

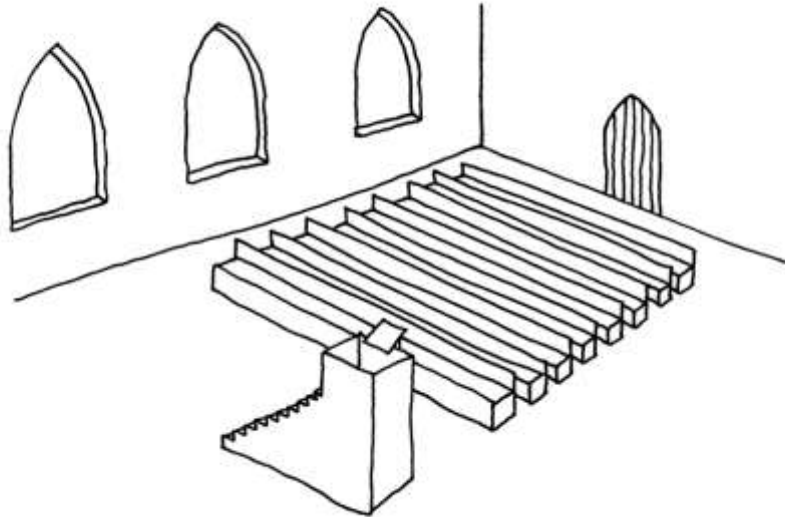
THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING



50p

March 2021

THE CHURCH IS EMPTY



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PRESCRIPTIONS



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Staying Connected

Want to keep connected while in Lockdown?

Here are some reminders on how to keep up to date with what is available to you.

If you have access to email then why not subscribe to the parish website? You will receive an email when new things are posted to the website like the latest service from Rev John or this magazine for example. So just head over to:

www.melthamparish.co.uk find where you can enter your email address and click 'subscribe' it will send you an email immediately with a link for you to confirm. You will then start to receive all the latest news & updates (You can unsubscribe at any time) check your spam or junk folder if you don't receive the email.

"Meltham Church at Home!" is a WhatsApp group for people to share thoughts, encouragement and prayer or even photos to brighten up your day. You won't feel alone with over 60 others in the group! (You don't have to be a member of a church to join) To gain access download the app and contact the group admin Nigel Priestly on: **07885 430085** to be included.



'Zoom' is a video conferencing app been used by St Mary's, Wilshaw for weekly **Sunday morning services at 11.15**. To gain access download the app onto a device that has a microphone and a camera, such as a tablet or mobile.

If you would like to go on the mailing list to get the zoom link for our services please contact Jacqueline on 01484 663867 or email Jacqueline.france@interface.com

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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 ...

Hello!

Welcome to March's edition of the magazine which we have managed to get printed again for you. So if you need a copy for your friends please do collect from the usual distribution points.

There is lots of love and kindness flowing around this months edition with a history of Mothers day (pg 10) and lots of examples how we have shown kindness to each other during the past year (pg 12)

This month I would like to give a special 'Thank you' to those who have contributed this month. I really couldn't have done it with out your help! But we aren't out of lockdown yet so still keeping sending in your content for next month, of how you've been creative or those jokes or stories you've heard or the poems you've written to help keep this magazine going,

The next deadline will be:

Friday 19th March

Send your submissions via:

melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com

or

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

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

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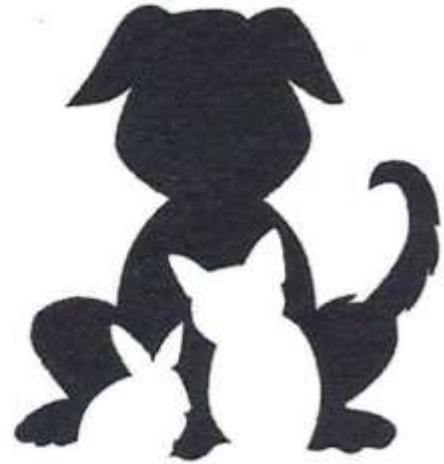
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Letter from your Vicar.

