

THE PARISH OF MELTHAM  
CHRIST THE KING

JANUARY 2021

[www.melthamparish.co.uk](http://www.melthamparish.co.uk)

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## In this issue ...

St Mary's, Wilshaw—Taken January 2021	Cover
Parish Officials	Page 2
A Note from the Editor	Page 4
A Letter from your Vicar	Page 5
A Happy New Year	Page 6
From the Registers / 200 Club / Bell House	Page 7
Crossroads and Meltham Foodbank Review	Page 8-9
Crafty Christmas	Page 10
Crisis Thank you	Page 11
Daily Reading & Daily Prayers	Page 12-13
Teams 4U	Page 14
St Mary's Report	Page 15
Carols in the CarPark	Page 16-17
Another Commonwealth Church / Care and Share	Page 18
A Pets Eye View / Thank you	Page 19
Meltham Family Page	Page 20
Just For Fun	Page 21
A True Christmas Card Story	Page 22
Congratulations	Page 23
Photos from around the Parish	Back Cover

## 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 New Year!

Well we are here again, an online magazine. My apologies for the delay this month, I had got it sorted sooner but then when the new lockdown was announced I had to change content and fill empty pages. You will notice it is a more slimmer version I thought this might help with the size as it is online.

**A MASSIVE Thank you** to all who have contributed to the magazine this month, You have come through with all your contributions and it honestly wouldn't be the same magazine you know and love if you didn't contribute so again, Thank you!

The deadline for the February edition is a bit short due to the delay in this publication:

**Friday 22nd January**

Send your submissions via:

**[melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com)**

**or**

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

Thank you for all your continued help and support.

God Bless

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

## Letter from your Vicar.

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who was involved in helping to enable our Christmas events this year. Things were different of course, and some of the things we have grown to love couldn't happen. Hopefully, we can do more next Christmas.

However, carols and nativity on zoom was great fun, our crib service whilst trimmed back was a joy, and Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without midnight communion. Singing carols in our Church yards after the two services on Christmas Eve certainly helped the mood enormously though the Meltham and Meltham Mills band did look like they were getting pretty cold by 12:30am on Christmas morning.

I would say that it had been a very merry "little" Christmas but the work that went into making this limited number of things happen was as great as it has been in any year and I think may have required the help of even more people than usual. So, a great big thank you to all involved. And, of course, there was carols in the carpark (nothing small about that). The fact that this could be organised at all seems remarkable and the that we were able to gain approval from Kirklees Council must be little short of a miracle. The number of people involved in this are far too many to list but, Nigel Priestly, Richard Noon, and Morrison's must be given a mention.

Next; Happy New Year!

It seems a little strange saying that to people as we begin another lockdown doesn't it but, as I said in my December letter, Christians have great reason for remaining hopeful and with the roll out of the vaccines we must all hold that as a reason to hope that things will soon begin to return to something a little more normal.

This lockdown the decision to keep Churches open or to close for a period has been left for local vicars and PCC's to make in discussion with their bishops. This may seem good to some and not so good to others. I'd like to assure you that neither being open or closed is a decision that will be taken lightly. Protecting people's physical health is of course a priority of the highest importance but I am also fully aware of the difficulties and upset that closing our building will cause.

I'm sure that all your Church Wardens and PCC members will be trying to balance the different aspects of wellbeing as we seek the best way forward in the coming weeks. Please pray that we will make wise decisions.

God bless

Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)

# 2021 Happy New Year

Happy New Year to one and all, but that doesn't include you, Covid.  
You came to us without invitation and nothing had changed us like you did.

You arrived to spoil our Mother's Day, then you ruined Easter too,

And we finished up in lockdown, all because of you.

So it's time you packed your bags and left, we've really had enough

Of wearing masks and rubber gloves and other PPE stuff.

We're entering a new year, it's twenty twenty one,

So go away and leave us to undo the harm you have done.

We can not get back the ones we lost, but the vaccine should stop any more.

Nothing will stop us from fighting you, we'll stand together, that's for sure.

Because that's what Meltham people do, they let nothing stand in their way

From helping friends and neighbours with their lives from day to day.

So here's to twenty twenty one and a time with nothing to fear.

