

THE PARISH OF MELTHAM

CHRIST THE KING

50p



June 2023

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Summer Afternoon Tea

HOME MADE &
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Meltham Church Hall

Sunday 23rd July

14.00 – 17.00

£22.50 Per Person

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Menu

SAVOURY SELECTION

Crab and Mango Salad with lime and chilli dressing

Gazpacho Soup with home-made Pesto

Beetroot Tartlet

SANDWICH SELECTION

Coronation Chicken

Smoked Salmon with Lemon & Dill Butter

Cream Cheese, Cucumber & Mint

Egg Mayonnaise

*All served on granary & brown bread accompanied
with micro greens & homemade vinaigrette.*

VEGGIE ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE!

SWEET SELECTION

Rose & Pistachio Macaroon

Gooseberry Macaroon

Mini Raspberry Swiss Roll

Pimm's Jelly

Fruit & Plain Scones

Homemade Raspberry Jam & Clotted Cream

In this issue ...

Used with permission, taken by David Naylor	Cover
Summer afternoon tea	Inside cover
Parish Officials	Page 4
A Note from the Editor	Page 5
A Letter from your Vicar	Page 7
Meltham Scarecrow festival	Page 9
Foodbank Update	Page 10 - 11
Going Greener - moving towards an Eco Church	Page 12
Thank you Denis A	Page 13
Just for Fun	Page 15
Huddersfield and District Family History Society / Coronation Celebration.	Page 16
Weekly Services / Carehome Services	Page 17
From the Registers / 200 Club / Coffee Morning	Page 19
Side by Side	Page 20
St Mary's Report / Bell House report. / Thank you	Page 21
Helme Ladies Report	Page 23
My brilliant new Ukrainian family	Page 24 - 25
Meltham is on a mission to mend.	Page 30
Woven Repair Roadshow	Inside Cover
Photos celebrating the coronation	Back Cover

Worry is a conversation you have with yourself,
about things you cannot change.

Prayer is a conversation you have with God,
about the things He can change.

– Anon

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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 ...

Hello!

Welcome to the June edition of the Parish magazine. The sun is shining (as I type) and the cover photo courtesy of Ruth Naylor's husband David, Ruth is in the picture transcribing the headstones. You can read more about his on page 16.

Meltham celebrated the Kings Coronation in style with various groups doing what they do best, eating cake and having a drink of something hot or cold. Photos of the celebration service are on the back cover.

Thank you as always for you continued support and contributions. It has been a bumper month with lots happening in May so made my job a lot easier this month. Highlights include, The Scarecrow festival (pg 9) , Denis Armstrong's 80th anniversary of singing in the choir (pg 13) and a fantastic insight to Chris Sinclair being host (pg 24).

The next deadline of the magazine will be:

Monday 19th June 2023

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

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Letter from your Vicar

'What is a Christian? The richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father. If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child and having God as his Father.' (J I Packer, *Knowing God*)



This month we will celebrate Father's Day. The fact that this is not given as much attention as Mothering Sunday has never been a concern to me. I know how wonderful my wife Fiona is, what a great mum she is, how important that is to our children, and alongside that I understand the extraordinarily special role that mothers play within our society. They are simply wonderful, and we love them for it. However, dads are important too and having a good father figure is clearly of enormous value.

Unlike Mothering Sunday, Father's Day doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's fatherhood and what it means for us. Since becoming a dad, 13 years or so ago, I have learned a lot about my faith and relationship with God by thinking about my relationship with my children and "kind of" seeing things from the other side. Being a dad isn't easy, you love your children and want to care for, provide, and protect them. It is good to do all these things, though sometimes our ability to do them is limited. My little girl goes to high school in September, this scares me, I have no idea how to keep her safe, I know I must let her grow up, but as a dad it's hard.

Our children want and need to be independent; they need to be allowed to make their own choices and mistakes. A good dad feels responsible and wants to help make sure that those choices are good ones, after all we do know what's best, don't we?

Of course, we don't always know what's best, not really, but our Father in heaven does yet he still lets us, his children make our own choices. He never abandons us, he's always there waiting for us to ask for help and always ready to offer us guidance, but he's willing to give us the space we need to grow.

I still wrestle with the need to allow my children the opportunity to grow and find their own way, I probably always will. I have learnt that what they need more than anything else, and perhaps the only thing I can really promise to always give them is my love.

