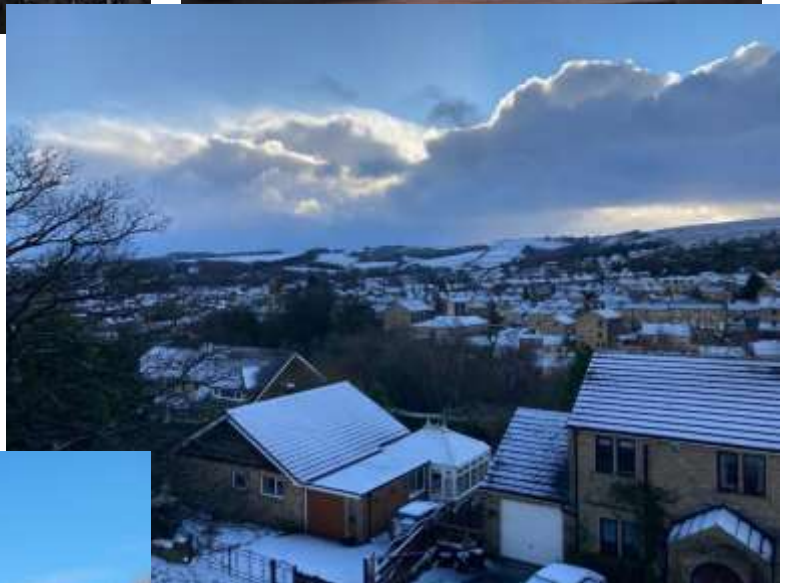


# THE PARISH OF MELTHAM

## CHRIST THE KING



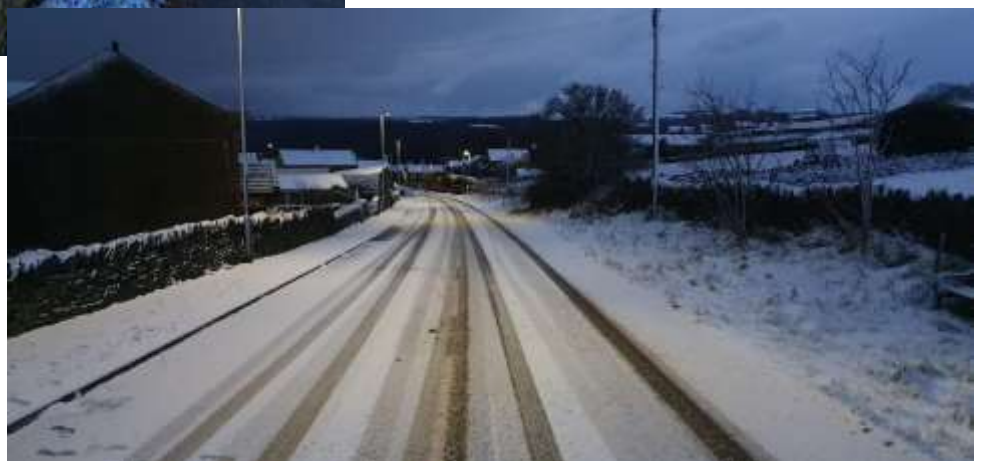
January &



February



2022



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Easter Crafts



**THE CROSSROADS PROJECT**



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Give everything to God and He will give you everything, too!

May this New Year give you more hope  
and reasons to live happily!

