, eternal in heaven, assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh, may the light of your love be born in us to fill our hearts with joy as we sing: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever.

Amen.

The readings for the day may be found on page 18

Prayers of intercession are offered

¶ for the day and its tasks

¶ for the world and its needs

¶ for the Church and her life

The Collect, before Christmas Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect, From Christmas Day

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, The power and the glory, Forever and ever. **Amen.**

Closing prayers

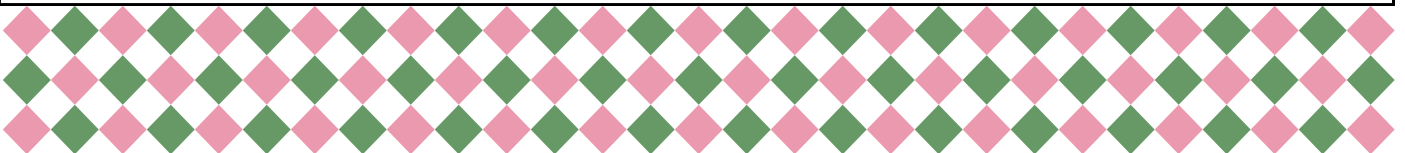
The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the lord, thanks be to God, **Amen.**

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings - A gift of God in Creation & a means of His grace

Baptisms - We welcome you into the Lord's family

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Jean Mann

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 parishofchristtheeking@gmail.com

200 CLUB : November Winners:


077	£50 Mrs. J. Wrathall
408	£10 Mrs. D. Algar
598	£10 Miss S. Wrathall
497	£10 Mr. A. Johnson
949	£10 Mrs. S. Dearnley

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



Thank you very much for your prayers, flowers, cards and loving support during the time of my daughter Rachel's illness and her death in October. We are all so grateful. May she rest in peace.

Hester Deacon and family



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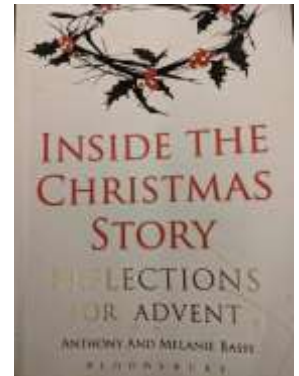


Inside the Christmas Story: Reflections for Advent.

Authors: Anthony and Melanie Bash

First published: 2012

Publishers: Bloomsbury, London.



One evening around this time last year I got lost down an internet rabbit hole and ended up buying this book. There was a reason for this (I remember the authors from my childhood Christmases, Anthony Bash used to be vicar in the village my parents lived in at the time) but it wasn't something I was looking for when I went online to look up something entirely different!

I have to say that my usual book preferences are more crime fiction than Christmas reflection but I enjoyed reading it and wanted to share a brief review for anyone else looking for a thoughtful and insightful read over advent.

The book is a series of 26 short (a few pages each – excellent for bedtime perusing) reflections, each based around a different aspect of Christmas. Each reflection starts with a quote and then expertly relates an aspect of the Christmas story with issues affecting us today, and often including examples from the news or personal anecdotes. This makes it very readable and I was left thinking about the implications for a while afterwards.

Themes in the book are varied and not necessarily ones you would think of when thinking of advent and Christmas. Beginnings after endings, science, grief and loss are discussed amongst the more usually thought of (at least for people like me who hadn't actually done a vast amount of thinking about this before) shepherds, Magi, and food.

The tone of the book is deliberately intended to 'disturb and challenge the reader with questions and messages', whilst choosing to 'neither sermonize or moralize'. This worked well for me as I grew up with a Religious Studies 'contemporary moral issues' GCSE syllabus in school which was all about being given a provocative question or statement and being told to go write an essay, making sure to mention several different points of view. I always thought the hardest part of writing those essays was coming up with a agree/disagree answer after having considered various, often contrasting viewpoints! In this book, questions such as 'If Joseph with his young family fled to the United Kingdom today, what sort of reception would they receive?' (p149 in my copy), or 'What did Mary and Joseph do with the gold, frankincense and myrrh that the Magi brought Jesus?' were certainly intriguing and offered a whole host of related thoughts and implications to ponder.

Anyway, I recommend this book to anyone looking for a short introduction to a deeper think. It's relevant, practical, thought-provoking and also quite humorous in places. Plus you can buy a second hand copy for less than a fiver online.

Rosie Wood

M.R.V



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THE DWARVES IN A DILEMMA

By Pam Murgatroyd

When Lockdown hit the seven dwarves
They decided to form a bubble.
They all happily lived together,
So they knew it wouldn't cause trouble.

Happy was not happy, when Sneezy got a cough
Sleepy could not stay awake despite a telling off.
Bashful was too shy to say anything he thought,
And Dopey had no memory of anything he'd been taught.

Grumpy became bad tempered when Doc went down with gout.
Then Boris brought out the 'Rule of Six', which caused a problem for
going out.

Who would have to stay behind when they went to the pub?
Who had been the last one in when they had made their 'Hub'?

It came to be quite a dilemma that kept them awake at night.
Then suddenly they remembered, they'd forgotten poor Snow White.
The problem was much too difficult now the seven had turned to eight,
So they decided to stay in together, the solution would have to wait.



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The Tale of a shoebox

by Iris Hesselden

I am just a humble shoebox
And not worth very much
But wait and see me in a while
I will have a loving touch!
I could have been discarded
And simply thrown away
But now I have been recycled
And cared for day by day.

So many little Toys and gifts
Are snugly packed within
And when I am really filled up tight
Adventures will begin.
I will soon be wrapped up neatly
In paper shiny bright
And I will be feeling very proud
So full of love and light.