At Jesus's baptism the Father described him as "my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy". I want my children to always know that I love them dearly and that they do fill me with joy.

As Christians we should all remind ourselves that our Father in heaven loves us dearly and he takes great joy in knowing us, and he wants us to be close to him so that we might know his love for us. As dads we should never tire of telling our children how much we love them and as God's children we should never tire of hearing him telling us that he loves us.

God bless, Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)



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THE MELTHAM SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2023

This year the **Meltham Community Group (MCG)** brought the **Meltham Scarecrow Festival** back to May Day Bank Holiday, and we are pleased to report that it was a huge success.

We were really fortunate that, when we first started to advertise this on social media, we received a call to say that someone wanted to sponsor the whole event. This was **Samantha Hague of UK Curtain Walling of Lockwood** and, of course, we accepted gratefully and this made it possible for us to invite all the Community groups and charities in Meltham to join in the event at no charge to them. The MCG also agreed that we would not be inviting any outside vendors to the event, we would support the local businesses to fulfill our needs and appetites.

JTD Building Services donated all the wood for the scarecrow frames, which were then made by Jonathan Quarmby to be used at the workshops. **John Cotton of Mirfield** donated all the padding and the result was we had 36 scarecrows registered by 30th April, some with the original theme of the Coronation, not all, but a fine array and variety of scarecrows to decorate Meltham for the Scarecrow Festival 2023.

On event day, the **Friends of Meltham Library** hosted refreshments with coffee donated by **Bewleys Tea & Coffee UK Ltd of Meltham**. The FoML also held a raffle of 12 prizes donated by local businesses at **St Barts Church Hall** and invited **Moorlands WI** to do a cake stall and the **Church Hall Steering Group** to run a Tombola Stall. The **Meltham Dance Academy** entertained us at 2pm with singing and dancing and were amazing. There were stalls in an ante room for **Meltham Shoe boxes - T4U** with a Teddy Tombola, Coronation Stall and a Quilt Stall. Plants were being sold outside by **Willow Garden Group** and sweets were on sale by **Sweethearts Sweets**. Refreshments were also being served at the **Methodist Chapel** with cakes, a toy stall and guessing games. Peter opened **St Barts Bell Tower** for visitors to see how the **Carillon** works.

Meltham Fire Station had gone to town with games plus a BBQ & soft drinks. The local businesses were open for food too. These were the **Fourth Fiend, Meltham Fisheries** the **Sandwich Shop, Number 3 Tea Rooms, Gerry's @ 33** and pubs were all open for a much needed drink!!!

I am sure that everyone involved made plenty of money for their businesses and organisations, even Hilda Ogden on Clarke Lane got £24.40 + 1 euro in her collection bucket for **Meltham Side by Side Dementia Group!!** Meltham Community Group Accounts are available for anyone to see how funds were used.

Finally, my prayers were answered, the weather stayed dry and even the sun came out later on. There is a God and obviously one who likes Scarecrows.

The next scarecrow event will be held on Monday 6th May 2024.

The Fire Service are already making plans, so Dear Lord, please put the date in your diary when you are planning the weather.

Pam Murgatroyd - for Meltham Community Group



Crossroads Foodbank News

Keeping the Wolf from the door... The expression has been with us for a long time. It was coined in 1543, featuring in the Chronicle of John Hardyng as "By whiche he maye the wolf werre frome the gate...". Wolves have always had a bad press, and rarely threaten humans (unless you happen to be dressed as a sheep...).

Usually seen as a sinister and destructive force, they got an early mention in Matthew 10:16 – " Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves ".

Anyway, cut to the present day, the annual Meltham Scarecrow Festival is looming large, and we haven't a clue what to do about an entry. I speak to my partner, and she speaks to her sister Martine. Martine is a life-long chicken wire and papier mache botherer, and is duly enlisted. She mulls it over for around two nanoseconds, and says " Hmmm.. The Foodbank – how about Keeping the Wolf from the Door? ". A week later, I go off to collect it in the trailer, and it's outside the Centre. The sun shone, and a great day was had by all. Evening comes, and I get a call saying that the Foodbank entry had won 1st Prize Adult category ! It's now safely housed in the front window of the Centre, at least until Sue, the Chair of the Trustees returns from holiday. While the cat's away...

Just walked into the office, and on the doormat, there's an envelope marked "Foodbank", with no name on it. I open it, and find two twenty pound notes. A fairly normal occurrence here, but think about it - this has come from someone who wants no credit – who merely wants to give their love. It's why we do this thing...