**VICAR OF THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING**

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

**PARISH OFFICE CONTACT – email: parishofchristtheking@gmail.com**

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

**CLERGY in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

Assistant Priest Rev. Dennis Shields 850074

Assistant Priest Rev. Peter Rolls 340342

Assistant Priest Rev. John Radcliffe 348806

Assistant Priest Rev. Judy Kenworthy 851158

**AUTHORISED READERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

Mandy Aspland 851789 Nigel Priestley 852005

Jacqueline France 01484 663867 Chris Ryan 851528

**AUTHORISED PASTORAL MINISTERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

Christine Bleasdale 305553 Christine Woods 852268 Patrice Curtis 851498

Irene Harrop 01484 664163 Debbie Still 854889

**CHURCH OFFICIALS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

**Parish safeguarding Officer** Patrice Curtis 851498

**Parish Treasurer** Ruth Murray-Webster 07974 943443

**ST.BARTHOLOMEW'S**

**Churchwarden** Alistair Storey 851498

**Safeguarding Officer** Ann Halstead 316422

**ST. JAMES'**

**Churchwarden** Alison Whiteley 319295 / Mike Still 854889

**Safeguarding Officer** Sarah Glover 854042

**ST. MARY'S**

**Churchwardens** Peter Pearson / Clive Pearson 844289

**Safeguarding Officer** Vicky Ramsay

**CHRIST CHURCH**

**Churchwardens** Irene Harrop 664163

**Safeguarding Officer** Janet Rockett 851424

**All magazine enquiries.**

**melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com**

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



## 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 New Year!

This month I have taken the opportunity to make January and February a Double Issue! Christmas reviews in February feel very out of date and being a full time Mum with 3 young children takes a lot of work! I hope you, our valued readers, appreciate this and the work that goes into every issue being a team of 1. Besides February is a shorter month so you don't have to wait too long till the next issue!

Thank you to all who have contributed and it's a lovely issue full of 'Thank you's (pg 13) and Christmas pictures. (back covers) Please do note the services for the next couple of months on page 23 and the groups starting up again (pg 2, 11, 12 & 23).

The next deadline for the **March** magazine will be:

**Monday 14th February 2022**

Please send them via:

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

I would like to start by thanking everyone involved in our Christmas services this year. Christmas is a wonderful time but also a very busy time for everyone and this is especially true for the Church. All those who offer their time and gifts to help us deliver the extra services are greatly valued. I recognise that balancing the very real need to spend time with family alongside the wish to contribute towards the activities of our community is difficult and tiring. This has been a particular challenge this year in light of the fact that covid restrictions placed such restrictions on our ability to spend time with family last year.

If I were to try to thank everyone involved, I'm sure I would miss out far too many people, but I think it is appropriate to mention some who may often go unnoticed or without thanks. And so, a big thank you to the small team of people who gave up many hours of their own time in pretty bad weather to put up the lights in our village centre. To those who produced the Christingles for our service at Helme and the heating engineer who gave up his Friday evening and Saturday morning so that we could temporarily get the heating working for that service (a more permanent fix is still being worked on). To those at carols in the park who handed out mince pies, provided stewarding to keep us safe, and who dug trenches for wires and filled in mole holes so we wouldn't trip in the dark.

The truth is that our community relies on so many people, not only at Christmas, but for so much throughout the year. People who give their time and energy without pay or who go far beyond what could reasonably be expected of them (including those who produce this magazine).

With this in mind, I turn to wishing you all a very happy new year.

While the last two years have brought many challenges and the current situation in relation to covid is very worrying, I believe there are many reasons to be optimistic about the year ahead. This optimism is not based on vaccines or new antiviral drugs and therapies, though I do believe that these are good things that will help. My optimism is based on our communities continued ability to work together, to help and support each other.

As a Christian I see this as more than simply "a nice idea", I see this as being at the core of how God called us to be. For Christians this is what it means to live out the commandment to "love your neighbour". Over the last two years our community, Christian or otherwise, has shown an ability to help and support each other in challenging times. I hope that this year will soon prove to be **A Happy New Year** which will give us many more opportunities to celebrate together as well.

God bless  
Reverend John (Vicar)

# CROSSROADS CENTRE



## Crossroads Update

A crazily busy end to 2021 as it was all hands on deck to support the Foodbank as volunteers wrapped presents, delivered Food parcels, Christmas hampers and presents and supported clients who were struggling at what can be a very stressful time.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, in the warehouse, in Reception, on the phones and to the Drivers who certainly worked overtime as demand increased.

Parcels covered the floor but we kept up our Christmas spirit as people continued to drop in for a chat and a coffee.

The Crossroads Shop continued busy as usual with lovely displays and plenty to buy. Thanks to the volunteers who did extra shifts to ensure all the work got done.