Good health and all you wish for in a prosperous and Happy New Year

Pam Murgatroyd

## 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.**

# 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

Barbara Edinburgh  
Victor Hamilton

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 :**

### **December Winners:**

074	£200 Mr. R. Billington
460	£10 Mrs. G. Taylor
728	£10 Mr. J. Harrison
136	£10 Mrs. J. Hilton
875	£10 Mrs. S. Hirst

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

## **Please Note:**

Members of the 200 club are kindly reminded that cheques for the 2021 subscriptions should be made payable to;

**Meltham Parish Church Hall**

**NOT Meltham Church Hall 200 Club**

Thank you  
Michael Farrel

## **BELL HOUSE**

As we were unable to hold the usual Carol service for the residents at Bell House we enrolled the help of the HD9 Club and produced a Christmas card and Christmas tree decoration for each resident so that they would know we are thinking about them with love even though we can't come and see them. We also made one for the staff thanking them for all that they do for those they are caring for.

Please keep them and also the residents and staff at Green Acres and Helme Hall in your prayers.

# CROSSROADS CENTRE



*Matthew 25 For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

Another busy month despite restrictions and moving into tier 3.

The Crossroads Shop was as busy as ever serving a dual purpose of enabling people to meet together (limited but still possible) and providing high quality items at very reasonable prices. Thanks to everyone who works in the Shop and creates such a positive and welcoming atmosphere.

The Food bank continued to flourish packed into Roger's room in the Centre and dealing with an increasing number of food parcels as the effects of furloughs and insecure employment began to show.

The Centre has remained open throughout and we feel that with the support of the Shop and the Foodbank we have found our role enhanced during these difficult times.

Jesus says we should

- Feed the hungry – There has been a rise in the need for food parcels and several people are being supported with day parcels. There has also been a rise in people dropping off donations and gifts large and small to buy food for those in need. There has also been an increase in those wanting to volunteer. CHRISTMAS provided us with additional opportunities to give many of our families Christmas cheer with Hampers toys and gifts
- Give drinks to those who are thirsty – Despite lockdown there are regular visitors to the Centre for cups of tea and coffee and pop! As people seek refreshments, they also need someone to speak to in their lonely days. A birthday was celebrated with one of our regulars socially distanced of course but with candles on the cake.
- Strangers are invited in – You never know who you are going to meet when you open the door. Many people bereaved are emptying their family homes and needing to drop their items off. This gives them an opportunity to do something positive during this time of sadness and to be met with kindness and understanding.
- Giving clothes to those who need clothing – We have become a supplier of clothes, shoes, socks, and warm coats as the weather becomes much colder
- Ministering to those who are sick – We, like everyone else are not able to visit or see those who are ill, but we see people who are suffering from mental illness. Deprived of face-to-face contact and the reduction of services many people are suffering. Deteriorating physical health and missing contact from close family also may mean they are really struggling. Others have very few resources which we take for granted They may have no Credit for their phone or be lacking electric and gas to cook a hot dinner or even make a cup of tea. We can support them to get them gas and electric vouchers and support from Chris out benefit and debt advisor to help them with their financial difficulties.
- Visiting people in prison – An interesting area which may yet to be developed!

We are looking forward to the New year when the Food Bank refurbishment will be completed, and volunteers will be able to return to the Centre, and the shop can begin to welcome more customers.

We continue to be grateful for all the support the Crossroads project receives and for your prayers and commitment to us over the years. In February we will be celebrating in whatever way we can 25 years since the opening of the shop.

Another activity we have been involved with was the Annual Methodist tree festival. Volunteers from the Shop and Centre created two trees, the first from tinned food and the other from used garments illustrating the possibility of using old clothes to recycle and reuse.

We really enjoyed being part of the festival and were delighted that so many people were able to visit the church and see the trees and not just view them on a screen.



Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Foodbank Team.

We have moved back into our refurbished base which just has the finishing off to do. December unsurprisingly and sadly is our busiest time of the year. But also my favourite and the a special time when we are able to bring the love of God in a very practical way. Although I will always wish we were not needed, The Foodbank does feel very much like the true Spirit of Christmas.

November was our busiest month so far and as I write this in mid December it looks like December will be busier.

In addition to our normal foodbank service, every one of our single clients received a pre-packaged 3 course Christmas meal, and a shoe box size hamper. Every family received an appropriate size Christmas hamper including all the ingredients for Christmas dinner, presents for children and token presents for adults. All of this is only possible because of the goodwill and support of so many in our Village.

We value all our donations, small and large. To thank anybody will mean I will miss more than I thank, but to name a few.

