

THE PARISH OF MELTHAM

CHRIST THE KING



50p

July & August 2023

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CANCELLED - Due to personal reasons

Summer Afternoon Tea

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Friday 23rd July

14.00 – 17.00

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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

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When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves,
God takes most notice of them.

– *Matthew Henry*

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

Facebook Page: Parish of Meltham - Christ the King

CLERGY in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Assistant Priest Rev. Dennis Shields 850074

Assistant Priest Rev. John Radcliffe 348806

Assistant Priest Rev. Judy Kenworthy 851158

AUTHORISED READERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Nigel Priestley 852005 Jacqueline France 01484 663867

Mandy Aspland 851789 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 Richard Whiteley 319295

Parish Treasurer Ruth Murray-Webster 07974 943443

ST.BARTHOLOMEW'S

Churchwarden Ruth Murray-Webster 07974 943443

Stephen Asquith

ST. JAMES'

Churchwarden Alison Whiteley 319295

ST. MARY'S

Churchwardens Peter Pearson 844289

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All magazine enquiries.

melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com

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

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A note from the editor ...

Hello Summer!

Can you believe we are entering into the second half of 2023 already?! Children are eagerly waiting for the start of the school holidays and you have just enough time to grab a cuppa and read the latest double issue.

This month's edition is full of updates of what has been happening across various organisations and people. Jigsaw on page 16, Jack (page 9) and a lovely one from Chris and his clock. (page 24).

As this edition is a Double Dipper, a double issue for July and August there's no excuses for having no time to submit anything for the next issue in September.

The September issue will be slightly delayed due to family holidays so the deadline of the magazine will be:

Tuesday 29th August 2023

Please send them via:

melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com

or

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

Hope you have an enjoyable summer,
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.

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Letter from your Vicar

Ordinary time! Much of the Churches liturgical year is designated as ordinary time. We have a few weeks of ordinary time between Epiphany and Lent. Then, a much longer period from mid June.

Over the last few years, we have had many things that have caused the idea of “ordinary” seem unusual. First, covid, nothing seemed ordinary throughout that. More recently we have war in Ukraine, the death of the Queen who was our monarch throughout most of our lifetime, and the coronation of our new king. We have had furlough’s, energy price rises that would scare all but the wealthiest people, and inflation which I think scares even them.

Of course, some of these issues are still ongoing but, suddenly, things do feel sort of ordinary. Most people will be looking forward to some kind of summer break and all of us are hopeful for a period of relative stability, something kind of “ordinary”. This leaves me with the challenge of finding something to say in this letter as there doesn’t seem to be anything extraordinary happening. So, here’s a thought about how extraordinary our God is, how he cares & provides for us, and that he has a plan for us even if we don’t understand always.

I invite you to consider Moses, he rescued God’s people from slavery in Egypt, but they found themselves passing through a vast desert. How would God provide for them here? Perhaps many people were asking had Moses planned this whole expedition. There were probably between 2-3 million people, their camp would cover something like 750 square miles, and each day they would need at least 1500 tons of food and 4000 tons of wood just for cooking. Today that’s equivalent to 250 lorry loads. Of course, the millions of gallons of water they needed would be an even bigger issue since they were living in the desert.

Had Moses really thought all of this through? Or did he simply trust that God had?

The truth is, they weren’t really meant to spend 40 years doing this. They were meant to be heading straight to the promised land. However, since they were hesitant, God provided bread from heaven and vast flocks of quail flew in every day, and water gushed out of rocks when they complained they were thirsty. He provided all they needed, he never abandoned them, he kept them going.

Eventually they had to cross the river Jordan into the promised land. A generation or so earlier they backed out of this believing it to be too scary. Now, desert life had become “ordinary” God provided the bread, quail and water when needed. Why change? But God had always promised them a land flowing with milk and honey, something far better than the desert.

It seems to me that we have spent many years, more than a generation in the desert, if God gave us the chance to move into the promised land, the land flowing with milk and honey, would we be willing to do so, or would we simply too content with or too used to the “ordinary”.