At the Crossroads Christmas Party, we were well entertained by a small group from Meltham and Meltham Mills Band who provided us with their rousing selection of Christmas Carols and Songs.



How fortunate we are to have them in our village.

We were also able to welcome a local Sea shanty group 'Holme and Dry' Their rendition of 'It's all part of being a pirate' caused great hilarity and audience participation

On a more serious note we were greatly saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Hazel Beaumont a Shop Volunteer, a volunteer who always worked hard and with good humour. She also contributed to our understanding of the value of objects sold having run a antique shop in Huddersfield for many years, She will be sorely missed and we send our best wishes to her family and friends.

Best wishes Sue Priestley



## News from The Food Bank.

And My God Will Provide All Your Needs According To His Glorious Riches In Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19.

As Expected we have had a very busy Christmas at the Foodbank.

We are currently supporting about 100 families each month. I have not got the Exact number for December yet, but I am sure it will be higher.



In addition, we provided Christmas hampers to 85 families and age-appropriate presents for 124 Children.

There are too many people to thank and as always I am sure I will miss somebody, so please accept my apologies.

I need to thank our dedicated and committed team of volunteers. Who work continuously throughout the year. At Christmas the team at a busy time for them, pulled out all the stops, to meet the extra demand. I heard many stories of people going above and beyond, including one person labelling presents at 3 am.

We could not do this without the fantastic support from our community. Again I can't mention everyone but to name a few, Thank you to Morrisons Staff led by their community champion Rachel. The management and staff of both Netherton and Meltham Co-op who in addition to faithfully supporting us throughout the year, both organised Giving trees ,extra fund-raising raffles, and present collections. Meltham Covenance store and their customers raising more funds through a raffle. Staff at Meltham Dental Care, Meltham WI, and the staff at Meltham Moor primary school.

It is truly humbling to think of all the goodwill and selfless support our wonderful community gives us, not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

I now really need to appeal for more help.

Our team of volunteers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. We have had to keep numbers down to keep safe. But with the demand continuing to increase and we know we are facing a massive cost of living crisis in 2022, with energy bills predicted to rise by 50% inflation at 6% and rising, interest rates rising, to name just a few. I suspect we will need to increase our opening hours.

Many of us are exhausted and can't give any more. Therefore, **we desperately need to increase our volunteers.** If you can or know anyone who can join us, please contact us via the foodbank phone or via our Facebook page. We need drivers, warehouse staff, and help with admin to name just a few of the tasks.

I am hoping to organise a volunteer training and induction event shortly. We are a friendly and supportive group, and although at times it can be challenging, it is also very rewarding.

Food bank phone number 07564764137

Debbie and the Foodbank Team.



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## **'Singing for Health'**



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There's an accessible lift should you need it.

We sing a variety of songs from different eras and you don't have to be able to read music. We also stop for a chat and a cup of tea!

You can try your first session for free then each one costs £4.

Here are some comments from people who attend:

🎵 It's the best day of the week.

🎵 I love singing the songs.

🎵 It's the perfect antidote to lockdown.

🎵 It's a friendly group and everyone is made welcome.

🎵 I can't sing for toffee! There is no pressure.

🎵 I always feel uplifted.

It would be lovely to see you there!

For more details contact Kate Buchanan  
on 07780 548689 or email [katebuchanan57@gmail.com](mailto:katebuchanan57@gmail.com)



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## HELP WANTED!

Do you have a Poem to share or found something interesting to share from your travels? Maybe you want to make a public "Thank you" or even seen a funny story or picture.

Then please do send it in to put in the magazine. All contributions will be considered.

Send via email to:

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

Or via the Vicarage letterbox:

150 Huddersfield Road, HD9 4AL

Want to be involved creating the mag?  
Then please do get in touch.

## ***"THE GOLDEN YEARS MONDAY CLUB"***

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Every Monday - 1pm to 3pm*



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***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.***



## St Bartholomew's Church Steering Group



Thank you so much to all of you who came and supported the Christmas Market on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

It was a very wet and windy morning and we did wonder would this put people off turning out, but no! from opening the doors at 10 the hall was busy and buzzing.