In this year's lent reflections, I am inviting people to think about fellowship. This is an important subject and perhaps broader and deeper than many of us would usually think. We generally think of fellowship as spending time with other Christians, time with Christian friends. But is that all that it is, or all that it should be? Should it be something bigger, should it be something more fundamental in the life of the Church and in the life of each Christian?

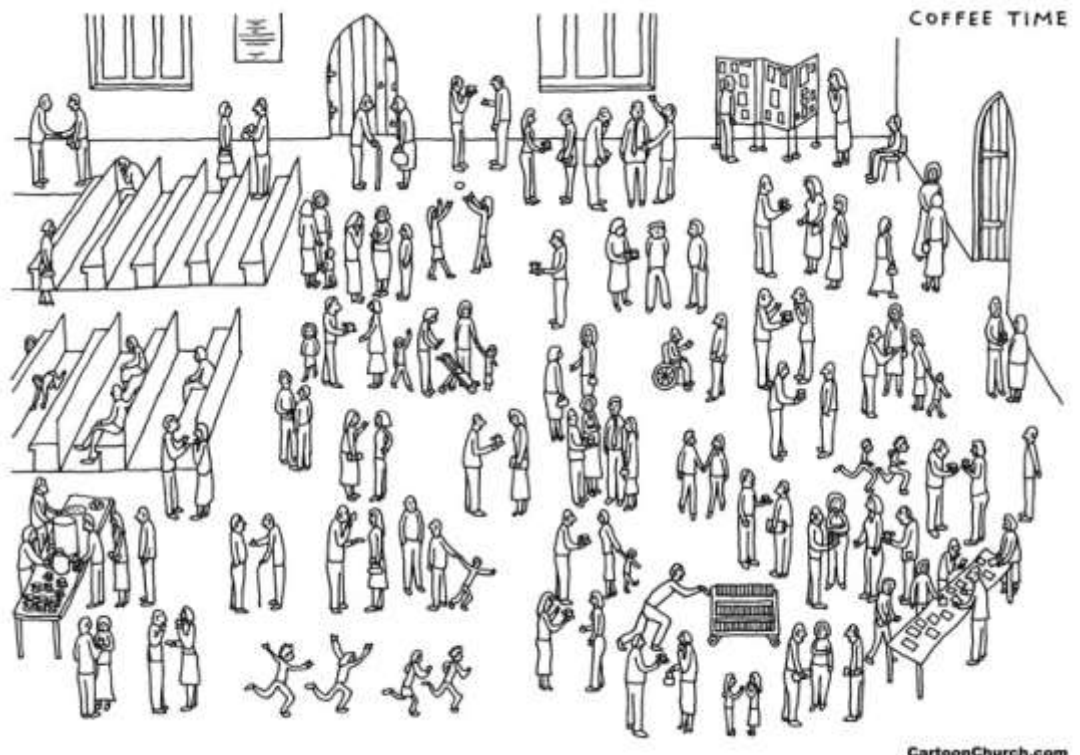
Fellowship is the way in which we relate to each other, how we socialise and spend time together, but also how we support one another in good times and bad. Our fellowship is not just with each other. As the body of Christ, our fellowship is a key part of our relationship with God. As people outside the Church look in, they see fellowship within the body of Christ and judge not only us but God himself, they should see the image of God reflected within his body, the Church.

I'm sure that these kinds of questions are good questions at any time but, as we hopefully move towards the end of lockdown and begin to think about rebuilding, I believe they are more pressing than ever. After the loneliness of the last year, what kind of fellowship are we returning to, what kind of fellowship do we want to be, and what kind of fellowship might we be inviting people to join?

If you would like to access these reflections, they will be available on our YouTube channel, or through a transcript version. Both of these can be accessed through our Church website. www.melthamparish.co.uk If you struggle to access our website, then please ask a friend who might be able to print out the written version. It will be helpful if you are able to discuss some of the questions with someone. We will be holding a Zoom discussion at 6:00pm on Sunday evenings but, if you prefer then you can discuss with any friend you wish.

God bless

Reverend John
Dracup (Vicar)





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Thank you

At 'Carols in the Car Park' there was a collection for 'Simon on the Streets' which was then matched by Morrisons. We recently received this lovely 'thank you' note.