Chris Sinclair

Foodbank Manager



UK foodbanks busier than ever

More food parcels were given out in the UK this past year than ever before. During December 2022, an emergency food parcel was handed out the equivalent of every eight seconds. These are the most recent figures from the Trussell Trust, which supports more than 1300 foodbanks in the UK.

In all, the charity says it gave out nearly three million food parcels between April 2022 and April 2023. More than one million of these were for children.

These three million parcels from the charity's foodbanks represent a 37-per-cent increase in England on 2021. And more than 760,000 people used a foodbank for the first time, which is up more than one third in 2021-22.

Soaring inflation and energy costs have driven the increase in demand. The charity reports an unprecedented rise in the number of employed people using their foodbanks, because they are "no longer able to balance a low income against rising living costs."

The problem now, says the trust, is that food donation levels are not keeping up with the need. "This is putting us under a lot of strain."

The Crossroads Foodbank is not support by the Trussell Trust, however we have seen in these monthly reports from Chris that the amount of parcels given our over then last year has increased. Please do consider them then next time you do your shopping.

Please continue to contribute to Meltham Food Bank

They especially need the following items:

Semi Skimmed or Whole long life milk, Canned meat meals, Tuna, Eggs, Breakfast Cereal, Jam. Other helpful items include: Coffee, Sugar, washing up liquid, Toiletries e.g shampoo, shaving cream, shower gel, toothpaste, soap and feminine hygiene products.

Drop into the bins at the Coop in Meltham and Netherton. Fresh & frozen veg welcome but these must be delivered to the centre only.

Financial donations are also welcome.

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





GOING GREENER - **Moving towards an Eco Church**

‘And God saw that the world and all that was in it, was very good.’ Genesis Ch 1v 31

What do we do with leftovers? *An article written for sharing, by Jan Goodair, Area Environment Champion, Leeds.*

“After everyone had eaten all they wanted, Jesus’ disciples picked up twelve large baskets of leftovers” Matthew 14:20

“So what did they do with the leftovers? Feed them to the birds? Take them to the next village and share them out there? Whatever they did, I’m quite sure the leftovers weren’t wasted.

Food waste today is a very different story. Some of it is wasted on farms, some in the production system and some within our homes as we forget what is in the fridge or scrape leftovers into the bin.

Here are a few random facts about food waste which are really quite mind blowing!

30%-50 % of food produced for human consumption is wasted annually. (That’s awful)

The average family in Great Britain wastes nearly £60 a month by throwing away food, in some cases almost an entire meal a day. (Probably it’s a lot more now with today’s prices!)

Food waste that goes to landfill produces methane; a global warming gas, much more harmful than carbon dioxide. (So we can’t blame cows for all of it!)

Food waste is responsible for 8% of global warming gases, about twice that of the aviation industry – (incredible!)

*Food waste is responsible for over 170 trillion litres of water annually –
(170 trillion!!)*

So what can we do to help address the problem? Here are my ‘top tips’:

Plan your meals and make a shopping list so that you buy only what will be eaten.

Deal with any leftovers you still have by investing in a suitable compost bin, if you have the space (No methane produced this way)

If you have a garden, grow some of you own fruit and vegetables and pick what you need as you need it. If you have a ‘glut’ of beans, courgettes etc, give them away or freeze them.

Buy the ‘wonky’ fruit and veg which otherwise would be wasted. It’s often cheaper too.

By trying to reduce our food waste we can help to keep global warming as low as possible, save money, save water and almost certainly feed more people – as long as we remember to share!

Wouldn't it be wonderful, if by small changes in our habits, we could point the way to a well-fed, sustainable world – pointing the way to God's kingdom where all life flourishes."

Thank you, Jan Goodair. God bless us all in our efforts.

Jenny x



Thank you Denis!

After 80 years, yes I can assure you that is not a mistake! You have been able to hear Denis sing in the Church choir at St Bartholomew's for the last 80 years.

To celebrate this fantastic achievement a special service was held in the afternoon of Sunday 21st May where Denis got to chose the hymns.

Denis was presented by Simon Ball, with a certificate, a plaque from the Mayor of Meltham and the promise of an outing to a garden centre to chose a bench for his garden so he can sit and write his next edition of the parish magazine 'Just for Fun' page. In case he ever got writers block, Rev John Dracup also presented him with a personal gift of a joke book. Thank you for all your years of singing Denis.