We had a fantastic selection of stall holders and a huge thank you to all of them for supporting our very first Christmas Market, we did feel sorry for the sweet man who battled the elements outside but by 11.30ish we were able to bring him inside as our bottle tombola had sold out.

The coffee, mulled wine and mince pies were all eaten and drunk and we would like to say a massive thank you to our local coop for providing the coffee and tea bags (which they do for all coffee mornings) and Rachael, Morrison's Community Champion for her support and providing the mince pies.

The feedback and comments from the stall holders have been very encouraging

'It was wonderful, so busy, well organised', 'Lovely Atmosphere'

'We both had a lovely time, thank you for asking us'

'Thank you I enjoyed it! Thanks for thinking of me it was very well organised'

'It was great, Lots of lovely people and fantastic sales. The best I've ever done at a craft fair! It was just the right length too.'

Thanks for all your hard work in organising it. Hope to see you again in the future'

**Watch this space, covid permitting we may have another Fayre in 2022**



## Thank you

It was great to be able to once again hold the 'Crisis' coffee morning in St. James' Church. Whilst the event is held to raise funds for the charity, we know that it is much more than that for many people. For some visitors it is the start of their Christmas and, especially this year, it was a good opportunity to catch up with friends. It was lovely to see whole families browsing the stalls or enjoying a coffee.

As organisers, we remain forever grateful for the generosity of everyone who supports the event and we are delighted to say that, with donations, we have been able to send £4,722.40 to Crisis UK.

Alison and Richard Whiteley



## There they Go!

On the afternoon of Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, we watched the lorry leave Meltham loaded with the 3471 shoeboxes from the Meltham Shoebox Team along with the shoeboxes that had already been loaded at Grimsby by the T4U team there.



This was the culmination of lots of hard work and brilliant support from the people of Meltham and surrounding areas of Yorkshire. Many people had been busy preparing and obtaining shoebox items in readiness for starting our weekly Friday morning preparation sessions, starting at the beginning of September, at St. James, Meltham Mills. From 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November the Meltham warehouse became a hive of activity as shoeboxes were filled, and the incoming shoeboxes were checked, before being packed into large cartons. The total number of shoeboxes exceeded last year's total by over 1000 and this was a wonderful result.



As the 323 cartons, containing our Meltham shoeboxes, were being loaded onto the lorry, I spotted some of the cartons that I had personally packed with my writing on the outside. I thought that the next time someone would see that writing would be 1737 miles away in Moldova when the cartons would be being unloaded from the lorry to then be prepared for distribution.

And we can take great satisfaction in knowing just how much these shoeboxes will mean to the children who will receive them this Christmas.

We refer to the shoeboxes as being “Love in a Box” and, when the children open their shoebox, it says to them that, even though they will never know who sent the Christmas gift to them, what they do know is that someone, somewhere cares about them. And it is this that motivates us to be involved in the Meltham Shoebox Team as part of the T4U Charity



So, our work at the Meltham warehouse, based at St James Church, Meltham Mills, was all leading up to this moment, on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, when the boxes left Meltham to begin their 1737-mile journey to Moldova in Eastern Europe. A journey that would end with the smiling faces of 3471 children.

It was quite an emotional moment to watch the lorry being driven out of the gates of TayTrans Ltd and along Bent Ley Road.

As Meltham Shoebox Team, lead by Judith Powell, we can look back on a very successful 2021 shoebox campaign despite the Covid-19 pandemic still rearing its ugly head.

But before we know it, after just a few weeks break, we will be planning our 2022 campaign. We always welcome new people and so, if you would like to help bring smiles to children in Eastern Europe, then we would love for you to join our team.

Christopher Dronsfield



## **THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS**

By Pam Murgatroyd

“Christmas is all over” you will now hear people say,  
The turkey is all finished and decorations put away.

But Christmas is not over, it is really just the start  
Of bringing us all together, nothing driving us apart.  
Christmas is not just presents, lots of food, a Christmas Ball,  
It began with the birth of Jesus, who was born to save us all.  
When we sang Christmas Carols, they told a story that is true  
And if you read the Bible, it's in Matthew and Luke 2.