Dear Richard,

As the Simon on the Streets outreach worker for Kirklees I would like to express my personal and heartfelt thanks to you and your fellow members of the Meltham Church congregation for the wonderful donation of £1,000. This is a most generous and unexpected gift and will be of huge benefit to the people I work with and support in Kirklees.

Whilst my main role is outreach for rough sleepers on the streets, there is also a great deal of work that takes place behind the scenes to ensure that they receive a tailor made package of care.

For example, they may have injuries and painful sores to their feet which need the services of a podiatrist. In addition, I am able to provide people with creams, socks, shoes and insoles where most needed. I also get people a basic mobile phone with regular weekly top ups which are vital for their safety and it also encourages regular engagement with me. In addition, I also provide daily and weekly bus tickets so people can keep in touch with their family and keep important appointments. Other costs arise from providing haircuts, dental visits and treatment, new clothes and underwear, hot meals, drinks, sleeping bags, rucksacks, torches etc. Also, if someone has a pet dog, we pay for veterinary treatment where needed.

As you can see, the list is endless, but now with your generous donation Simon on the Streets can continue providing as much care as is needed to a much marginalised group of people. For this I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Stay safe and stay well.

Kind regards,

Tracy Cagney

Outreach Worker - Kirklees

Simon on the Streets



The history of Mothering Sunday

(From: www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/holydays/motheringsunday)

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Although it's often called Mothers' Day it has no connection with the American festival of that name.

Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family.



History of Mothering Sunday

Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'.

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area.

Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.)

And most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

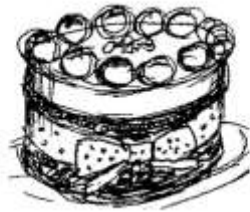


Traditional Foods

Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed that day.

Originally, both Old and New Testament lessons on mid-lent Sunday made a point of food.

The Gospel reading from the New Testament told the story of how Jesus fed five thousand people with only five small barley loaves and two small fish.



Simnel cake

The food item specially associated with Mothering Sunday is the Simnel cake.

A Simnel cake is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle.

The cake is made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.

Why Simnel?

The name Simnel probably comes from the Latin word *simila* which means a fine wheat flour usually used for baking a cake.

There's a legend that a man called Simon and his wife Nell argued over whether the cake for Mothering Sunday should be baked or boiled. In the end they did both, so the cake was named after both of them: SIM-NELL.



Perhaps this Mothering Sunday we could give thanks for everyone who has cared for us and pray for anyone who is struggling with their caring role at the moment.

We could also pray for the members of our family and of our church who we have not seen for some time.

Love in action during Lockdown



We asked people to contribute instances of when they had seen love in action, however big or small, over the last year.



One of our neighbours brought us two cupcakes as it was her birthday. She'd hoped to have a coffee morning but did this instead. It was a lovely surprise and we enjoyed the cakes! *Alison Whiteley*



I am a volunteer and Trustee at The Welcome Centre, a foodbank in the centre of Huddersfield. During Lockdown I have seen many examples of love in action.

Love in action was demonstrated by the small group of volunteers and staff that came in day after day to keep the warehouse running, man the phones, buy food and other items and prepare packs ready for delivery. Love was also shown by officials within Kirklees Council who responded magnificently to the Covid challenge, providing us with vans and drivers each day. Thanks to that decision we were able to switch to a delivery model and keep providing crisis packs to our clients each day.

Love in action was also demonstrated by the residents of Kirklees who responded magnificently with financial donations, when we had to close our warehouse to the public. We saw a ten fold increase in on-line giving—quite amazing and humbling!

That generosity allowed us to buy all the food we needed and we also received many corporate donations of money and food from local businesses.

The willingness and desire of people to help at a time of crisis is truly inspiring.