- A primary age girl who has been doing a reverse advent colander and brought us 3 shopping bags of donations.
- Morrisons who have made us their chosen charity and the many customers who have not only donated food but also presents.
- Haigh's Butchers who have donated pies.
- CPS Financial who have donated fresh turkeys.
- Hinchcliffe farm shop, vegetables
- Alistair Nunn of Rachal's Kitchen who is cooking 30 single meals.
- Bev and her team who have organised hampers for 10 families.
- Anne, who with some help, has been wrapping and sorting presents.

Finally a big thank you to all of our regular team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly in so many, often hidden, ways to meet the demand through this challenging time, and put in extra at Christmas.

Please in this coming year remember to pray for the foodbank our volunteers and the people we help.

Debbie and the foodbank Team.

# Crafty Christmas

Rosie made the most of the Lockdown in November and made this beautiful advent calendar for her daughter Hattie. It is based on the one her auntie made her over 30 and a bit years ago. Rosie combined both her and Hattie's childhood by using the original Mary and Joseph from her own calendar. Looks beautiful Rosie, Well done.



Fiona also made an advent calendar, only this one was 24 stockings individually made ready to put the Christmas chocs in!





As you probably know, we couldn't hold our normal 'Crisis' charity coffee morning this year due to Covid restrictions, so we had to look at a plan B. We created a Justgiving page and we were able to offer a number of donated items for sale via email.

Mandy Taylor had been preparing for her gift baskets all year and Caroline Horvath had been busy making a range of crafts. It seemed a shame for their contributions to languish in storage until next year, so we asked if we could have 2 stalls at the December Crossroads pop up shop. They kindly agreed and we were also able to sell other donated Christmas goods, as well as crafts and baskets at this event for 'Crisis'.

We missed the usual lovely atmosphere of the coffee morning, but we are delighted to say that a total of **£4,510.24** has been raised for the charity. Once again it couldn't have happened without the kindness, generosity and hard work of many people.



There has been quite a lot of information about 'Crisis' posted through our doors and you can find out more at <https://www.crisis.org.uk/crisis-this-christmas/> There are some interesting stories to read and you'll be able to see what a difference this money can make.

**Thank you**  
Alison and Richard Whiteley

Jean Burhouse lovingly made these tasty Christmas cakes and mince pie orders from the CRISIS promise auction offer

This was just a small part of the tremendous virtual fund raising effort which raised the £4,500+ mentioned above in December for CRISIS the charity which supports homeless people.

*Crisis work directly with thousands of homeless people every year. They provide vital help so that people can rebuild their lives and are supported out of homelessness for good. They offer one to one support, advice and courses for homeless people in 12 areas across England, Scotland and Wales. The type of help depends on their individual needs and situation.*



## Daily Bible Readings for the month of January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 2:17-end
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Isaiah 60:1-12	John 1:35-42
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Sun)	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
4 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 61	John 2:1-12
5 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 62	John 2:13-end
6 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 60	Luke 3:5-22
7 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 63:7-end	1 John 3
8 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 64	1 John 4:7-end
9 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 65:1-16	1 John 5:1-12
10 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Genesis 1:1-5	Mark 1:4-11
11 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 1	1 Corinthians 1:1-17
12 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 2	1 Corinthians 1:18-end
13 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 3	1 Corinthians 2
14 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 4	1 Corinthians 3
15 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 5:1-17	1 Corinthians 4
16 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 5:18-end	1 Corinthians 5
17 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	1 Samuel 3:1-10	John 1:43-end
18 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 6	1 Corinthians 6:1-11
19 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 7	1 Corinthians 6:12-end
20 <sup>th</sup>	Amos 8	1 Corinthians 7:1-24
21 <sup>st</sup>	Amos 9	1 Corinthians 7:25-end
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Hosea 1:1-2:1	1 Corinthians 8
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hosea 2:2-17	1 Corinthians 9:1-14
24 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Genesis 14:17-20	John 2:1-11
25 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 2:18-3, end	1 Corinthians 9:15-end
26 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 4:1-16	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
27 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 5:1-7	1 Corinthians 10:14-11,1
28 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 5:8-6,6	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
29 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 6:7-7,2	1 Corinthians 11:17-end
30 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 8	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
31 <sup>st</sup> (Sun)	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Mark 1:21-28

# Daily Prayer

## Epiphany

### Opening prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, sovereign God, king of the nations.

To you be praise and glory for ever.

From the rising of the sun to it's setting your name is proclaimed in all the world.