The only presents mentioned are from shepherds or three Kings,  
No mention of a Christmas Tree piled up with favourite things.

He taught us to be tolerant, to love and not to fight,  
To live at peace and not make war, like other people might.

So Christmas is not over, it's the beginning that's for sure,  
For 'Christ' is Jesus, the Son of God, and in Spanish 'mas' means more.



## CAROLS IN THE PARK

Carols in the Park is an integral part of the weekend that kick starts Christmas in Meltham. This year, more than most, confirmed its importance. Meltham saw the most amazing weather for the event. On Saturday, the switching on ceremony for the Christmas Lights went online as the driving rain prevented anyone physically attending the event. On Monday the deluge continued.



But Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December started bright and fair – but slightly windy. By 4pm the wind had dropped and Robert Ashton Memorial Park was dry and calm for the 400 plus people who came along. This year we were celebrating the role of essential workers. Instead of readers from local schools, we had a teacher, a representative from a local care home, a nurse, Pam Cox on behalf of the local retailers and a representative from the Crossroads Meltham Foodbank. The Mayor Cllr Roberta Bampton and Rev John Dracup played key roles, the one thanking the essential workers and the other sharing the Good News of Real Love at Christmas.

We have a great working relationship with community organisations – the joint Choir from our local schools and the Meltham Community Choir sang beautifully. We are indebted to Cllr Richard Noon who helped us to find expert sound engineer who made sure everyone could hear the event and to the Town Council for a grant to help pay for the event. Meltham Crossroads made sure with a grant that there was enough money to provide a safety net for outstanding expenses. Music came from Meltham and Meltham Mills Brass Band and Simon Ball was on hand at the right moment with his skills. Richard Whiteley steered us through the Carols and Readings in his inimitable style!



We had lots of volunteer stewards who gave out Morrisons Mince Pies, Carol Sheets and little organza bags containing a red heart shaped candle with the message “Real Love at Christmas – Jesus born in Bethlehem, the Light shining in the darkness.” Those who came seemed keen to take them.

There was a collection for the local homeless charity Simon on the Streets and over £330 was collected.

There’s nothing quite like this event anywhere else in Huddersfield – and beyond! But the most important fact is that those who come seem to enjoy it and see it as something important, even magical . And it provided a platform for Rev John to share the message of Jesus’ birth to more people than would ever now attend a Carol Service in church.

So thanks again to all who made it happen!





## CAROLS IN THE PUB

There is no event quite like Carols in the Pub in Meltham. If you have never been, keep your diary clear for the Saturday night in December when the Waggon and Horses is transformed!

This year, the Waggon had plenty of unsuspecting Carol singers! They may have come into the pub thinking they were meeting with their friends for a few pre-Christmas drinks. By the end of the evening they had burst their lungs singing one of the many versions of "While shepherds watched their flocks by night". One or two of them had read a reading from the Bible – Rev John simply asked for volunteers and they readers didn't come from local churches. Three volunteers became the Kings – and did so willingly! Plus they all got a Blessing at the end of the night.



We simply couldn't do the evening without Pam and Mike letting their pub be taken over for the night. The star billing for the evening goes to Simon Ball. Every Carols in the Pub is a tour de force for him. He draws in the drinkers to become singers, not quite ready to join St Bartholomew's Choir – but not for want of trying.

"How silently this wondrous gift is given" – as there were natural breaks in the singing, quietly conversations took place with some of those present who were keen to say that they wanted more for Christmas than just presents, food and drink. And so we were pleased when one of the "volunteer" Kings came with his wife and children to the St James Crib Service on Christmas Eve. And the Waggon, the Saturday after, had its own fund raising event for Simon on the Streets, the homeless charity in Huddersfield, which raised over £200. This comes from the great relationship between the church and the community.

Jesus met people in unconventional places to tell the good news of the Kingdom. We're called to be his disciples – doing what he might have done. So come and share in the evening next December. You'll find that there is the sheer joy that the shepherds were told about and the opportunity to share the good news that the angels rejoiced in.