Throughout the summer, a few packets of 'chicken noodle soup' would appear in our letter box, two or three times a week. I was volunteering one day when I saw them come through the letter box. So I opened the door to see who the mystery donor was. It turned out he was someone who we had helped in the past. He thought we were doing a great job in difficult circumstances and wanted to do his bit to support us—love in action! *Richard Whiteley*

Each time I walk up or down the Greenway I think with gratitude of two anonymous older gentlemen (snapped by a passer by who posted them on Facebook) who voluntarily cleared the path of leaves and debris towards the end of last year. It must have taken them several days. *Jean Burhouse*



An Act of Kindness - No Matter How Small.

I think it is hard to write about this subject, when one probably ought to think it would be easy. This is because kindness is subjective. What is an act of kindness to me may come as a triviality to you – or a natural, to be expected, act of courtesy within the norms of society – and vice-versa.

An act of kindness can be a glance or smile of approval and encouragement. It can be a non-verbal sound or simple word, a greeting or gesture that says, “You are welcome, cared for, appreciated or belong.” These are small things to some but huge things to others. I count myself fortunate to experience some these at least every day and I hope you do too.

And so the search to pick out a simple kindness to share with you, that happened to me recently, went on! The one that is possibly a little out of the ordinary can be difficult to pull out of the bag, especially when put on the spot. So, here’s one that I found to be a kindness but others may not.

Yesterday afternoon I received an unexpected yet very welcome phone call from a polite and attentive young shop assistant. She told me that she was about to ring their factory again, as she had promised to do each week, for an update on my order (which she had marked ‘urgent’ but was nevertheless expected to take at least another 10 days) but to her surprise it had already been completed and was there at their shop in Huddersfield.

A couple of hours later I was delighted and so relieved to receive my glasses back, with brand new, clear lenses, that I could actually see through again – and at no charge! There is more to this story and I am sure God played a hand in it. I was treated with great respect and kindness. There were God-instances whereby everything fell into place to put me in that shop on yesterday’s snowy afternoon – and I could feel it! Unfortunately, there is no further space to go into this here, apart from of course to say: “Thank you Lord!”

I’m sure that if you think hard about it, you’ll have God-incidences of your own to share.

With love, stay safe,
Dennis

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FELLOWSHIP

**What does this mean for you? What does it mean to others?
What does it involve?**

After a year of 'isolation' and 'socially distant' let us take some time during lent to understand what it means to be in 'Fellowship'.

Over the few weeks this is what is being looked at and discussed during Lent this year.

You can take part in many different ways:
Via Zoom at 6pm on a Sunday evening
or

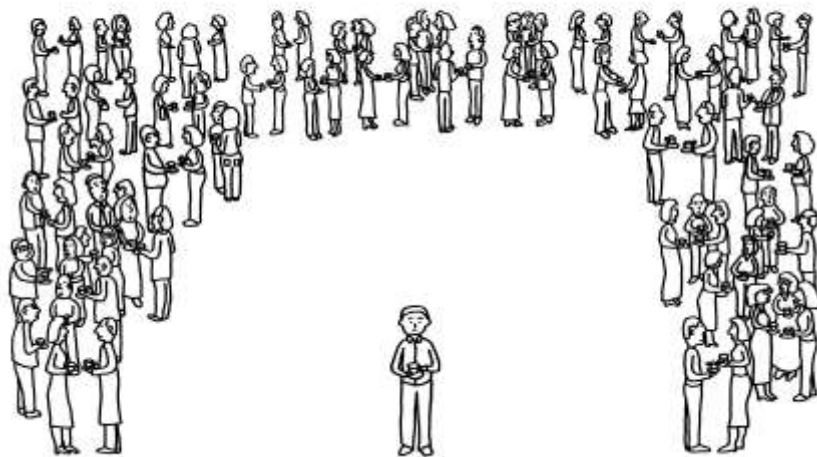
Individually at a time that you choose via YouTube. If you miss a week, don't worry it will be there for you to catch up later.

Please see the church website for links and more info
www.melthamparish.co.uk

If you or someone you know doesn't have any access to the internet then Rev John has prepared a transcript and discussion questions each week which you may want to think about individually or over the phone/garden fence with someone else.

AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN NEWCOMERS CAN GET TO KNOW THE CONGREGATION



CartoonChurch.com

This is also available from the church website so get in touch with someone (including us) to print off a copy or two.

