## THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING



December 2021

www.melthamparish.co.uk

## THE Indescribable Gift

GOD'S INDESCRIBABLE GIFT is Jesus Christ—All that our **hearts** have ever desired, every **need** we face, every **truth** we seek, and every **blessing** we long for is found in Jesus Christ.

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WHAT A love! What a Savior! What a gift!

-ROY LESSIN

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#### Prayer for Growth

God of Mission Who alone brings growth to your Church. Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions. And power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, In spiritual commitment to you, And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### A note from the editor ...

Happy Christmas!

A very warm welcome to those who may be reading this for the first time. We hope you like it and find something that interest you in it. The magazine is printed every month and is available in our Churches or on the Church website. Melthamparish.co.uk

Thank you to all who have contributed this month and throughout the year. This month is a great Christmas edition and you can find out about all what is happening in our Churches on the centre pages. Also you will find out about all the recent groups that have started up again. Like Alpha (pg 13 )Helme Ladies (pg 19)

The next deadline for the **delayed** January magazine will be:

#### **Monday 3rd January 2022**

Please send them 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

Hester Deacon 657069

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#### Letter from your Vicar.

Christmas is almost here and that is good news for everyone except the turkey and Herod. We will soon be full of joy, mince pies, and chocolate, singing carols in schools, pubs, at the crossroads on Christmas eve, and of course in our Churches too.

Over the last year or so I have chosen to write in these letters about hope on quite a few occasions. At the moment our hope will feel to many like an uncertain or fragile thing. Hospitalisations are reducing but infection rates are still very high. Our economy is growing, and unemployment is low, but many people feel insecure in their jobs, there are supply issues, and Europe appears to be heading into the grip of a fourth wave. We all want and need a good Christmas, but what are we to do with this moment of hope when we can't know and don't understand how the future might look?

At the very first Christmas, Mary held in her arms her new-born baby. I remember holding my first child A tiny and fragile little boy. I didn't know what the future would be like for him but in that moment, I didn't think about it much, the moment was enough. I can't help but imagine that it must have been the same for Mary. In her arms she held the prince of peace, Emmanuel God with us, the almighty creator God, the hope of salvation for the entire world. She didn't fully understand and could imagine what the future would be so, what did she do?

Mary nursed her little boy, she kept him warm and cared for him, she did was natural in that moment, she loved him and treasured the moment. Of course, Mary wasn't the only one who struggled to find a response fitting to that moment, others also did what to them came naturally.

The shepherds and kings all came with presents, lambs, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Strange gifts for a baby, but it was the natural response for each of them. Even the angels didn't really know what was to come but, they knew how to respond, they sang with great joy announcing the good news that God's great plan to show his love to the world had begun.

This Christmas we should do what is natural in this particular, unique moment. We should be generous like the shepherds and three kings giving whatever we can to enable everyone to share in the joy. Like the angels we should be filled with great joy and sing. Perhaps most importantly, we should be like Mary, she cared for her little boy knowing he was fragile, she loved him, and she treasured the moment. Remembering all the times we have been caused to be apart we should treasure this time as a time shared together.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a truly joyful new year.

God bless Reverend John (Vicar)

## CROSSROADS CENTRE

By the time you read this the Crossroads project volunteers will have enjoyed their Christmas party and be well into their preparations for Christmas.

The Shop folk will be busy with people looking for bargains and hoping to find that special something. The Foodbank volunteers will be working double shifts to ensure that everyone can enjoy Christmas without worrying about not having food on the table or presents for their children

In the Centre people will be calling by for advice and assistance and a friendly chat (possibly with mince pies) as their need for support continues whatever the season

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work during this difficult year. Thank you to. all the volunteers at the Shop, Foodbank and Centre and the volunteers waiting patiently to come back to their regular duties in the Centre when the time is right.

Thank you to our Trustees, Advisors and Officers who work so hard to help the Charity run smoothly.

Thank you to the Co-op and Morrisons, Angela at Number 3 Tea room, and Meltham Convenience Store for their ongoing support.

Thank you to all of you who support our work financially, with your time prayers and encouragement.

Thank you to our customers who make all this possible. We couldn't do any of this without you.

On behalf of all at Crossroads, we wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas



As we move towards Christmas, we are reminded that it must be the most lonely and hardest time of the year, to be in need.