Would we be willing to cross the Jordan and live as a people abundantly blessed by God?, or would we choose that which we have become accustomed to, and become comfortable with, would we choose that which we think of as “ordinary”?

God bless, Reverend John Dracup, (Vicar)



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Our Jack



There are not many in the parish (and beyond) who, when they meet Jack or his name is mentioned, don't have a smile on their face! Jack is one amazing little boy who never ceases to keep bringing joy to the people he meets. Especially when he shouts "Amen!" in all the right or wrong places during a service.

For those who don't know, Jack is our youngest and at two days old his blood sugars had dropped dramatically low and he ended up in hospital in a hypoglycaemic coma. It's safe to say this was one of the low points in our lives and I will never forget the look of absolute relief on the face of the consultant when Jack made the tiniest of tiniest of movement on the 3rd attempt of getting a reaction from him. Jack was diagnosed with a hypoglycaemic brain injury. We were told the worst... But Jack (and God) wasn't listening he had other ideas!

Five years on and there is no stopping Jack, literally, He doesn't stop!

In September 2022, he started in reception at Meltham CofE school. If you've had told us this would happen 5 or even 2 years ago we would never have believed it. However he has, yes with a full time one to one due to his development delay and being partially sighted with no depth perception, but he is there and loving it.



His greatest achievement to date is the school's Sports Day at the beginning of June. There was a suggestion that maybe Jack would only do a few of the activities but again, Jack wasn't listening, he tried every one. He balanced rings on his head, tried to kick a ball round a cone and loved the egg and spoon. It all ended in a reception 'fun run' which is 1 lap of the school field. Every heart on that field melted as Jack 'ran' round. Everyone there clapped and cheered for him as he kept on running even though the rest of the year group had long since finished. He made sure he crossed that finish line! A proud moment to say the least.

However Jack likes to keep us as parents on our toes and remind us to not take his achievements for granted. At the beginning of December last year, Jack had a seizure, it wasn't his first, but it was one that made us take note. As a result, he has had an increase in seizures this year and is currently on medication to try and reduce them.

Back in 2018 when I first wrote about Jack in this magazine, the words I ended with still continue to be true today, 5 years on...

"Regardless of all of this, and the difficulties faced, deep down my family and I know, that God is Good! He always has been and always will be, a good God."

Fiona Dracup





Crossroads Foodbank News

Along with all the big, lovely group of volunteers at Crossroads, the foodbank staff don't do this thing for fame and recognition (I think we'd be disappointed if we did...). Having said that, it's heart-warming and rewarding when it does happen.

Early in June was National Volunteering week, and the gorgeous Charlene Novak from The Branch at the Jubilee Centre, Paddock organized a Volunteer Awards Celebration 2023 day for local groups. An invite went out to all our volunteers, but it's that time of year when people are busy or away at weekends, so it was myself and Anne Bentley who went along. Foodbanks from Berry Brow, Newsome and Colne Valley were represented, along with The Branch at Paddock who provide a range of services for their community, and the Uniform Exchange (but more about them later).

They have a good sized auditorium, and it was packed with people for the day. The spread was terrific, and a lovely afternoon of cake, entertainment, singing and so forth was had by all. Shabir Pandor, the Leader of Kirklees Council thanked us all personally, and MP Jason McCartney spoke, mentioning the work that Crossroads Meltham Foodbank do. Finally, we were delighted to hear the Huddersfield Community Choir perform for us, as a special thank you.

I was chuffed to meet Kate France from Uniform Exchange finally. They recycle school uniforms for struggling families and refugee children, and now help provide for about 7,000 children every year. I know about the sterling work they do from personal experience. In the last few weeks, an 11 year old Ukrainian girl who's staying with me, was accepted into Meltham CofE Primary for the tail end of the final Summer term. I was given a required uniform list slightly longer than my arm, and had no idea how to magic these items up before tomorrow morning, so I called the Exchange. Kate returned my call, to say that although there's a normal 7 day turnaround, a refugee child is different, and they pull out all the stops. Anna was measured up, and when we got there to collect, it was all ready and waiting with extras. What a service !