Daily Bible Readings for the month of March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 st	Jeremiah 7:21-end	John 6:41-51
2 nd	Jeremiah 8:1-15	John 6:52-59
3 rd	Jeremiah 8:18-9,11	John 6:60-end
4 th	Jeremiah 9:12-24	John 7:1-13
5 th	Jeremiah 10:1-16	John 7:14-24
6 th	Jeremiah 10:17-24	John 7:25-36
7 th (Sun)	Exodus 20:1-17	John 2:13-22
8 th	Jeremiah 11:1-17	John 7:37-52
9 th	Jeremiah 11:18-12,6	John 7:53-8,11
10 th	Jeremiah 13:1-11	John 8:12-30
11 th	Jeremiah 14	John 8:31-47
12 th	Jeremiah 15:10-end	John 8:48-end
13 th	Jeremiah 16:10-17,4	John 9:1-17
14 th (Sun)	1 Samuel 1:20-end	Luke 2:33-35
15 th	Jeremiah 17:5-18	John 9:18-end
16 th	Jeremiah 18:1-12	John 10:1-10
17 th	Jeremiah 18:13-end	John 10:11-21
18 th	Jeremiah 19:1-13	John 10:22-end
19 th	Jeremiah 19:14-20,6	John 11:1-16
20 th	Jeremiah 20:7-end	John 11:17-27
21 st (Sun)	Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 12:20-33
22 nd	Jeremiah 21:1-10	John 11:28-44
23 rd	Jeremiah 22:1-5, 13-19	John 11:45-end
24 th	Jeremiah 22:20-23,8	John 12:11
25 th	Jeremiah 23:9-32	John 12:12-19
26 th	Jeremiah 24	John 12:20-36a
27 th	Jeremiah 25:1-14	John 12:36b-end
28 th (Sun)	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Mark 11:1-11
29 th	Lamentations 1:1-12a	Luke 22:1-23
30 th	Lamentations 3:1-18	Luke 22:24-53
31 st	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Luke 22:54-end

Daily Prayer

Opening prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy, to you be praise and glory forever.

In the darkness of our sin, your light breaks forth like the dawn and your healing springs up for deliverance. As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help, sustain us with your bountiful Spirit and open our lips to sing your praise.

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

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

The readings for the day may be found on page 19

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 and everlasting God,

You hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:

Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we,

Worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,

May receive from you, the God of all mercy,

Perfect remission and forgiveness;

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.**

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Acts of Kindness (continued)

Kindness

For me it's been small acts of kindness that can often transform a day. An unexpected message from a friend, or a telephone call suggesting a walk when you know they are busy.

Someone lending me a book that they thought I would like.

A relative explaining a maths problem to help with home education.

Support from work colleagues who patiently explain for the third time where the masks and wipes are kept (I'm sure they move them).

Coming down to the Centre to clear up only to find it's been done.

Small acts of kindness can really make my day. *Sue Priestley*



A few moments of kindness

A friend who loves baking but was concerned they had gained weight over lockdown decided to bake us a lovely lemon drizzle cake and some scones in order to keep baking without it affecting their waistline. Not only were they delicious, but a touching reminder that others are still thinking of us during these trying times.

Strangers say hello, smile more and even exchange a few words when out walking, including myself. As social creatures this can make an immense difference to someone.

Love and kindness can also be unseen through prayer for one another. I often pray at work for patients and colleagues without them realising. *Caroline Horvath*



**We can all contribute to an act of Kindness for the Church Hall by doing the following if you shop and are a member of the Co-op.
If you are not a member its £1 to join.**

MELTHAM PARISH CHURCH HALL

This year, the church hall is one of the Co-Op Community causes and you can support this by logging onto: **coop.co.uk/membership** or if you cannot do this, you can call **0800 068 6727**. **Option 1** is to sign up for membership and **Option 2** is to choose which cause to support.

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St Mary's Report

As the church is still paused we had a service of the word on zoom on Sunday 17th January. Rev John Dracup led the service and took for his theme "God calls" We heard about God calling Samuel and about Jesus calling His disciples who in turn called others to come and see. We also thought about how we need to be alert to God's call in our own lives. Jacqueline France read the lessons, Kim Howe led the prayers and Elizabeth Pearson provided the music. Our thanks go to all who prepare the services, provide our zoom link and the power point presentations each week and to all who join us for the services.