# DIMPS

*by Ville*

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HD9 5NX  
tel. 01484 850960

## **Helme Ladies Report**

November 23<sup>rd</sup> was our last meeting on an evening, from January all our meetings will be held in the morning. So, our finale was a talk by Kath Heaney from Meltham Wild Life and what an interesting talk it was. She told us how she started treating and saving birds and other animals. With birds it could be anything from tiny Wrens to Gannets, (what was a Gannet doing around Meltham when it is a sea bird) and with animals it could be anything from Mice to Deer, although she no longer takes Deer as there is no room for them. There are always plenty of Hedgehogs in the hospital and she brought one along for us to see up close. If they don't get up to a certain weight, they won't survive hibernation, so she has to feed and look after them until Spring. The centre is run by volunteers and they depend on donations to function, but they are dedicated to do their best for wildlife. Kath is a very interesting and passionate speaker who will go to any lengths to save wildlife.

Our annual Carol Service and lunch was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December in Helme Church. With the worries of 'have we enough food' and a church with no proper heating, there was also storm Barra to contend with as well. Luckily the storm came later in the day and the weather was OK. Our service is a do-it-yourself event and things can go wrong, but we got through it led by Janet. The lunch of soup, sandwiches and dessert went down very well and our guests went on their way satisfied, not wanting to linger to chat in a cold church. My thanks to all who helped to make the event successful, especially the Helme Pie Ladies who provided the food. The money from the raffle and collection will go towards our charity donations, already chosen are Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Meltham Wild Life and Colne Valley Museum.

Our last event of the year is our Christmas Lunch. On December 14<sup>th</sup> we all made our way to the Beaumont Arms in Netherton, as we had eaten here before we knew it would be good. We were not disappointed; a good time was had by all and all the gossip was brought up to date.

Helme Ladies will be decamping – debunking – oh alright moving from Helme Church for their meetings from the 4<sup>th</sup> January until further notice. We shall be meeting in Meltham Church Hall on Tuesday mornings. I am not prepared to as the ladies, to sit in a cold damp church any longer.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Jan 18<sup>th</sup> AGM

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Coffee and Cakes out

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Beetle Drive

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## **St Mary's Report**

What a busy and happy time we have had since our last report and how wonderful to have been able to meet together in church this Christmas.

We celebrated the Feast of Christ the King on 21st November when Rev John reminded us that kings and empires will come and go but Christ is our true king not just now but for eternity. The following week was the start of the new church year when Rev Judy led a service of Holy Communion. The first candle on the Advent wreath was lit and we thought about the patriarchs and about preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus. That afternoon we enjoyed the Christmas Wreath making Workshop in the Village Hall which was led by Kim Howe. (This was postponed from the previous day because of the snow.

On Sunday 5th December Lay Reader Jacqueline France led a morning service, on zoom, and in her talk she told us that sometimes life seems like a maze but that Jesus makes our way straight. The second candle on the Advent Wreath was lit as we thought about the Prophets. There was no morning service the following week as it was our Carol service that evening. Unfortunately the wearing of masks in church was once again required but didn't put people off sharing this special service and we had nine people on zoom as well. Rev John led our worship, assisted by eight children how wonderful. We heard the good NEWS about the NATIVITY and about how Jesus is good for us NOW as well as long ago. We also had a fun quiz about recent news headlines and had a really good sing. Jonah and Evie lit the third candle on the Advent wreath as we thought about John the Baptist.

It was lovely to welcome Ruth Murray-Webster to lead the service on December 19th and despite problems with the technology she did a great job. We thought about Mary the Mother of Jesus as the fourth candle was lit and Rev John gave the talk. reminding us that we can believe God's promise to love and bless us, just as Mary did.

On Christmas Day there was a well attended service of Holy Communion both in church and on zoom. In place of a talk there was a short drama presentation entitled "The Spider's Reward" and the message was that just as the spider was kind to Baby Jesus so we should be kind to one another. Our thanks go to Lynda, Judith, Elizabeth, Lynda, Peter, Kim, Jonah and Dillon - our budding thespians. Dylan lit the white candle on the advent wreath which represents Jesus the light of the world.

There was no service at St Mary's on Boxing Day giving us the chance to share a joint service at St Bartholomew's. We also joined with the rest of the parish at St James' Church on 2nd January.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year!