As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit that we may witness to your Gospel and sing your praise in all the earth.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever. **Amen.**

The readings for the day may be found on page 12

### 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

Almighty God,

in Christ you make all things new:

transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,

and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory:

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

## Meltham Shoe Boxes

On Saturday 5th Decemer **2447** shoeboxes left Meltham at 5.30am for Rumania! The photos below show children receiving T4U boxes in Oradea, one of the main cities in Romania, today. Just look at those faces.

Thank you to everyone who have supported our first year working with the T4U project. You all made it very special.

Stay safe and well  
Judith Powell  
Meltham Shoe box Team



## St Mary's Report

Services in church had once again been paused so on Sunday 15th November Rev John Dracup led a Service of the Word on Zoom at 11.15am Elizabeth Pearson played the keyboard to accompany three hymns, Jacqueline France read the Gospel and Kim Howe led the prayers. Rev John based his talk on the parable of the talents, reminding us to use the gifts God has given us to grow His kingdom.

The following Sunday was "The Feast of Christ the King" There were no services in our churches due to Covid 19 but Rev Dennis Shields led a service of Holy Communion on Zoom. Lucy Verril read the lessons, Elizabeth played the keyboard and Jacqueline offered prayers. Rev Dennis reminded us to use what God gives us to care for one another and in so doing to serve our Lord.

On Advent Sunday, 29th November, Lay Reader Jacqueline France took a service on Zoom. The first candle on the Advent wreath was lit as we remembered "all God's people" and our thanks go to Elizabeth for making the wreath. Tim read the lessons, Kim led the prayers and Elizabeth accompanied the hymns. Jacqueline spoke about the "Rhythm of Life" and of how we can encourage one another, celebrate and be thankful for good things and be creative. She also reminded us to share and be kind and most importantly TO PRAY. Seventeen computers logged onto the service with 20+ people sharing in the worship - wonderful.

On Sunday 6th December Rev Judy led a "crib service" on Zoom. The second candle on the Advent wreath was lit as we remembered "the prophets" We heard the story of Jesus' birth told in the words of the carols and in Rev Judy's talk. During the service people built up their Christmas Cribbs at home - putting each figure into the scene as they appeared in the story. Jonah and Dillon coloured in their figures beautifully -well done boys. In place of the reading, we watched a video based on Luke 2 verses 1 - 14 and we enjoyed looking at one another's' crib scenes once they were complete.

On Sunday Dec 13th Rev John led a Carol Service on Zoom at 6pm. Lots of people, in costume, took part in a Christmas Drama as the story of The Nativity was told and the children were particularly good. It was good to be able to sing the carols even though we couldn't hear one another.

Our thanks go once more to Jacqueline for running the zoom link, to Elizabeth for the music and for preparing the power point presentation and to all who take part in any way to help us to continue to spend time with God and with one another during these strange times.

Let's pray that this New Year will be a happy, healthy and peaceful one and that sometime soon our freedom will be restored. God bless you and keep you in His care now and throughout 2021.

## Carols In the Car Park 2020

December 2019. The night was still. The sky was cloudless. Candles lit for Carols in the Park burnt gently and weren't blown out. It was magical. Over 450 came into Robert Ashton Memorial Park. Carols in the Park, an initiative from the churches in Meltham has become central to the village's Christmas celebrations. Could it be repeated in 2020?

Certainly not in Covid-19 2020! Keen not to lose the momentum built up over the years, the suggestion was made "Why not Carols in the Car Park?" But which Car Park? Morrison's was the most obvious. We made contact with them. Morrison's Community Champion, Rachael Chadwick was enthusiastic. We couldn't do our own mince pies and mulled wine but Morrisons gave suitably quarantined mince pies to those who came.

As a genuine community event, the gifts of Cllr Richard Noon and the team from Meltham Memories were invaluable from start to finish. Kirklees Council rightly wanted properly drafted risk and safety documents. Cllr Noon obliged! I subsequently had an email from Kirklees which said "We wish all event organisers were as organised and capable as your team!"

Once permission was given we had just over 2 weeks to make the event happen. This was the only event of its kind in Huddersfield. We hadn't done anything quite like it before - but the Meltham Memories team had experience of large scale events - Church and Community worked together!