Not only is there the physical need that we aim to meet in the foodbank. But also, the massive emotional need. Imagine for a moment, facing Christmas when the media, the shops, and even seeing people walking around in the street shopping is shouting at you buy, buy, it's the way to true meaning and happiness, and you are wondering how to feed yourself and possibly your family. You can't even think of the simple pleasure of having the money to go and buy someone a present.

This is not something that is just happening to people in desperate situations in other countries, but is happening across Great Britain, and indeed here in MELTHAM and the surrounding district.

Those of us that work in the Foodbank are so privileged to be able, thanks to the generosity of all our supporters, to reach out to local people who find themselves in significant need. We aim to do so displaying the love of God. How would Jesus respond?



Generously!! I am very proud that this is our aim. WE aim to give a bit over and beyond, and as part of the Crossroads Project reach out to the whole person. Sometimes that is just a chat and a cuppa, sometimes it can be a long sympathetic listen on the phone when the person only intended ringing up for a food parcel, at other times its some legal or debt advice, advocacy with governmental services. Help with School uniform, or clothing from the Crossroads shop.

We are increasingly hearing of people who are too scared to put their heating on. The demand on the foodbank continues to increase month on month. Our ability to meet needs are getting more difficult. We expect the demand on us will be the highest ever this December.

In caring for the whole person not only will we meet the demand, but we will also be providing a small gift or hamper appropriate to the family needs for every one of our recent clients. We can't do this without your Help

#### **How to support us?**

<u>Pray for us</u>. We have a fantastic team, but we are human and do feel the strain. Pray that we will be able to meet the demand, keep cheerful, Keep protected both physically and emotionally. Mostly, we won't let a vulnerable person or family down.

<u>Donate</u>, direct Food gifts to our donation points in the Coop at Meltham and Netherton. At the Crossroads centre, The Crossroads shop, or any of the Churches.

<u>Direct one-off financial donations</u> to the Crossroad's project marked 'foodbank'.

Regular monthly donations, please contact any of us for bank details.

Nominate the Foodbank as your selected Charity with the CO-OP if you have a coop card go on the website and choose the Foodbank and all the charity component of your dividend will go to the foodbank.

Finally, a very big thank you to our local Morrisons who have made the Crossroads Project the Beneficiary of their Community giving tree, which is a great way to make a small anonymous donation. In addition, they will be hosting the Toy donation point for people to give a present to a local child in need.

I wish every reader a blessed and happy Christmas on behalf of the Foodbank team

Debbie

Family Ethics, Family Values

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#### The U in Jesus

Before U were thought of, or time had begun. God even stuck a U in the name of his Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see its true, You can't spell out Jesus and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name, for U He was born that's the reason He came.

This great love for U is the reason He died, It even takes U to spell Crucified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand, He rose from the dead with U in His plan?

The stone spilt away, the gold trumpet blew, and this word resurrection is spelt with a U.

When Jesus left earth on His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He had to mention.

"Now go to the world and tell them its true, that the love I have shown is not just for U"

So many great people are spelled with a U, Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends on how and what U will do, He'd like them to know, but it all starts with U.









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#### "THE GOLDEN YEARS MONDAY CLUB"

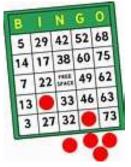
at The Waggon & Horses
Huddersfield Road, Meltham
Every Monday - 1pm to 3pm



Don't stay in on your own, come along for a fun afternoon.

Meet up with friends and enjoy a drink or two.

Tea or Coffee & Cake - £2



A short quiz to test your brain or a game of Bingo

Listen to music of your era for a singalong.

#### **Alpha in Meltham**

What is the Alpha Course? The official answer is: "Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is a chance to ask questions and explore the Christian faith in a fun, no-pressure environment. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome".

The Alpha Course in Meltham has given people of no faith, some faith, some with no church connection, some who have occasional church visits and some very mature Christians to chat in a very informal and relaxed way.

There has been on-line Alpha on a Monday night lead by me and a Face-to face Alpha at the Crossroads Centre lead by Cptn John Smith. The format is the same – a film followed by a chat – but the crucial difference is that technology has not yet worked out how to send cake via the Internet! John and his group share chat over coffee, biscuits and buns – which is not happening online!!

Topics have covered How to Pray, Guidance, Who is Jesus? Why did he die? And much more. There have been thoughtful, sometimes very profound discussions in an atmosphere where participants have trusted the group with very personal thoughts. It's lead to people dipping into the Bible for the first time – and then discovering that the King James version given by Grandma at the Christening 25 years ago might not be so easy to read!