On Sunday 24th January a service of Holy Communion took place on zoom. It was wonderful to welcome 16 people from around the parish to this service which was led by Rev Judy Kenworthy. Rev Dennis Shields read the lessons and Lay Reader Jacqueline France offered prayers. Rev Judy spoke about how much God loves us and how we should care for one another. She also reminded us that through Jesus we have a wonderful hope for better things to come - Jesus transforms the water of everyday struggles into the sparkling wine of a joyful and safe future. Following the service, we usually have a nice chat with one another and it is good to have this time of fellowship as well as to worship together.

The following week Jacqueline led a Service of the Word. We enjoyed three hymns accompanied by Elizabeth on the keyboard and played a "Guess Who" game organised by Judith Moore. Lucy read the lessons and Kim led prayers. In her talk Jacqueline asked us to think about this question - who is Jesus and who do we think He is? She shared a video of people praying for God's help in the healing of people and for peace in the world. These prayers were in different languages and from many different countries and cultures and made us realize we are not alone. On the first Sunday of February Lay Reader Jacqueline led a service on zoom. John Andrews read the lessons, Rev Judy led the intercessions and Elizabeth and Peter provided the music - Keyboard and flute. Jacqueline continued with her theme about who Jesus is and based her talk on John 1 vv1-14 and the Nicene creed.

On Valentine's Day we shared a communion service on zoom at 11.15am. Rev John led the service and was celebrant. Elizabeth and Peter provided the music, Jacqueline led the prayers and Judith Moore read the lessons. Rev John likened us to bean tins (clay jars) reminding us that it is not the container that is important but what is inside it. God fills each person with His love and His glory. All the hymns were based on "love" and at the end of the service we sang "Happy Birthday" for Rev John, Kim and Jonah. Once again, we enjoyed a good chat with one another before signing off.

If you would like to join in with St Mary's Wilshaw on a Sunday then the details can be found on the inside front cover of this magazine.

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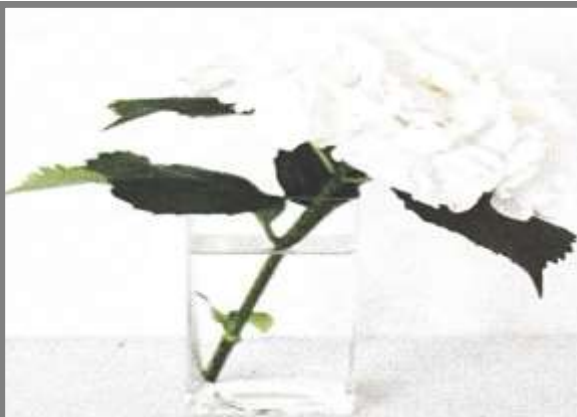
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Eric March

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 : February Winners:

111	£50 Mrs. H. Bamforth
661	£10 Mrs. K. Cockcroft
065	£10 Miss B. Hirst
410	£10 Mr. P. Kaye
965	£10 Mrs. P. Beastow

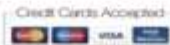
There are still several vacancies in the 200 Club. If you would like to become a member & support the Church Hall, please contact
Michael Farrel 07768258257
m.farrellphd@btinternet.com
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BELL HOUSE REPORT

We are still unable to visit the residents due to coronavirus restrictions but continue to keep them in our prayers. We hope they have all had their vaccinations now and Spring is just around the corner so hopefully things are looking up.

Please pray for them and their carers to stay safe and well and also for those at Green Acres and Helme Hall.

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CROSSROADS CENTRE



February 12th marked the 25th birthday of the Crossroads Shop. Plans were made for a real celebration but that was before Covid 19 restricted movement, celebrations or gathering together.

However not to be thwarted (a good Yorkshire word) slices of homemade cake were made packed and delivered to 60 plus volunteers past and present (apologies if you didn't receive yours) to give us all a boost.