The foodbank continues to distribute parcels to our community clients, and demand shows no sign of letting up. It's a long time since last Christmas, and the seasonal generosity, but we're still in need of basic food items, so please, please remember us when you're doing your weekly shop. We'd love to see demand fade away, and slip quietly into the shadows, but it's not going to happen any time soon.

Thank you for your continuing support, and bless you all !

Chris Sinclair,
Foodbank Manager

(Please see page 30 for an update on the centre)



UK foodbanks busier than ever

Chris has asked me to keep this article in over the summer months to highlight how important foodbank donations are.

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 the monthly reports from Chris that the amount of parcels given out over the last year has increased.

Please do consider them the 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'.

The foodbank is open **Mon-Fri, 10am - 12.30pm.**





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

One late afternoon this week I was walking slowly with my little dog around the park in Meltham - it was much too hot to rush. The sun had been beating down all day, the thermometer was a very toasty 29 degrees and there was ne’er a cloud in the sky. To use a cliché, beloved of the tabloid press – ‘Phew! What a scorcher!’

Summer hadn’t officially begun, yet it seemed for weeks now, the temperature had been rising quite dramatically. Should I rejoice in feeling wonderfully warm after the long drawn out weeks and months of winter? Or with my ‘green’ hat on, should I be worrying about global warming and Climate Change? What a dilemma!

Anyway, I decided I would worry about it later and for the time being just enjoy the lovely weather! We plodded on for a while in the late sunshine and very soon enjoyed a welcome rest on a bench in the shade under the trees – what bliss!

Is it just me, or does anyone else think the trees have been particularly wonderful this spring and early summer? The weather must have been just right – lots of rain followed by lots of heat. The blossoms, were stunning! There was an absolute glut of early berries and seeds. The paths around St James’ church disappeared under a heavy covering of beech nuts and sycamore seeds. A magical carpet of thousands of sycamore seedlings suddenly sprang up almost overnight covering the grass and parts of the graveyard. I’m sure this year all the trees look positively weighed down with the weight of their thick green foliage. What a very generous and creative god our God is. Every thing we need is given in abundance if we only were as generous and learned to share with our neighbours.

Of course, we all know how necessary trees are in maintaining a healthy, bio diversity in the natural world. Just think how much wild life is found living in our local trees let alone globally. Along with a multitude of beautiful birds filling the air with their songs, we find squirrels; all manner of flying insects-butterflies; moths; bees; wasps; and other pollinators; tiny aphids; caterpillars; larvae. They all rely on trees to provide both a safe habitat and valuable sources of food. We mustn’t forget so much of the tree’s life takes place hidden under the ground among the roots. Water and valuable minerals are absorbed by the complex root system to nourish and sustain the tree for perhaps many, many years. Even when the tree finally falls and dies another army of creepy crawlies, bugs, beetles and bacteria invades it. Pull away a piece of decaying bark and wonder at all the activity!

Do you remember learning about the process of photosynthesis at school? How amazing that trees and all green plants can just use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy. Carbon dioxide is the gas we humans breathe out as a waste product and the wonderful trees just soak it up for their own nourishment and leave us to breathe in the oxygen they produce.

How incredibly clever is that? Our generous, creator God is also the great

designer! We ***must*** care for our trees and forests.

Planting trees is a wonderful way to offset our carbon footprints.

Did you 'plant a tree in 23?' there's still time!

God bless us in our efforts .

Jenny x



JUST TWO SPEEDS

By PAM MURGATROYD

Will you walk a little slower,
My two speeds are stop and slow. I
am not as young as I used to be,
A fact that you should know.

I remember being fitter,
But where else could this go?
I used up all my energy,
Now my speeds are stop and slow.

I used to go out dancing,
I could dance the night away.
But that was many years ago,
I'm quite different today.

I've had one knee replaced,
As it was creaking constantly,
But now I've started suffering
With pain in the other knee.

My hands are so arthritic
And I drop things, that I know,
But really my main worry is
That my speeds are stop and slow.



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References and quotes available



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

JUST FOR FUN!

By Denis A

I have decided to write a book about all the things I should be doing in my life...
It's an Oughtobiography.