This is an event where we tell the story of Jesus, the Joy of his coming to the village. We had professional artwork for posters and the Carol Sheet. Strict safety measures were required and put in place. All cars had to be booked in using Eventbrite. Within 12 hours of the tickets becoming available, all 100 parking slots had been booked! We could have "sold" more but there were strict parking rules.

A professional sound engineer was booked and on the night many who weren't present could hear the carols all over the village. Simon Ball set up a "live" Link which meant a great deal to those who tuned in - afterwards I had a call from a Melthamer who lives over 150 miles away saying how much she had enjoyed it.

On the night, with a brilliant team of stewards, cars were parked and the occupants came to have a joyful experience. Some brought packed meals, others had decked their cars out with lights or electric candles.

Readers from the schools and the Community found that when they had finished telling their part of the story, horns were pressed. Carols were lead by singers from the church, by Simon Ball and by Meltham and Meltham Mills Band - all socially distanced and as each carol ended the night was filled with the sound of car horns!

Richard Whiteley as compère continued to find the worst/best Christmas Cracker jokes alongside a quiz. Rev John Dracup blessed those who came.

There were donations made by those who booked which, together with money put into buckets as drivers left amounted to almost £500. It was topped up and Morrisons are to match fund so **£1000** is to go Simon on the Streets a charity working in Huddersfield with the homeless

And for those who attended - many of whom then posted on social media sites- the night was magical. The angels told the shepherds that they brought good tidings of great joy. There was great joy at Carols in the Car Park. In the darkness of 2020 a light shone bright, the light of Christ amongst his people.

Nigel Priestly

Editor Comment: A great big '**THANK YOU**' to those who organised the event and those who came and made it a wonderful event. Here are some picture from the night.



## **Another Commonwealth Church; and sad story of the benefactor**

Readers of this magazine will be aware that original St. Bartholomew's Church was built in 1651 during the Commonwealth Period of Oliver Cromwell. Holy Trinity Church, Berwick on Tweed, still in its original form is also of that period.

Enter serendipity, and a church built in 1653 by the local benefactor and estate owner Sir Robert Shirley, at the small village of Staunton Harold (population 141) near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, is still entirely intact, but has been in the care of The National Trust for many years. Holy Trinity is the church, built in the Gothic Style with tower, pinnacles and tower. Shirley's magnificent house Staunton Harold Hall is close by.

He was a strong Royalist and defied Cromwell to build his church, not only build it, but in the Gothic style, totally at odds with the simple Puritan convention of the time. Many churches were similarly built including some in this parish, but at later dates. Building the church was as much a statement of his political beliefs, his wealth and his religious persuasion. The church on his large estate, is in an idyllic setting approached over a picturesque bridge with lake woodland and the Leicestershire hills as the back drop.

In the west doorway is told the story of the church "In the yeare 1653 when all things sacred were throughout ye nation either demolished or profaned, Sir Robert Shirley baronet founded this church whose singular praise is to have done the best thing in ye worst times and hoped them in the most calamitous." Shirley believed that the Anglican Church and The Monarchy were inseparable. The building was his way of demonstrating rebellion. For this he paid dearly. Cromwell on hearing about this lavish church demanded that he contribute to the costs of a new ship for the navy. He refused and was imprisoned in the Tower of London where he died aged 27.

John Mitchell

### **CARE AND SHARE**

A new short term venture took place in the parish on zoom. For an hour on a Tuesday evening people could share company and have fun. On 16th November they enjoyed "Guess Who" - Prior to the evening people sent in two things they had done and then we had to guess who that person was. The following week there was a Quiz night and on 1st December a chance to make a Christmas wreath. As well as the chance to learn new things it was an opportunity to make new friends and to avoid being lonely during the second national lockdown.

Care and share has now finished for the time being but what a good idea. Our thanks go to Jaqueline for hosting this.

## FROM A PET'S EYE VIEW

My owner doesn't go out anymore, except to take me for a walk,  
There's really no quiet around the house, because everyone wants to talk.  
They get up each morning for breakfast and feed me my biscuits & meat,  
Then they let me out in the garden in time for the postman to greet.  
But they don't go out after breakfast, they don't go to work in the car  
And if they do go out walking, they don't usually go very far.  
So I never get time on my own, if for minutes, it's only a few,  
Not enough time to chase the cat or find a slipper to chew.