It has provided an opportunity for those without faith to reflect on a God who loves them without limits and for those with faith to think about whether they have more to learn and to deepen their faith.

And it's been fun.

There will be another course next year so if this has set you thinking that you'd like to take part, please talk to anyone you know who has been in the groups or let me know. You won't regret it!

Nigel Priestley





#### Thank you, you have saved Christmas A Reminder we celebrate, The Servant King.

#### Christmas Eve 2019, It feels longer than 2 years, it was actually BP (before the pandemic)

We know that Christ calls us to a ministry of service. Yet how quickly I forget and need reminding. Despite the Gospel message, many songs and indeed Christmas carols. Think Good King Wenceslas.

This was my God served reminder from Christmas eve 2019, a Tuesday. (The location is changed for confidentiality reasons, but the distance is roughly the same).

So I got home from work late about 6pm, let's just say it had been a challenging and stressful day! I walked in and shouted something like 'It's Christmas at last, let Christmas begin!'. Debbie greeted this with, "I need you to go to Golcar and deliver a food parcel".

Well lets just say that I did not react with the Grace that you would expect from a Churchwarden or indeed any follower of Christ.

The story was, a mum out of our area had called the foodbank about 1pm. Desperate, no food in the house, no presents for the 3 children.

Why do people leave it so late to call for help? There can be many reasons, it is so difficult to ask for help so maybe you hold on to the last-minute hoping for a miracle, maybe she had been promised money that did not arrive, or anyone of countless other possibilities it really does not matter.

Any how Debbie and one or two other volunteers had rallied round and made up enough food to generously see the family over the holiday. A phone call to the Yorkshire Children's centre had sourced presents which volunteers had wrapped. It just needed Father Christmas to deliver them, except he was rather busy.

Despite knowing the story I still was not in the best of moods as I set off. Having found the house no easy task despite a sat nav, in an area you don't know, I knocked on the door and some excited children shouted "who's that mummy?", "Oh its just a man delivering my shopping" came the reply.

Having completed the delivery, the lady came down the path a little way, away from the door and out of little ears range and said with tears in her eyes, "Thank you, you have saved Christmas!".

That lady for me was like an Angel reminding me what is important in life. I can't remember what we did, or what presents we got during that Christmas, But I will remember her words and expression to my dying day. The Blessing and gift was certainly not just one way.

Mike Still.

#### **Christmas as defined by 1 Corinthians 13**

If I decorate my house perfectly with strands of twinkly lights and shiny balls But do not show love to my neighbour, I am just a decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen baking cakes and arranging food on a beautifully adorned table

But do not share the true meaning of Christmas, I am just another cook. If I volunteer at a soup kitchen, sing carols in hospital, and donate to charity But do not demonstrate simple kindness to strangers, it profits me nothing. If I attend Christmas lunches, with party hats and crackers yet fail to be awestruck by the Christ who gave everything to come as a vulnerable child, I have missed the point.

Love stops cooking to hug a child, and to be still in the presence of 'God with us'.

Love sets aside decorating to kiss a loved one.

Love is kind during Christmas even though sometimes tired.

Love does not envy another's home that has perfectly strung outdoor lights or a flawless tree.

Love does not ask family to get out the way, but is thankful they are in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return or those on our lists,

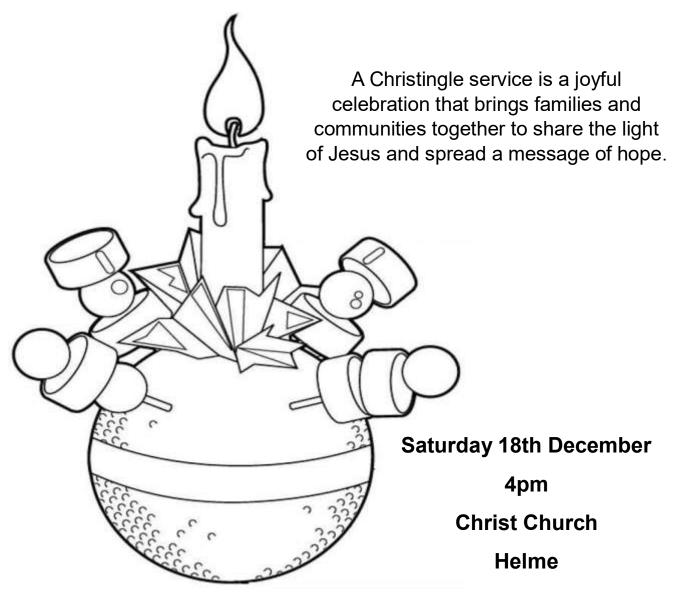
But rejoices in giving to those who can't and those who aren't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails, even at Christmas.