Did you see it on TV where a man had stolen the wheels of a Police car? The Police say they are working tirelessly to catch the suspect.

A few years ago whilst on holiday in Florida I was wondering around a large supermarket when Arnold Schwarzenegger, 'The terminator' star, tapped me on the shoulder and asked, "Can you tell me where I can find the aftershave lotion?" I replied "Certainly, Aisle B, back".

To the person who stole my specs - I will find you, I have contacts.

Did you know?

The finest shoes are made of smooth leather. That's my opinion & I'll never be sued.

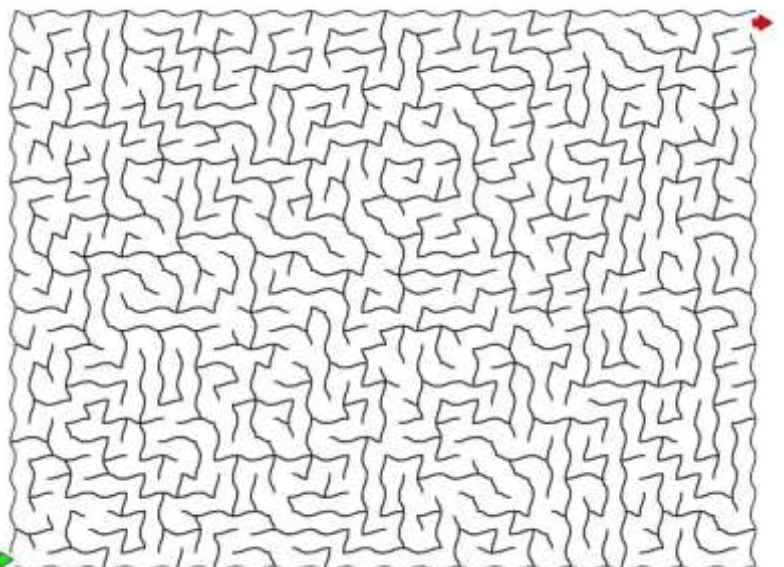
The healthiest part of a doughnut is the hole? Unfortunately you have to eat through the rest of doughnut to get to it.

A friend told me that the new burgers in Morrisons café were really good & that they were plant bases. I said "Really, which plant do they come from?". She answered "A meat processing plant".

I plan to go on an exotic holiday this year. Preferably to a quiet place close to the beach & ideally in an all inclusive, up market resort in the Maldives. I would like it to cost £10,000 - £15,000. Does anyone know where I can get the money for it?...
..Who just said it looks like your having your holidays at home this year?!

God bless, Denis A.

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Answer on pg 32

Jigsaw Reunited

Due to the restrictions of COVID and other commitments we had not been able to meet with Tim and Kate Lee from Jigsaw for more than four years. It was a pleasure therefore, to welcome them once again to St James's on Sunday 11th June. Tim and Kate are truly our own church missionaries. More than twenty years ago they were members of our church family at St James's and Tim's mum Edna was a lay reader with us and Tim's father spent much of his time abroad managing various education projects in Africa and Asia. Tim and Kate were both teachers in our local schools, but it was not surprising that they received the call from God to spread the good news of the gospel message to lands far away from Meltham.

With the support of The Church Missionary Society (CMS) Tim and Kate went out to Manila in the Philippines, here they were shocked to see the desperate need of young children who had been abandoned by their families and were living on the streets in Manila, these children were unloved and unwanted. Tim and Kate wanted to demonstrate to them that they were not alone and that God and his people cared for them. So Jigsaw Kids Ministries was born.



Jigsaw aims to support these children, to give them a better life and to show them love and care. That was more than 23 years ago. Since then, Jigsaw has expanded its remit and now works not only with the street children but also with many families living in four of the slum areas of Manila. Jigsaw now supports more than 1000 children and their families by providing them with meals, social support, literary programmes, kids clubs, youth work and education sponsorship. The Jigsaw team brings hope to many desperately poor children and their families living in dire poverty.