Can you spot him on a choir photo back in 1958?



The original is hung in St Bart's church if you would like a closer look.



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(I am registered deaf, so texts or WhatsApp are preferred)

JUST FOR FUN!

By Denis A

Did you know: - A raven has 17 primary wing feathers. The big ones are at the end of the wing. They are called pinion feathers. A crow has 16, so the difference between a crow and a raven is only a matter of a pinion.

Thought for the day:- Don't you think I would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle free and three sizes smaller?

Old age is coming at a really bad time, and if God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

'One for the road' means going to the toilet before you leave the house.

I am always forgetting my password so I want the prompt for my 'Username and Password' to be "Close Enough".

If I get a headache I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like it says on the bottle.

If you see me talking to myself, just ignore me, I'm self employed, we're having a meeting.

Does anyone else have a plastic bag, full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

Spot the mistake:- Good heavens, there isn't one. Well done Fiona.

God Bless one and all.

Denis A.

- Thanks Denis, although just to be clear, he does mean the May edition not this one!!

The churchwarden at a local church, has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any DIY job that needs doing around the church. For example, in the church shed are still pieces of the church lawn mower that they once tried to fix. So, our vicar wasn't surprised the day he found them in the vestry, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "This thing won't cooperate," they complained.

The vicar thought for a moment: "Why don't you drag it out to the shed and show it what you did to the lawn mower?"

During our minister's very lengthy sermon, a large plant suddenly fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the floor. He smiled sheepishly. "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep!"

Parish Graveyards



You may be wondering who the groups of people are walking around the Parish graveyards with cameras, notebooks, spades and talcum powder.

We are a group of volunteers from The Huddersfield and District Family History Society (hdfhs) who are taking photographs of gravestones and compiling a record of monumental inscriptions which are a vital part in researching family history. Work is progressing throughout the summer months. We have already completed a project at St Mary's, Wilshaw, and teams are busy compiling records at Christ Church, Helme and St James at Meltham Mills.

The next project on our list will be the annex at Calmlands, Royd Edge. In earlier years, a team from the Society produced records for St Bartholomew's Church in the centre of Meltham Village.

On completion of our work in the Meltham Parish the Society intend to make the records available via our website. Please do look at this via www.hdfhs.org.uk

In case you are wondering, we use a sprinkle of talcum powder to enhance hard to read lettering, it does wash off with the next rainfall.

Ruth Naylor
Monumental Inscriptions Co-ordinator, HDFHS
ruth.naylor@hdfhs.org.uk

The Coronation Celebration of King Charles III

It all started on Saturday 6th in the morning, the day of the coronation when an excited group gathered in the Church hall to watch on the big screen the coronation service.

On Sunday 7th May the Parish of Meltham Christ the King hosted a special commemorative service to mark the Coronation of King Charles III which took place the previous day (6th May) in Westminster Abbey. Rev John Dracup led the service in which we celebrated "Community, Faith and service". Prior to the start of the service Meltham and Meltham Mills Band led a parade of civic dignitaries and community groups and flags were presented at the beginning of the service. Peter Foden was parade marshal.

Lessons were read by a representative of Churches Together and the Mayor of Meltham Richard Noon. Rev Judy Kenworthy led prayers for the King, Queen and Royal Family, for the church and people of all faiths and for the UK, the Commonwealth and the world that we may work together for the welfare of all people and for peace. Rev John gave the talk which involved a throne, the Mayor and a plastic sword! Jean Collision was organist and along with the band and St Bartholomew's choir led the singing. Coffee and cake was served in the church hall, thanks go to the Mayor for the cake, and we gave three rousing cheers for our new King and Queen.

Parish Services for June

You are welcome to join us at any of the following weekly services,

St Bartholomew's, Meltham 9:30am

St James', Meltham Mills 9:30am

First Sunday of the month is a 'Family Sunday' service

Christ Church, Helme 11:15am

St Mary's, Wilshaw 11:15am

Please keep an eye out or follow us on the Church facebook page:
'Parish of Meltham - Christ the King' for updates on services and events.



Care Home Services

Greenacres

1:30pm for 2pm start. Tuesday 13th June - Songs of Praise

1.30pm for 2pm start. Tuesday 22nd June - Holy Communion.



Helme Hall

1.30pm for 2pm start. Friday 26th June - Holy Communion

Please get in touch with Rev Denis Shields if you can be of help.