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## **Parish Services for January & February.**

You are all welcome to join us at any of the following weekly Services:

St Bartholomews Church, Meltham - 9.30am

St James' Church, Meltham Mills - 9.30am

St Mary's Church, Wilshaw - 11.15am

During the winter months there will be NO services held at Christ Church, Helme.

**Please note** there are a couple of changes in January.

Sunday 16th January - There is a Churches Together Covenant Service held at: Meltham Methodist Church at **10.30am** (no other services held)

Sunday 31st January – This month's Parish Communion at **10.30am** will be hosted by St Bart's but the service led by St Mary's. (no other services)

This is the first of a new initiative where the 5th Sunday in the month will be hosted by one of the churches but led by another.

Date for your diary:

The Ash Wednesday evening Service will be held at St Barts Church.

### **'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 dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

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



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

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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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

Thomas and Sonya Calvert

Baptisms - *We welcome you into the Lord's family*

Violet Victoria Turner,

Beatrice Nora Glover

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Brenda Wimpenny,

Pauline Maynard

Alan Higginbottom

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 :Dec & Jan Winners:**

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For more info, please contact either:

Michael Farrel 07768258257

m.farrellphd@btinternet.com

David Earnshaw 341968,

C Moulson 850171

### **BELL HOUSE CARE HOME**

It was a pleasure to share a Christmas Carol Service with the residents on Wednesday the 8th December. We heard the Christmas story in Bible readings and carols. Following the service they enjoyed a cup of tea and mince pies.

### **Saturday Coffee Mornings**

9.30am - 12pm at Meltham Village Hall, hosted by local organisations.

15th January - Church Hall Steering Group, 22nd January - St Bart's Church

29th January - Wilshaw Village Hall

5th February - West Yorkshire Dog Rescue

12th February - Stage Co.

19th February - St Bartholomew's Church

26th February - Probus





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## **SHOPPING IN THE PANDEMIC**

by Pam Murgatroyd

When abroad, the Brits are known as a 'nation of queuers', which probably resulted from the war when we queued for rationed produce. Foreigners just elbow their way to the front.

The pandemic brought this all back to us, especially when only food shops were open and eating was a necessity. In the early days, many of the shelves in the supermarkets were empty due to short supplies. There was a shortage of toilet rolls, pasta, rice, tinned food, tissues, soap, flour and as a result, some of these products were rationed when they came back into stock. To make it worse, the over 70's were advised to stay home and not to go shopping themselves but have their groceries delivered to the door. You could ring an order in on one day and it would be delivered the next day. I was lucky and always got exactly what I ordered from Morrisons in Meltham, but some were not as fortunate and received "substitutions". A friend of mine once received grapefruits instead of lemons - not the same in a G&T and tomatoes instead of carrots - nearly the same colour but not good mashed with swede. She also received a can of diet coke instead of a box of 24 cans and a packet of ice pops instead of a bag of ice cubes.

Once we could go to the shops ourselves, the queueing started, as only a limited number of people were allowed to enter at one time to stay socially distanced, so the rest queued outside. Once inside the shop we filled our trolleys and then queued at the checkout again, socially distanced. On occasions this was the most entertaining part of the shopping trip when you looked at the contents of other trolleys. While shopping at Morrisons one day, an elderly couple in front of me at the checkout seemed to have rather a lot of tins of cat food in their trolley. They struck up a conversation with me so out of curiosity I asked, pointing to their trolley, how many cats they had. They looked at each other and chuckled: "Oh we haven't got a cat, but it was buy one and get one free". I was surprised and said: "So who's going to eat all that cat food?". The man replied: "Oh, we get lots of cats coming to the house and Vera cannot see them going away hungry, so it will soon get eaten."