Tim and Kate worked for more than 10 years in Manila before deciding that it was time to hand over much of the day-to-day work to the local people, so Tim and Kate returned to the UK where Tim continued to work for CMS managing many key Jigsaw activities from afar. They then moved to Singapore to support the work of CMS both in Manila and in other parts of Asia, but recently they have returned to the UK and they are now based on the edge of the Lake District where Tim still works for CMS. The work of Jigsaw is supported financially by about fourteen churches in the UK, and we are one of their key support bases both as a Church and as individuals. We were delighted to hear from Tim and Kate of all the wonderful work that Jigsaw is doing when they visited us. More than thirty people shared an African meal (prepared for us by Sumaya and Veronique, more about that on the back page), and Tim and Kate were able to catch up with old friends and meet many new ones.

We will continue to support Tim and Kate and all the Jigsaw family in spreading God's love to a world in such desperate need. We were able to send them away with a significant contribution from the church family at St James's and from the wider parish. On the day more than £1,000 was raised for Jigsaw so that they could continue the marvellous work which they are doing in God's name. We promised to continue to support them in this wonderful work.

Chris Ryan.

Parish Services for July & August

Due to the summer break the service pattern is a little different from the usual weekly one.

July Services are as follows:

2nd July - St Bartholomew's, Meltham 9:30am
St James', Meltham Mills 9:30am - This is a 'Family Sunday' service
Christ Church, Helme, 11.15am
St Mary's, Wilshaw 11:15am

9th & 16th July - St Barts', Meltham & St James' Meltham Mills 9.30am
Joint Service held at Christ Church, Helme 11.15am
(there will be no service at St Mary's, all welcome at Helme)

23rd July - St Bartholomew's, Meltham & St James', Meltham Mills 9:30am
Christ Church, Helme & St Mary's, Wilshaw 11:15am

30th July - Parish Communion at St Mary's, Wilshaw. 10.30am

Please note - This is a joint service and no other services will be held on this day. Lets all join together in celebration.

During August only, the services are as follows:

6th August - St James'. Meltham Mills 9.30am & St Mary's, Wilshaw 11.15am
13th August - St Bartholomews' 9.30am & St Mary's 11.15am
20th August - St James' Meltham Mills 9.30am & Christ Church, Helme 11.15am
27th August - St Bartholomews' 9.30am & Christ Church, Helme 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.



Sunday 13th August @ St Mary's, Wilshaw, 11.15am

Pet Service

Bring your pets big and small and thank God for all the love they give us.
The service will be held in the 'Croft' outside at the back of the church.

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

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Gisela Schofield,

Stanley Wilford,

Joan Smith,

Stuart Whitwam

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

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807.	£10.	Mr. D. Earnshaw
472.	£10.	Mrs. C. Charman

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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:

2nd July	Mr & Mrs A Ball
9th July	Mr & Mrs S Ball
16th July	Miss B Hirst
23rd July	Mrs J Belch
6th August	Mr J Radcliffe

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.



1st July - Friend to Friend

8th July - Meltham Walking Group

15th July - Mustard Seed

22nd July - Meltham Wildlife

29th July - Tia Greyhound

'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

On the Sunday following Ascension Day Rev John took a service of the Word at St Mary's. Kim read the lessons and Elizabeth played keyboard. Rev Judy reminded us that when Jesus returned to heaven, He did not take off His human form but retained it and that through Jesus 'death and resurrection and God's grace we have the hope of spending eternity, in heaven, as God's own children.

May 28th was Pentecost Sunday and this was marked by a service of Holy Communion led by Rev Judy. The theme of the service was "The coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples" on that first day Pentecost. This marked the birth of the Christian Church and so we sang "Happy Birthday" and shared a piece of Birthday cake with our coffee.

Lay Reader Jacqueline France led our morning service on Trinity Sunday with people in church and on zoom as usual. It was good to see Val back after a stay in hospital and to welcome Arabella and George who has joined us to hear their banns being read. Shirley read the lessons and Kim led the intercession. Jacqueline spoke about how we are INVITED to join God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in their community of love, that we are CALLED to share that love in our own communities and we are COMMISSIONED to spread that love to a much wider community.