WILSHAW VILLAGE HALL

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On June 16th

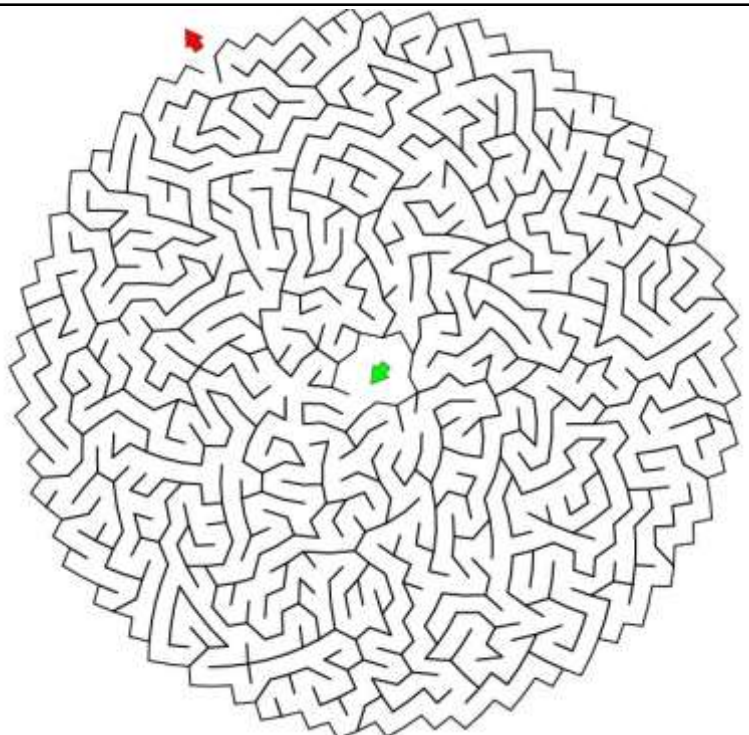
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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

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

Nell Scoffield, Ava Rose Montgomery

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Margaret Haigh, Margaret Garside

Anyone wishing to have their loved ones names included in the book of Remembrance at St Bartholomew's please contact Jean Collison : Telephone 851816

(there is a small fee of £5 for church expenses)

To contact our vicar Rev John Dracup: 07983 937132 parishofchristtheeking@gmail.com

200 CLUB : May Winners:

341	£50 Mrs. J. Walker
811	£10 Mrs. C. Charman
915	£10 Vacant Number
092	£10 Ms. D. Walsh
062	£10 Mrs. S. Gregory

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For more info please contact either:

Michael Farrel 07768258257

m.farrellphd@btinternet.com

David Earnshaw 341968,

Cath Moulson 850171



St Bartholomews Flowers

Flowers have been placed on the communion table in St Bart's Church by:

4th June	Mr & Mrs C Atkinson
11th June	Women's Fellowship
18th June	Mr & Mrs M Jennings
25th June	Mr & Mrs D Glover
2nd July	Mr & Mrs A Ball

We do have dates available if you would like to do the same.

Please contact:

Catherine Moulson (850171)

Saturday Coffee Mornings

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



3rd June - Christ Church, Helme

10th June - Parish Hall

17th June - Hospice

24th June - Flower Club

1st July - Friend to Friend

'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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St Mary's Report

What a happy and special time it has been since our last report.

On Sunday 23rd April Lay Reader Jacqueline France led a morning service at St Mary's. She invited us to walk with Jesus, to listen to His Word and to be aware that He walks alongside us even though we don't always recognise Him.

The following Sunday was Good Shepherd Sunday and we marked this with a service of Holy Communion. Rev Judy Kenworthy was celebrant and spoke about how Jesus, the Good Shepherd cares for us, protects us and provides all that we need and that He is the "gate" into heaven. As usual there were people in church and people on zoom.

There was no service at St Mary's on 7th May to allow us to share in the United Service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles Iii which took place at St Bartholomew's.

Rev John Dracup took a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 14th May and reminded us how great God is - He is the King of Heaven and all that is - but He is also our "Dad" who loves us and sometimes gives a cuddle that goes right into our heart.

We have also enjoyed "A Village Fun Day" at Wilshaw Village Hall with market stalls, hot dogs and a bouncy castle and a street party up The Avenue to celebrate the Coronation.