Very brief history

In 1995 an old Greengrocers shop was identified as a possible site for a convenient premises to set up a Charity Shop to serve the local Community.

The name came from a verse in Jeremiah 'This is what the Lord says 'Stand at the Crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it' (shared by our then vicar the Rev'd Tony Vigers)

25 years on we continue to seek to be a friendly supportive environment where goods are sold cheaply and given freely when necessary.

Thanks to all our volunteers for the many hours of service over the years. We welcome the new volunteers who have stepped up at this difficult time.

Sue Priestley

Another busy month in the foodbank . We are grateful we continue to be able to meet our clients needs, and these sometimes extend beyond food.

It is so good that we can begin to see the end of the Co Vid pandemic thanks to the vaccine program. However we know that the effect of poverty, loss of jobs and income will be felt by many in our community for years to come.

As just one example. You may have seen on the national news a storey that illustrated this. A single mother from Leeds with a professional Job was made redundant.

The only Job she was able to find that her skills matched is 75 miles away, meaning around trip of 150 miles each day. The cost of travel means her local foodbank, is essential in enabling her to make ends meet.

If you do not accept a Job that a government official deems suitable, your universal credit is either stopped or severely reduced.

I would like to thank our army of dedicated volunteers, who have continued to meet all of the demand on us during the recent bad weather.

Debbie Still



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Meltham Family Page

HD9 Club

The young folk of the HD9 Club have continued to meet on zoom. They have had two games nights as they love playing computer games and there has been lots of chatting and plenty of laughter. It is good to have the chance to share how their studies are going but also to just relax with their friends and have fun. They are going to do some drawings for "Happy Meltham" and to make some spring pictures for Bell House.

"CARE AND SHARE"

This group is open to anyone who is feeling lonely and would like to share friendship and enjoy a bit of company and some conversation. Care and Share takes place on zoom every Tuesday 8pm - 9pm. Each week there is an activity or talk which lasts about half an hour and then time for a friendly chat.

On 19th January they enjoyed a talk about photography and on 26th some park rangers spoke about their work to repair the peat moors. The following week Mary Greenwood spoke about the Assaynu Kayssa Trust a charity that helps people in Ethiopia and this Tuesday they enjoyed having a go at some "Chair Yoga".

For more info please contact **Jacqueline France** 01484 663867

Denis A is Back!

Current Situation - If we run out of doctors and nurses we may need to use vets, have you seen how they take temperatures? Stay home and be safe!

Holidays - We planned to visit Iceland in February, but lockdown scuppered that, so now we plan to visit Morrisons in March and Sainsbury's in April.

Fact - Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking about than men actually spend time thinking.

I have found that there are two ways of arguing with a woman,.. neither one works.

About me - You know you are getting old when it feels like the morning after... but there was no night before.

I found out that there is a special kangaroo that can jump higher than the average house. This is due to its powerful legs and the fact that the average house cannot jump!

I saw a very dirty car, its Reg no. 907X815, so I wrote in the dust '=731205'

M.R.V



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Thank you Eric.



Our dear friend Eric Marsh died in Huddersfield Royal Infirmary on the 28 January 2021. He was 94 years old.

At 6ft 4" Eric was in the Guards at the end of the second World War serving his country in Berlin.

He was a leader of the Baptist Church in Meltham for many years. Eric led services in Meltham and preached in many churches in the area. He nursed his wife Olive through a long 15 year illness and following his wife's death, he immersed himself in many caring roles in our community. He supported Meltham Churches Together often leading the weekly prayer meetings. He provided plant stalls for many charity events including the yearly coffee morning for Crisis the charity for homeless

people. He loved Meltham and Meltham Mills Brass Band, the Saturday morning coffee event at the Parish Hall and the local choirs.

For 17 years he was a member of the Meltham Shoebox Team. He became a friend to many of the volunteers and was passionate about the work of shoeboxes in poor communities in Easter Europe, Africa and the Philippines.

He will be much missed by those he has left behind, but Eric has a deep relationship with God in whose arms he can now rest. **Job done Eric!!!**

Judith Powell



Thank you to all at the Crossroads for 25 years of service to Meltham.



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