#### Christingle in the Parish of Christ the King.



derieu

- The orange is round like the world.
- The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God.
- The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us.
- The four sticks point in all directions and symbolise North, South, East and West they also represent the four seasons.
- The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets!) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and the rain.

The idea of Christingles came from a Moravian Church in Germany in 1747. The minister, John de Watteville, gave children at the service a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. Today we focus on the work of the Children's Society and a collection will be made.

All are welcome at Christ Church Helme for our family Christingle Service.

#### Christmas Services in the Parish of Meltham Christ the King.

Sunday 5th December, Carols in the park, at 4:00pm Robert Ashton Memorial Park, (off Huddersfield Road/Meltham Mills Road)

Saturday 11th December, Carols in the pub, at 7:30pm
The Wagon and Horses.

Sunday12th December, Carol service, at 6:00pm St Mary's Church Wilshaw.

Saturday 18th December, Christingle, at 4:00pm Christ Church, Helme.

Sunday 19th December, Carol service, at 4:00pm St Bartholomew's Church, Meltham.

Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December, Crib service, at 4:00pm St James Church Meltham Mills.

Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December, Mid-night communion, at 11:30pm St Bartholomew's Church.

#### Christmas day,

9:30am St James Meltham Mills.

10:00am Christ Church Helme.

11:15am St Marys Wilshaw.

#### **Christmas Jumper Sunday!**

We've all got 'em! Those fabulous, loud, cheesey Christmas jumpers. Wear yours to church on Sunday 19th December!



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#### **Helme Ladies Report Sept/October 2021**

Helme Ladies are always ready to have fun and food!! Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October we were having lunch out at the Ford Inn. The food had been ordered in advance, so all we had to do was turn up. It was quite a windy day, but up at the Ford it was wild. We all convened for a 12.30pm start so we had time for a drink before. All I am going to say is that the food was very good, and we all had a good time.

We held our annual flower arranging competition on November 9<sup>th</sup>, competing for the Barbara Quarmby Memorial Cup. This year the theme was a Christmas arrangement with anything from foliage, candles, Christmas trees and anything else you could find. You should have seen the concentration on the faces as the arrangements were created. Although I had done an arrangement myself, I got the awful task of judging as Alan Titchmarsh couldn't be with us. After a lot of mooching around and checking and re-checking a winner was found (not mine I must tell you). The cup was awarded to Margaret Fenton who promised to keep it well polished.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Carol Service and Lunch 7<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Lunch 14<sup>th</sup> December



The Church Hall Steering Group would like to thank all the organisations that have had coffee mornings since starting again at the end of the July, they have all been well supported and it's been wonderful to see and hear the hall buzzing again, we look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

If anyone would like to host a coffee morning we have approximately 5 dates left.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

The <u>Saturday Coffee Mornings</u> take place weekly in the Village Hall, <u>9.30am — 12pm.</u> The following dates are:

4th December - St Bartholomews Christmas Market 11th December - Scouts and Guides 18th December - Mustard Seed

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#### St Mary's Report

It is hard to believe that another year is almost over and that Christmas will soon be here.

Over the last month we shared a Holy Communion service on 24th October, a Service of the Word on 7th November and a Service of Remembrance at 2.30pm on 14th November when some members of the Royal British Legion laid the poppy wreath and presented their standard. This service was quite special as 2021 is the Centenary of the Royal British Legion and thankyou gifts were presented to Peter and Janet and to John for all the hard work they have done in support of the poppy appeal over many years and for supporting St Mary's act of remembrance each year.

On 31st October there was no service at St Mary's as the four congregations that make up the Parish of Meltham, Christ the King came together for a United Service at St James' Church, Meltham Mills. Our thanks go to all who worked so hard to make this a happy time together and for making us so welcome.

On November 7th also saw some of us attend the Parish Memorial service at St Bartholomew's at 4pm as we remembered loved ones who have died over the last few years and to offer comfort to those who miss them. The following Sunday gave us another opportunity to come together with all the churches in Meltham for an open air Service of Remembrance at 10.45 in the grounds of St Bartholomew's Church. This was a moving service, more poignant somehow because we were all gathered around the war memorial.