Our thanks go to all who read lessons, lead prayers, provide music and PowerPoint presentations and all who attend services each week.

Bell House Report

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold a service at Bell House this month as some of the residents had an infection. Please keep them in your prayers and ask God to bless them.



Thank you for the 'Get Well' cards, flowers and kind wishes following my recent operation.

I am feeling a lot better. I hope to see you soon.

From Barbara Jennings.

DIMPS

by Ville

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

Helme Ladies Report

On Tuesday 25th April Helme Ladies held their annual auction. This event always produces lots of laughter and fun along with cash for our charity fund. We all clear out our drawers of things we no longer want and hope one of the other ladies will bid for it. The goodies were set out on the table and the auctioneer set to work with the treasurer announcing that no 5p's were allowed. 50p was the starting bid on most items but the prices rose as the ladies decided they could not do without it. Gales of laughter were produced along with "what are you going to do with that" or "this will make a nice Christmas present for my Granddaughter", you see we always think well in advance. Soon all the lots had gone under the hammer and the tea and biscuits were brought out, we had had a fun filled morning and added around £62 to our charity fund.

On 9th May Helme Ladies celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with a buffet, but first we had a game of 'Play Your Cards Right'. If you watched it on the telly years ago you will know what it is all about. I had never seen it, but watching the other ladies have a go I soon got the hang of it. Some did go all the way through, although the prize was not thousands of pounds but a Kit Kat (a four finger one). It was great fun with lots of groans and laughs. Then onto the main event, there was so much food we could have fed the people doing Pilates as well. Helme Ladies are well known for their good cakes and pies, so it's not surprising that food just disappeared. We had celebrated and eaten our fill and most went home with a doggy bag.

Upcoming Events:

June 6th Walk – Marsden with visit to Holme Valley Mountain Rescue
(meet at Holme Valley Mountain Rescue in Marsden at 10am.)

June 20th Walk Blackmoorfoot with lunch at Sands House.

July 4th Walk Netherton with lunch at the Beaumont Arms.

Walks meet in Carlile Street car park at 10am.



My brilliant new Ukrainian family

Ten days ago, I was living my long-accustomed existence as a single male, in my lovely three-bedroomed home/bachelor pad, perfectly content with the world as I knew it. Then life suddenly did a double somersault – and it's been a joy ever since !

Many moons ago, I watched the night time news about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and heard about the need to provide a safe haven for families having to flee the horrors of war. Being a busy man, I registered for the scheme and left it for things to take their course. In due course, Homes For Ukraine emailed me to ask whether I'd accept a couple with an 11 year old daughter, so I replied that I was still up for it. Visas were applied for, but progressed at a pace that would embarrass your average snail. Exasperated, I asked local MP Jason if he could bring pressure to bear, and things started to happen. In the interim, martial law was imposed in Ukraine, and the father was denied permission to come, as he worked in a strategic occupation. Finally, I got the news that they would be flying from Wroclaw in Poland, arriving at 4pm Saturday to Leeds-Bradford airport. My partner Bev and me got to the airport, and waited...

Mum and daughter emerged at the terminal with scant hand luggage, and they were exhausted. Hardly surprising, as they'd seen their family unit broken up and endured a difficult journey, involving a six-hour wait at the Polish border, arriving in the UK to be billeted in a stranger's house, with only a basic understanding of the language. However, Google Translate is a godsend, and off we went. They settled in to their rooms, and we all sat down to our welcome supper. With all the upheaval, they went up for an early night, and enjoyed the sleep of the just. The next day, I was at the football over in Manchester (Old Trafford – obviously...), and Bev took them off shopping and out for the day to Cannon Hall. All for the best, as women together bond so quickly – why can't we menfolk do it !

Looking back, the first day and a half was decidedly stilted, and uncomfortable all round, which is hardly surprising considering the change to all our lives then things looked up... Monday came, and we went for a stroll round the village to see the wonderful and constantly improving Scarecrow Festival (including the award-winning Crossroads Foodbank entry!). Next, I said that I'd take them along Huddersfield Road to see my allotment. When we got there, Mum's eyes lit up, and she got straight down to business. She's got extremely green fingers, and there was a swift re-evaluation of roles, i.e. she's now Chief and I'm Assistant. So much for my manground, where I used to wear the trousers...