They say it is something called Lockdown, so I don't think it's something I did  
And I don't know what a pandemic is, but I've heard them say it's called Covid.  
It was good when they went off to work and came home at the end of the day,  
But now that they're home all the time, I just seem to get in their way.  
Even Christmas was not quite the same with the family and lots of noise.  
They all brought their children for lunch and they all had such chewable toys.  
This year it's just mum, dad and me with Tiddles that stupid cat,  
But I was here first and I guard the house and she's sometimes forgetting that.  
I wish things were back as they were, with the grown ups out of the way,  
But I'm just a dog, what do I know? I'll be good 'til it's all back okay.

Pam Murgatroyd



We much enjoyed reading your special Magazine you prepared for St. James' Anniversary. It's super to see how that seeds sown so many years ago in our time with you have not only grown, but in turn have seeded and produced more flowers and spiritual impact! That's due to the good husbandry of the Sowers at Meltham. We've always felt that the healthy result of steady social concern and care flowing from the churches of the township is as much a blessing as the new planters of the Seed of the Gospel who grew and thrived in the community!  
And in spite of Covid, fruitful sowing and reaping seems set for your future.....

John and Kay Morison



# Meltham Family Page

## HD9 Club

The HD9 Club are still meeting once a fortnight on zoom. Over the last few weeks, they have decorated and filled shoeboxes for children less fortunate than themselves. They were also involved in making cards and Christmas tree decorations for Bell House and more decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival at Meltham Methodist church.

On Friday 11th December they had their Christmas party on zoom playing charades, scribble and an online quiz which was lots of fun. Thanks to Jacqueline, James and Kim for all their hard work in helping the young folk to run this club and let's hope we will soon be able to meet together in person instead of virtually. HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE.

## Meltham Methodist Christmas Tree Festival

The Annual Christmas Tree Festival took place on Sat 5th & 12th December if you weren't able to get to it you can still see it online at: [www.melthammethodist.org.uk/virtualchristmastreefestival](http://www.melthammethodist.org.uk/virtualchristmastreefestival)

The Parish children created a 'joyful sound' with a tree covered in bells and musical instruments kindly done by the children of St Bartholomew's, St James and the HD9 Club from Wilshaw.