Then soon I will be travelling
To many different lads
And children will be waiting
With eager stretched out hands.
So, don't discard your shoebox
Just think what you can do
God bless those folks who work so hard,
God bless the children too!

DIMPS

by Ville

**11 Station Street
Meltham, Holmfirth
HD9 5NX
tel. 01484 850960**

Meltham Family Page

HD9 Club

The HD9 club continue to meet on Zoom once a fortnight and have enjoyed an evening of "favorite tunes" when club members said what were their favorite pieces of music and why they liked them and then they listened to some of the choices. This song list will be kept so it can be played in the background of future meetings. They have also made blossom trees using the art of paper quilling.



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



JUST FOR FUN!

How many letters are in the Christmas Alphabet?

Only 25, there's no L

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

They always drop their needles!

How will Christmas dinner be different after Brexit?

No Brussels!

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent Calendars?

Their days are numbered!

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

JOY
LORD
MARY
JESUS
KINGS
GLORY
PEACE
JOSEPH
ANGELS
CHRIST
MANGER
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM



How do snowmen get to work?

By Icicle!

What carol is heard in the desert?

O camel ye faithful!

Answers: 1. Silent Night, 2. Angels from the realm of Glory, 3. Away in a Manger, 4. Joy to the world. 5. Deck the halls, 6. God rest ye merry gentlemen, 7, O come all ye faithful, 8. Do you hear what I hear? 9. The first Noel, 10. Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

Can you decipher the REAL titles of these exaggerated titles of very familiar Christmas tunes?

1. From dark 'til dawn, soundless and sanctimonious
2. Celestial messengers from splendid empires.
3. In a distant bovine diner
4. Universal elation
5. Ornament the enclosure with large sprigs of berry-bearing evergreen
- 6, May Jehovah grant unto you hilarious males retirement
7. Those of you who are true, come here!
8. Are you detecting the same aural sensations as I am?
9. Primary Yuletide
10. Heavenly cherubs announcing in song—listen!

Notice

Sorry to say there is no nativity this year., as Mary & Joseph face a local lockdown.

The shepherds have been furloughed.

The Inn Keeper has shut under Tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings.

Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test!

The average person will gain six pounds during the Christmas season. Here are guidelines for Christmas eating:

1. If you eat something and no one sees you eat it, it has no calories.
 2. If you drink a diet drink with chocolate, the calories in the chocolate bar are cancelled by the diet drink.
 3. When you eat with someone else calories don't count if you don't eat more than they do.
 4. Drink used for medical purposes never counts e.g mulled wine, sherry and brandy.
 5. If you fatten everyone else around you, you'll look thinner.
 6. Biscuit pieces and crumbs contain no calories; the process of breaking causes calorie leakage.
- Things licked off spoons have no calories, especially homemade brandy butter.

Covid 19

By Denis A.

Six months ago, we didn't know your name, or anything about you.
But lots of things have changed since then, I really must salute you.
Your spreading rate is quite intense. You're feeding like a gannet.
Distruption caused is so immense, you've shaken our small planet.

Corona used to be a beer, served with a slice of lime
But now its filled us all with fear, These days are scary times.
No shaking hands, or kissing lips, Boris & co advise.
So scrub hands well, right to the tips, tha's how we'll all survive.
Just stay inside the house as told, no sneaking out for strolls,
Just check the toilet every hour, and stock take the loo rolls.

The boredom surely will set in, so have a read or doodle.
Or plan your menu for a month, include lots of pot noodle.
When these run out, just look around, a change, it would be nice,
Get beans and pasta by the ton, the same amount of rice.

So Covid , you'll not wipe us out, I know a few have died.
Bubonic plague, Bird flu, TB, They came, they left, they tried.
You might be winning now Covid, as you jump from cup to cup,
But when we get our vaccine, your number will be up.

A few more verses from DA, I don't know if I can.
I think I'll leave it all, and pass to our Poet Laureate Pam.
God Bless, Stay well, and hopefully days will be of 'Good Cheer'
To help us reach this state of grace, open a can of beer!!

My wife says I only have 2 faults – I don't listen and.....something else.

What is a free gift? – aren't all gifts free.

Talking to a mate I said, "I have just brought a new hearing aid. It cost 500 but it is state of the art." "Really?" my mate said, "What kind is it?" "12:30" I answered.

Scientific update – Protons have mass, I didn't know they were catholic.

Story – A friend of mine who was an inspector in the police gave one of his constables a pencil and a very large thin piece of paper and said, "I want you to trace someone for me."

And finally, I phoned some local builders and asked them can I have a skip outside my house please. The builder replied, "I'm not stopping you."

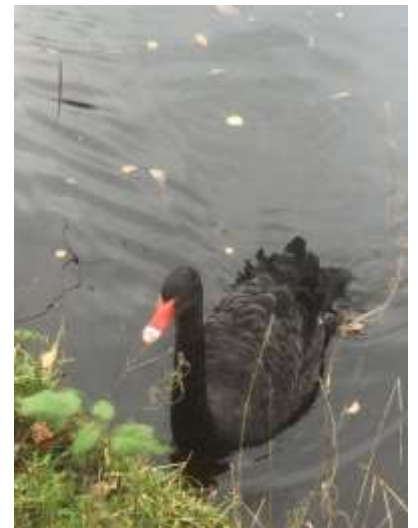
Wishing all my readers (if any) a peaceful and blessed Christmas. Hope we are all still here this time next year . Then we can really thank God for our lives.

Dennis A

Photos of around the Parish



These are photos taken around the parish. Can you guess where they were taken?



Happy Christmas
and a Happy New
Year!

From all at the four
churches of Meltham
Parish, Christ the King.