On another occasion, whilst browsing around the wine section (a weekly experience for us during lockdown) with lots of wine was on offer for 2 bottles for £10. I chose my 2 bottles of Merlot and 2 of Pinot Grigio (his & hers) and I was walking away when a young couple stopped me to ask if I could recommend a red wine for them to buy for his parents coming for dinner. I told them my husband drank red wine and he liked Merlot and pointed out that I had just bought 2 bottles for £10 of a decent brand. I left them to browse and by the time I got to the checkout, they were one ahead of me and I noticed 2 bottles of Merlot in their trolley of food. I was quite pleased that they had followed my advice but then heard the girl say: "I'm glad we didn't pay £10 for the wine when these were only £6.99 each."!!!

Peter ordered a new waterproof, windproof etc coat online at a cost of £49.99 and it was only when the confirmation of payment arrived that he realised it was coming from China and it was too late to cancel. Although he is normally a size medium, he ordered large just to be sure. It arrived 5 weeks later and it was made of cotton and it would only have fit a small child!. When we tried to return it, we found no refunds were given and we were advised to try to sell it to someone we knew. I tried to sell it on ebay without success and did not find anyone that it would fit so it went to the charity shop. A very expensive lesson learnt.

# JUST FOR FUN!

## **A Note from Denis A. - 'Absence make the heart grow fonder'**

So true in my case, regular member of our congregation at St Bart's, will have noticed that I have been conspicuous in my absence these past two years. How I have missed singing in the choir in which I have enjoyed for seventy nine years! Not only because of Covid, but my darling wife now needs 24/7 care and 9.30am is the time I have to attend to some of those needs. Writing rubbish for the church magazine gives me my link to my much loved church and all that it stands for. Next Sunday, say a silent one for me, it will give me the strength to carry on taxing my brain to find something to write about.

Enough of this, Back to what I'm not paid to do and make you 'smile a while'.

### **Fred:**

Fred said, "I saw a deer on the way to work this morning", his missus replied, "how do you know she was on her way to work?"

Fred said to his mate: "It's my wife's birthday tomorrow, she's been leaving jewellery and perfume catalogues all over the house, so I bought her a magazine rack for her birthday present".

Fred to another mate: "My missus phoned on her way home from a tedious day of 'Sales' shopping and asked me to run her some hot water and not to forget the bubbles. I complied fully to her request and put plenty of fairy liquid into the washing up water. Hope she will be happy, I love her to bits.

And finally: Fred's missus told him it was a shame that he didn't find her more stunning, so he bought a Taser gun.

And finally, finally: If YouTube, Twitter and Facebook were to merge in one company, would it be called "YouTwitFace"?

They can't get much worse— says me hopefully,

God Bless, Stay Safe, well and happy (if possible), Denis A.

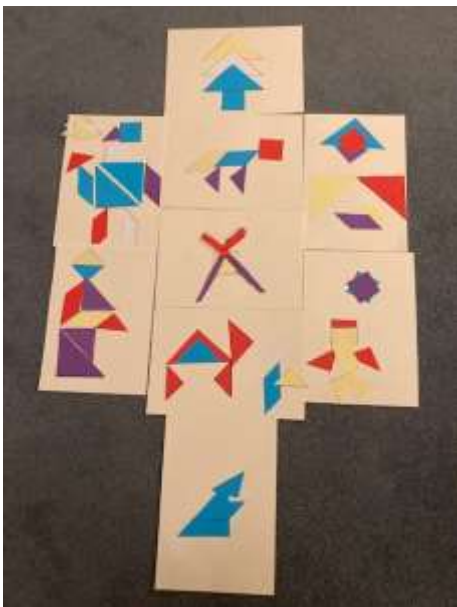
**Note from the Editor:** Denis A, thank you for your continued support of this magazine, this page is not the same without you! I am sure many will continue to say a "silent one" for you every week. You are missed.

# Meltham Family Page

Christmas is a wonderful time for children and the parish had plenty of opportunity for them to join in with celebrations. We had a fantastic Christingle service held at Christ Church, Helme, on the Saturday before Christmas led by Captain John Smith. He even managed to dress Alison up!



On Christmas Eve at St James' Meltham Mills, was a family Crib Service led by Nigel Priestly and Alison Whitely. It was on the theme of a Tangram Nativity. Both adults and children enjoyed making nativity pictures from geometric shapes.







Pictures from:  
Carols in the Park and  
Carols in the Pub.