Foodbank



Crossroads



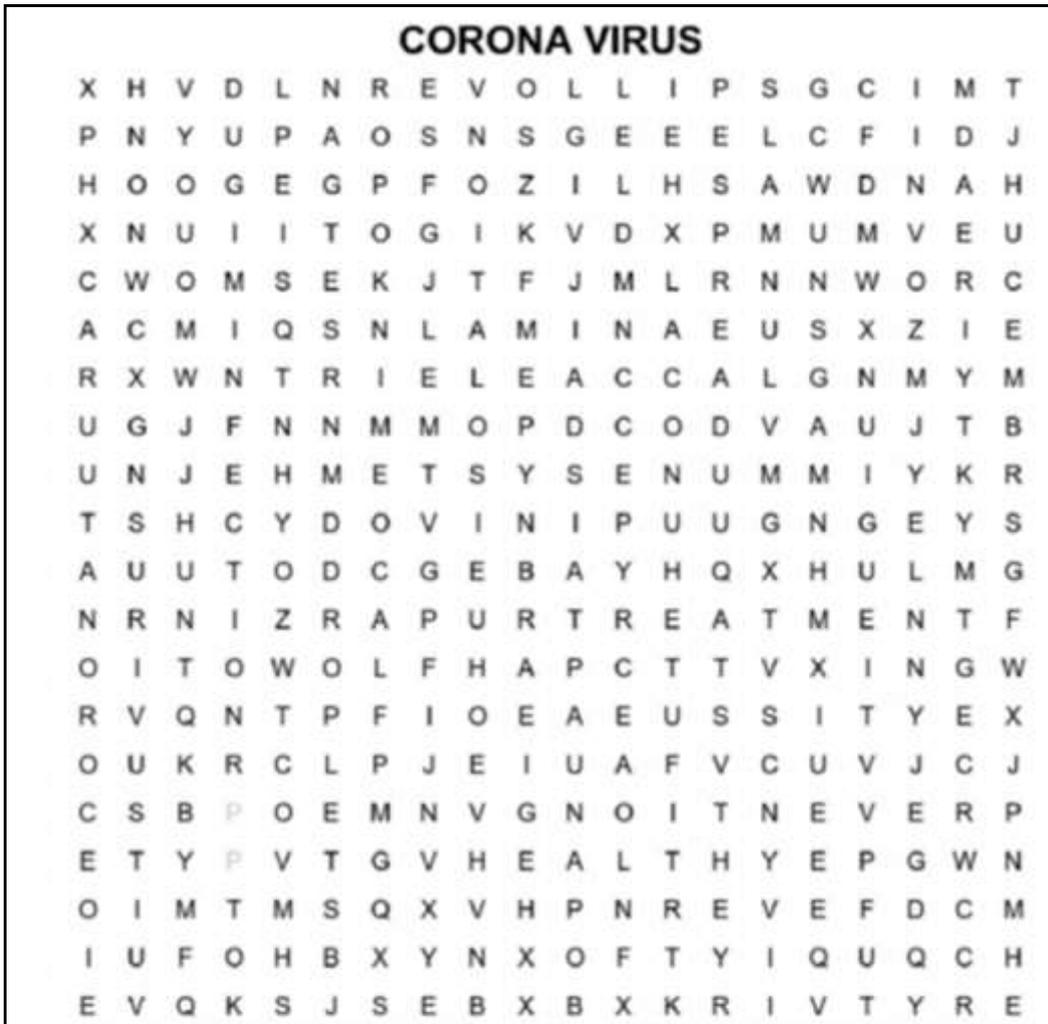
Parish Children

There were many others who contributed including the Crossroads, Foodbank, Community Pre School and the Women's Institute

Our thanks to all those who organised it and those who got involved.

# JUST FOR FUN!

Can you find these coronavirus related words in the grid below?



TREATMENT  
CROWN  
TISSUE  
HEALTHY  
INFECTION  
HANDWASH  
PREVENTION  
SPREAD

CORONA  
FEVER  
DROPLETS  
ANIMAL  
SPILLOVER  
PREVENTION  
IMMUNESYSTEM

VIRUS  
COUGH  
HYGIENE  
TRANSMISSION  
SOAP  
ISOLATION  
HUMAN

## This years Christmas Cracker Jokes.

1. What is Dominic Cummings' favourite Christmas song?  
*Driving Home for Christmas.*
2. Did you hear that production was down at Santa's workshop?  
*Many of his workers have had to Elf isolate!*
3. Why didn't Mary and Joseph make it to Bethlehem?  
*All Virgin flights were cancelled.*
4. Why are Santa's reindeer allowed to travel on Christmas Eve?  
*They have herd immunity.*
5. Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown? *Because the "Arrrr!" rate had risen.*
6. Why is it best to think of 2020 like a panto? *Because eventually, it's behind you.*
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call?  
*Because there was no Zoom at the inn.*
8. Why can't Boris Johnson make his Christmas cake until the last minute?  
*He doesn't know how many tiers it should have.*
9. Which Christmas film was 30 years ahead of its time? *Home Alone.*

## A True Christmas Card Story.

I was bought from a shop in Eastbourne and taken to a house with a lovely sea view. After a few days there a lady put some writing in me, popped me in my envelope and took me to a big red thing. She poured me in its mouth and I sat bewildered in its dark stomach with lots of other letters for a few hours. Then a man came and took us all out. The next few days were a crazy mixture of being pushed around and lying still. Eventually I was put into the mouth of something else with a few others. We landed on a mat and a dog barked at us.

My envelope was opened and I was now at a different house with a garden but no sea and a very noisy child! I stayed happily on the wall there for a couple of weeks and then was sent off again with all the other cards.

Again a lot of lying around or sudden activity with nice people smiling at me. I had my back cut off and was made into a square. Eventually , after a long time I was taken to a lady called Jill who stuck a new back on me and gave me a fancy edging.

A few days later a lady chose me and 5 others to go back to her house. She was a bit old and forgetful so she did not recognise me bit I remembered her and the child was now much bigger and even noisier! She put some writing in me and, again, I went into another red things' mouth.

Imagine my surprise when I was finally opened again and there I was back in the house with the lovely sea view. This lady did recognise me and was very amused to see me again!



Val White—(with help from sister Judy)



The Parish of Meltham Christ the King would like to offer our huge congratulations to **Nigel Priestly**, who has been named in the Queen's New Year 2021 Honours List in which he has been awarded an **MBE in recognition of his services to Children and Families**.

Nigel Priestley, Lay Reader at St James' Church, Meltham Mills, is a senior partner at Ridley & Hall and one of the UK's most respected care and adoption specialist solicitors. Nigel said "It was truly unexpected but very moving to get it". Well done Nigel!



**Photos**  
**from**  
**around the**  
**Parish**