All the services at St Mary's are held in church but we also share our worship with people on zoom and we even have a lady who joins us from Australia so everyone is welcome. Our thanks go to all who lead our services and all those who read lessons. provide music and the powerpoint presentations and those who lead our prayers.

On 10th November we enjoyed a Fashion Show at Wilshaw Village Hall when seven local ladies made an excellent job of walking the cat walk. This was well attended and approx. £380 was raised towards refurbishing the Hall.

We are now looking forward to a Christmas wreath making workshop and our Carol Service which will take place on Sunday 12th December 2021 at 6pm.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS and a HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR with lots of love from your friends at St Mary's.



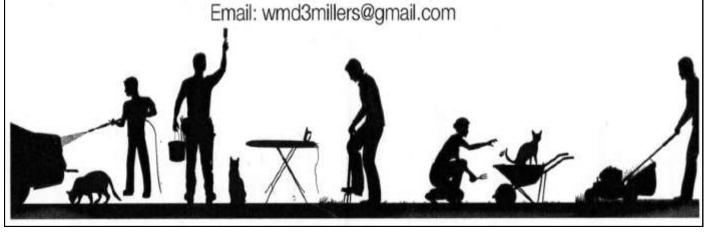
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#### 'Side by Side'

'Side by Side' is a small group run by volunteers who meet to offer friendship and support to people who are beginning to have memory problems or have recently been diagnosed with <u>dementia</u> or <u>Alzheimer's disease</u>.

The group, which has been running now for six years, meets every <u>Monday morning</u> from <u>10.00-12.00</u> at the <u>Methodist Church</u>, <u>Meltham</u>.

There is a small charge of £3.00

We aim to provide a relaxed atmosphere with opportunities to chat; share memories; enjoy a range of activities which all encourage conversation, confidence and generally have a good time on a Monday morning!

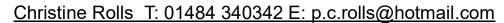


If you would like more information please contact: Judith Powell- 859460 or Jenny Mathers - 850839

#### COMMUNITY CARDS – MELTHAM GROUP Working to support the work of the Welcome Centre.

Meltham Community Card group recycles old greeting cards and produces new greeting cards to sell to raise money for the Welcome Centre in Huddersfield.

They meet each Friday at St James' Church from 10.00-12.00 if you would like to get involved please contact Christine on the contacts below. No experience or fantastic skill required just a willingness to work alongside others to produce the cards – and let's face it where else can you get a really good quality Greeting Card for 50p.







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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

David Horsfall Roger Nash

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 : November Winners:

665	£50	Vacant number
774	£10	Vacant number
787	£10	Vacant number
420	£10	Mr. J. Welsh
715	£10	Vacant number

Yes that's right, Only 1 winner! So why not become a member & support the Church Hall.

Please contact
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David Earnshaw 341968,
C Moulson 850171

#### St Bartholomew's Women's Fellowship

During the 18 months of Lockdown our members have kept in touch with each other. September & October we met in Church for a service taken by Hester Deacon & Elaine Crabtree. Hopefully we will commence the monthly meetings in the New Year starting with the AGM in January. Our Chair person is now Sue Gregory and treasurer, Sue Crowther. Sadly we lost two members during the pandemic, Doreen Holmes and Audrey Draper. Rest In Peace.

New members are welcome, we meet at 2pm on the last Tuesday in the month in church.

#### **BELL HOUSE CARE HOME**

It is wonderful to be able to tell you that services at Bell House Residential Care Home have resumed - obviously with covid safety measures in place - masks, lateral flow tests, sanitizer etc.

Rev Judy Kenworthy led a Service of Remembrance on Wednesday 10th November as we remembered the fallen of two world wars and more recent conflicts. There was a reading from the Bible , we sang two hymns and observed a minutes silence.

Next month - carol service on Wednesday 8th December at the new time of 1.30pm.