There was a service of Holy Communion on 11th June. Rev John was celebrant and gave a talk about how God rewards faith and brings life into what appears to be dead. The ultimate example of God bringing life out of death was Jesus who died, was buried and rose again. 18th June was Father's Day and to mark this there was a family service lead by Rev John. The music group led some of the as singing, we had a video and said the Lord's Prayer with actions.

Bell House Report

Lay Reader Jacqueline France took a service, following the Coronation of King Charles III, at Bell House on Wednesday 7th June. We had two hymns and Rev Judy Kenworthy read the lesson. Jacqueline gave a short talk about Charles being crowned a king that will serve, following the example set by the King of Kings Jesus. We said some prayers asking God's blessing on our new King and Queen and sang the National Anthem after the blessing.

Mexican Evening

Almost 30 people gathered at Wilshaw Village Hall on Friday 16th June for a Mexican Evening and what a good time we had. We enjoyed Doritos with Guacamole, Salsa and sour cream, followed by Enchilada and Mexican rice and a choice of sweets and drinks. There was a display of Mexican pictures and crafts, a fun quiz and some people even wore sombreros. Money raised was for St Mary's Church funds and our thanks go to all who worked so hard planning, cooking, and running the event and to those who attended.



DIMPS

by Ville

11 Station Street
Meltham, Holmfirth
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tel. 01484 850960

Helme Ladies Report

On Tuesday 23rd May, Helme Ladies held their last meeting in the church hall before embarking on their summer walks. We had a plant swap – bring along plants surplus to requirements and swap for something you would like. There were lots to choose from, vegetables to fancy flowers, courgettes, chillies, mint, geraniums, fuchsias, cosmos and many more. Tea and biscuits were served while minds were made up about the choice of plants, and the choice from the menu for lunch on our first walk. After clearing everything away one lonely geranium was left, it now sits in my garden with lots of friends.

Our first “walk” of the SUMMER season, on June 6th, was quite different – after we had made a donation to Holme Valley Mountain Rescue at Christmas, we were invited to their base in Marsden for a talk and look around. So, there we were on Tuesday at the allotted time ready to rescue a mountain!

We were told how the mountain rescue service was set up in 1965 after three Scouts died in awful weather on the Four Inns challenge. It was all run by volunteers and still is, they are a bunch of dedicated people who are on call 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, (even Christmas day).

The vehicles with all their equipment were shown to us with explanations of what it was used for., how they would go about searches when called out and also all the training they undergo to be efficient when searching. We are all very lucky we have these dedicated people to call on if we get into difficulties.

After the visit we wandered down Peel Street to have lunch at Katies Homemade Kitchen which had been booked in advance. We had a lovely lunch with lots to talk about, even poached eggs on toast tastes better when someone else has done the cooking. We never did get to rescue that mountain, but maybe in the future.

On September 12th Helme Ladies celebrate their 50th anniversary in Helme Church. To help celebrate they would like to invite all past members to join them at 10am.

Upcoming Events: Walks meet in Carlile Street car park at 10am.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| July 4 th | Walk Netherton with lunch at the Beaumont Arms. |
| July 18 th | Walk – Marsden to Slaithwaite with lunch at Vanilla Bean Café |
| August 1 st | Walk – Meltham Reservoir with lunch at Meltham Golf Club |



**Let's hang on to what we've got,
Don't let go, girl, we've got a lot...**

We've never been big on heirlooms in my family, possibly because we were from humble origins. My Mum's and Dad's forbears were from Fife in the industrial central belt of Scotland – my Mum's side were in service, and my Dad's were from coal mining and textile mills. I know this from a family tree going back to 1760, kindly drawn up by my Aunt a few years ago. There are a few skeletons in the closet. There's inbreeding, with the negative effects there for all to see, and a decided lack of menfolk mentioned, which was par for the course when you were in service – the true father often remained anonymous. My mother's mother lived her life blissfully unaware that she was born out of wedlock, and my Aunt never let on, as the shame would have overwhelmed her.