Bank holiday weekend now over, and it's down to business. Off we went to the brilliant Huddersfield Ukrainian Club, where Kirklees camp out on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays offering every kind of welcoming support imaginable. One to one interpreting, help with travel cards, advice, language, benefits, you name it. Then to Huddersfield centre for picking up Biometric Residence Permits

and setting up an interview for opening bank accounts. Mum was really concerned about the importance of getting her daughter into the routine of schooling, and this was proving to be a stumbling block. While at the interview for opening bank accounts, we got the excellent news that the lovely Katerina from Kirklees New Arrivals Team had found a place for her at Meltham CofE primary. Jackie from the school showed Katerina and ourselves round – and what a lovely and friendly school it is, even introducing us to the class that the daughter will be going into, all waving frantically to her. Things were all falling into place!

As we started to get to know each other better, we talked about our changing lives and circumstances. Mum showed me photos of life in Ukraine, and opened up about their reasons for leaving. They have a wonderful life there with their smallholding, dogs, daughter's three cats (who she misses like mad), household cow and so forth. Why would they wish to leave that behind? Simple – she couldn't bear her confining her daughter to the dark basement every time the air raid sirens go off. And all because a power-crazed madman of a world leader goes off on some massive ego-trip. Here, we haven't been at war for 70 years, and we're blissfully removed from this level of trauma.

Little things bring so much joy... I was out working when Mum sent me a message to say that she was nipping out to the allotment to pick some rhubarb. I got home later, and on waking in the morning, found the most gorgeous rhubarb cake on the worktop (pictured). Quite often now, I come home at lunchtime to sit down to home-made Borscht (a delectable beetroot soup), so I'm upping my game and cooking properly. It's making me a better person too ! The allotment's looking like Ground Force have steamed in as well...



Slowly, but surely they're finding their feet, and exploring what this strangest of strange countries can offer, and they couldn't have wished to land in a more warm-hearted community. Wellwishers have brought gifts, and it's made me so proud of our village. From an unsteady start, our life as a cobbled together household unit is taking shape. In this country, we're so far removed from the misery of wars, famine etc, and we can't offer sanctuary from all the world's ills, but every little helps in its own unique way. We can offer safe passage for a few - let's continue to make that difference.

Chris Sinclair

Footnote: Bev took them out to the Church Hall Flower Club this evening, and they won this beautiful flower arrangement in the raffle. Serendipity strikes again !



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Meltham is on a Mission To Mend.

Mission to Mend is a WOVEN in Kirklees project, aiming to help people save money, reduce textile waste, increase hand skills and everyday creativity.

The project takes place throughout May and June, bringing together a series of community sewing workshops for beginners, learn basic hand sewing skills for textile repair at the Crossroads Centre and Fourth Fiend, ending with a Repair Roadshow which will take place on **Sunday 11 June 2023** at Meltham Parish Hall between 12pm – 4pm. The Repair Roadshow celebrates local sewing talent, community textile groups and local businesses and will bring together workshops, talks, demonstrations and stalls.

Community Sewing Workshops

Beginners Welcome,
All materials provided
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday 3 June, 10am- 12pm:
The Fourth Fiend Taphouse, 2 Station St, Meltham, HD9 5NN

Friday 9 June, 10am-12pm:
The Crossroads Centre, Old Town Hall, 26 Huddersfield Rd, Meltham, HD9 4AG

To book email Julia@upcycle-fashion.co.uk or call 07354 765 070

Repair Roadshow

Sunday 11 June 2023,
Drop in anytime between 12pm – 4pm,
Meltham Parish Hall
no booking required

Julia Roebuck

WOVEN in Kirklees is a textiles festival celebrating innovation in textiles across Kirklees.

Mission to Mend is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with funding for Meltham provided by the Ashley Family Foundation.

www.woveninkirklees.co.uk

@woveninkirklees

#WOVEN23 #MissionToMend



MISSION TO MEND

REPAIR ROADSHOW

— Meltham —

Mission to Mend is a National Lottery Heritage funded WOVEN in Kirklees project, celebrating the importance of creative hand sewing for textile repair and the difference it can make in local communities.

#WOVEN23

@WoveninKirklees

Repair Roadshow

Sunday 11 June 2023

Meltham Parish Hall,
Greens End Road, Meltham.

Join us for a community celebration of stitch and the creative ways it can be used to keep textiles loved for longer. Demonstrations, exhibits, workshops, talks, music and more.

12pm - 4pm

WOVENINKIRKLEES.CO.UK



Photos from the Coronation Celebrations