### T.W. BIRKS



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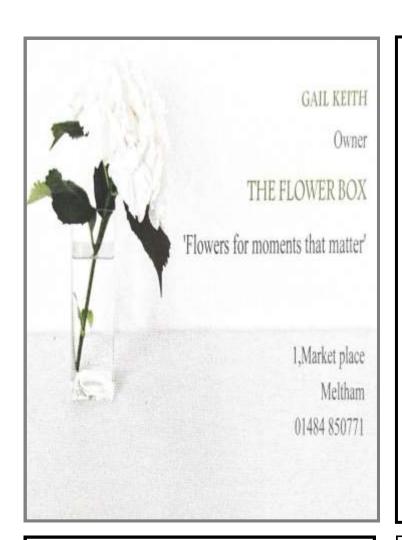
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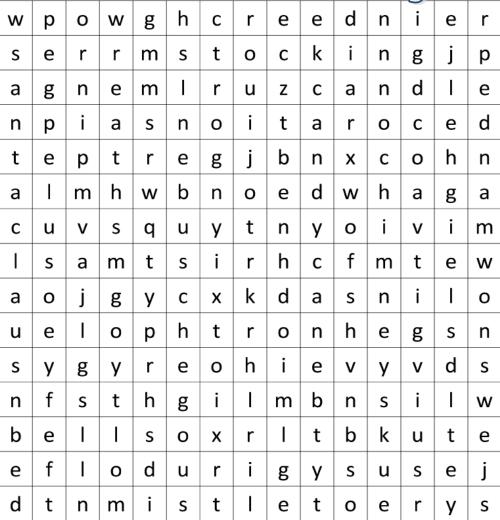
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Meltham Family Page

















Santa Claus Jesus candle lights holly reindeer chimney decorations

wreath stocking present elves mistletoe Christmas North Pole Rudolf

What do you call a greedy elf?

candy cane bells sleigh snowman Answers on the next page

What's a skunk's favourite Christmas song?

- Jingle Smells!

What name did Santa give his dog?

- Santa Paws

What music do elves like?

- Elfish

- Wrap music

What do you get if you cross a snowman and a dog?

- Frost bite

What goes

"Oh, Oh, Oh"?

- Santa walking backwards

Why is Santa so good at Karate?

- Cause he's got a black belt

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

- It's Christmas, Eve!

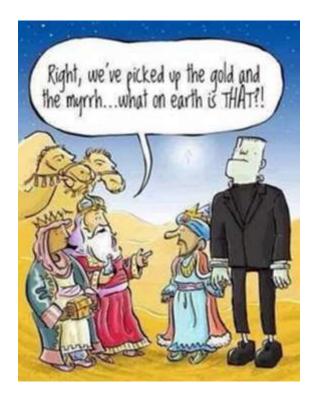
#### **JUST FOR FUN!**

End of Year Self Assessment,

- 1. My bucket list: Keep Breathing!
- 2. I realise that growing old is the dumbest thing I have ever done.
- 3. I am now a multi tasker: I can listen, ignore, and forget all at the same time.
- 4. Retirement to do list: Wake up Nailed it!
- 5. I recently went to an antique auction and found that people were bidding on me.
- 6. I don't have grey hair, what little I have is wisdom hi-lights.
- 7. Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.
- 8. I don't fall. I do random gravity checks
- 9. Losing weight is not working for me, so from now on I'm going to concentrate on getting taller. (Doomed to fail, I think)
- 10. My body is a temple; ancient and crumbling.
- 11. I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing, so I retraced my steps and got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on, but I remembered to write this rubbish for you.

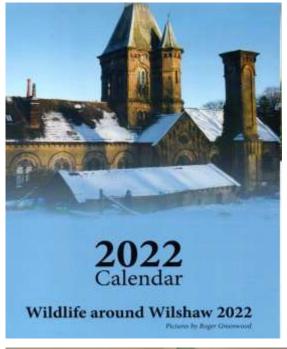
Denis a to a friend: - You're not going to believe this. I have just won a competition on breakfast TV for a holiday in Cyprus. £2,000 spending money, and I can take four friends. I know its short notice, but if you are free from Dec 1st -15th can you please put my bins out? Cheers!

Stay safe, well & happy this Christmas and look forward to a better New Year. God Bless, Denis A.



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Wordsearch answers from pg 29



We are pleased to announce that Rodger Greenwood has produced another wonderful Calendar £7.50 each















The ladies of St Barts Women's Fellowship met in the Parish Hall on 15th Nov for a festive celebration meal. This was a good opportunity for all to get together socially and enjoy a catchup and renew our friendships. The caterers were Rachels Kitchen from the village. The food and service was excellent. As Im sure you would agree from these pics!







"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Christ the King, Christmas tree for the Festival of trees at Meltham Methodist Church, 27th & 28th November.

## Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year!



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