Where was I...oh yes, heirlooms. Although my paternal grandparents were as poor as church mice, there were two things they had of value. One was the lovely, tall and imperious washstand taken from the Kaiser's yacht after it had been broken up, and the contents auctioned off at Rosyth Dockyard after the First World War. My Grandfather had somehow managed to get this home at the back of the tram, and it had pride of place in their tenement home. Sadly, after their death, my Father had more pressing issues to deal with, and it disappeared to a house clearance – big mistake, but such things happen.

The other was a gorgeous, oak, short-case wall clock with Westminster chimes. This was saved from the vultures, and stayed with my Father until his death seven years ago. It was a wedding present to my Grandparents, and I remember the soft, whispering tick-tock as a childhood sound memory. However, while they had it, the clock functioned without its warm, melodic chimes. The reason was simple. They inhabited a two-room tenement flat, and naturally, one of the rooms was set aside as a parlour for when the Minister would call on a Sunday. This meant that they cooked, ate, lived and slept in a single room. Having a clock chiming every fifteen minutes would have meant sleepless nights, so a clockmaker was summoned to disable the chimes. This he duly did, and it remained silent and unfulfilled for 98 years.

In 2016, my own Father died. In his will, he left his cottage and estate to me and my brother Alistair. He hadn't made any provision for his partner Jean, so we used the money he'd left to buy a small property where she now lives rent free. My brother had no interest in his chattels, so the clock passed to me. Unfortunately, it too had ceased to function, and with clock repairers being a dying breed, it became a mere non-working ornament.

Fast forward a few years, and I visited Cuckooland at Tabley, in the heart of the Cheshire stockbroker belt. Cuckooland is the wackiest museum I've ever been to. It's in an ancient Victorian Gothic schoolhouse off the A56, and is run by two elderly brothers, Roman and Maz. Roman deals with the avian timepieces, and Maz restores old British motorbikes back to their former glory. When you book a tour, you wait outside until the exact time, when Roman comes out ringing a school bell. Once inside, you spend an hour admiring and learning the stories of their 700 working cuckoo clocks. They're all going off at different times, so it's a sensory

pandemonium! Many of these had come into their possession as collections of parts, which they painstakingly brought back to life. And there are myriad works of wonder here...

My question was blindingly obvious. Could Roman bring my heirloom back to life? "Of course, but bring it sooner rather than later – I'm not getting any younger, you know" (I think we could all say that...). So, I took it there. Roman looked at the works, scratched his chin, muttered his misgivings, and said "Leave it with me for a few months, and I'll call you when it's ready". Out of the blue, I got a call last week saying that it had been restored to life, so I popped over to collect my baby.

It's back on my kitchen wall now, and it's an audio-visual thing of beauty! Mechanical clocks are a testament to man's ingenuity – try to imagine being given a handful of pieces of metal, and told to construct something that calculates the time exactly. I'm told that it's an eight day Westminster clock, in an oak case, with a rare escapement, and has a certain value. That's nice to know, but academic. It's the connection that matters – like a hand reaching out to me through the lost generations, and a childhood memory rekindled. So, the lessons to be taken are: Visit the wonderful and wacky, world's only cuckoo clock museum. It's a fast-disappearing, zany, typically English day out – show mediocrity the door! And the other is, as the Four Seasons sang: "Just hang on to what you've got,

Don't let go girl, we've got a lot"

Chris Sinclair



Care Home Services

Greenacres

1:30pm for 2pm start. Tuesday 11th July - Songs of Praise

1.30pm for 2pm start. Tuesday 13th July - Holy Communion.

Helme Hall

1.30pm for 2pm start. Friday 16th July - Holy Communion

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



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CROSSROADS CENTRE



James 1 : 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above.

We have been very busy these last few months as new projects and ideas begin to shape how we use the Centre and how we are viewed by others.

As a Mental health hub supported by the Kirklees Council Ward Councillors, the work we do is recognised by them as we seek to prioritise the wellbeing of the people in our Community. Last year representatives from all areas of the Project did some Mental Health awareness training which I hope we can extend out to more people this year,

The Warm and Welcoming Wednesday in many ways has exceeded all our expectations about what it can achieve as friendships are formed and a good time is had by all. About 15 people have attended with a regular number of over 8. The success of this venture earned us the privilege of hosting Tracey Brabin and her team which went down well.

Our links with the community Hub coordinator and Kirklees Community Plus has been very useful in enabling that to continue. We rarely close this session, and this is appreciated by all who attend.

The Sewing bees and Creative craft group have met regularly and enjoy being creative. They support worthwhile causes and enjoy the company of those who attend.

The new room downstairs is now finished thanks to the hard work of a small team who made this possible. I have met up with the Kirklees Drug and Alcohol Service 'Change Grow Live' (CGL) who will be using our new room for individual and small group sessions in the near future. Other groups welcome to book it.



The Centre hosted their Meltham Community Day alongside the Carlile Institute and was well attended showcasing the different groups in Meltham and encouraging people to volunteer.

From the 4th to the 8th July along with the Carlile Institute we will be again hosting the **Meltham Fringe events for the Holmfirth Art Festival**. Please join us anytime between 12 noon and 8pm and come and see what talented painters and Crafters we have in the Meltham area. Wilshaw village Hall are also exhibiting on the Friday and Saturday of that week and would love to see you.

As always thank you for your prayers and support.
Sue Priestley

An African Meal

Meals have always been important as a time for friends and families to come together. Food connects!

And they are important in the history of faith. Just look how often Jesus finds time to have barbecues on the beach or to go to people's homes. According to John's Gospel, Jesus first miracle took place at a wedding feast where he recognised the importance of key parts of the meal not running out!

He is attacked for "eating with tax collectors and sinners"! All sorts of things happen when he goes out for meals – people want their children healed or randomly a woman pours perfume over him and wipes it up with her hair. Luke's gospel is full of stories of Jesus at meals.

None of this happened at St James in June when we had an African meal after a service! Over 40 adults and children shared together in a lunch prepared by Veronique and Sumaya, both members of our congregation, one from Togo/Benin in West Africa and the other from Uganda. Remarkably in such a small congregation we have 3 families with African heritage: Noku who comes from Zimbabwe is the third family. So, we thought we should share together and celebrate. And we did!

The food was wonderfully varied – fish, lamb, chicken, more than one kind of rice, plantain, chapattis, and so much more. It was all cooked off the premises and brought in for our enjoyment. For some the food may have been a new experience and maybe a challenge, but that didn't mean they held back from giving it a go! The chefs needed a bit of childcare help from Nessy Rodgers – without whom there may not have been a meal. Every bit of help is needed to make an event work!

We were never at risk of running out of food! It was a banquet!

Some time ago I read a book by Tim Chester called "A Meal with Jesus". The subtitle is "Discovering grace, community and mission around the table." We found this to be very true as we ate and talked together. We were blessed to have Tim and Kate Lee from CMS sharing their stories of mission in the Philippines.

So much thanks to all those who made it happen. It was memorable!



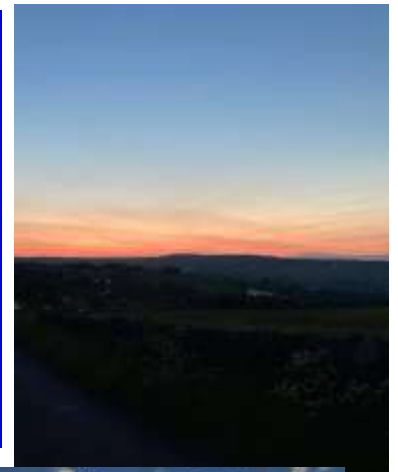
Sumaya is on the left & Veronique on the right





Sunsets.

Whitby on the left,
Road to Slaithwaite, right
Below left, Moelfre in
Anglesey.
Below right, sky over
Holmbridge



2	6	5	1	9	7	8	4	3
4	8	7	6	5	3	9	1	2
9	1	3	8	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	2	4	3	6	7	9	1
3	9	6	7	1	5	2	8	4
7	4	1	2	8	9	3	5	6
5	2	8	3	6	1	4	7	9
6	3	9	5	7	4	1	2	8
1	7	4	9	2	8	6	3	5

Above, pictures from the African
meal.
Left, Sheep of Wessenhead Road.

Solution to the
Sudoku on page 15