

OCTOBER 2023

50p



The Parish Magazine

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SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 10:00 – 15:00hrs

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We don't change God's message –
His message changes us.

- Anon

VICAR OF THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING

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CHRIST CHURCH

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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,
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to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
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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 Autumn!

Welcome to the October edition of the magazine, the weather is getting colder so grab a cuppa and enjoy your latest edition. Hopefully you'll not have failed to notice we have a new Parish logo unveiled, this was agreed at the last PCC meeting.

As ever there are lots of interesting articles and updates including HDFHS (pg 12) and St Mary's (pg 23). There are lots of tributes throughout this issue to Rev Peter Rolls.

Thank you so much to all who have contributed this month, I had so much to include I have either had to edit or save some for a future edition! But don't let that put you off as I'm always happy to receive submissions.

The deadline of the November magazine will be:

Friday 20th October 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.

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If you would like to ask for prayers to be said, please contact

Christine Rolls 340342

Hester Deacon 657069



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Letter from your Vicar



October is the month of our harvest festivals, and this always causes me to think back to my own days in farming. The harvest is a time of joy but also a time of hard graft and long days working, working to complete that which was started many months earlier.

This year I have found myself reflecting on how varied each year's harvest could be. Some years yields were high, the harvest was plentiful, whilst other years could see more modest returns. Often, we would feel that we understood the reasons for the differences. Regardless of modern technology, impressive equipment, and advanced agricultural sciences no farmer can control the weather. It's not just dry years or wet years, a dry growing season will reduce yields and a wet harvest will damage the crop. The sun and the rain need to come at the right time, and a late April frost can have a significant impact on you harvest in August.

I remember one particularly dry year when there was a very well-timed cloud burst causing a heavy shower at one side of the farm which resulting in one field (where it rained) producing almost twice as much as the next field over.

In Mark 4 Jesus says "the kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens". Of course, these days, with all our scientific knowledge, we often think that we do understand but only God can send the rain and the sun, only he controls the weather.

Each year regardless of how good the harvest all farmers must sow the seed for the next harvest. In God's kingdom, in his Church, each generation must share the Gospel, the good news of Jesus and trust that God will send "the sun and the rain" to make it grow.

We may not understand why one harvest is greater than another but it is our job to sow the seed, which is the good news, to pray which is to tend the crop, and to welcome in and love all whom God is calling and celebrate every harvest as we recognise God's continued blessing on his people and his world.

God bless

Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)





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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

And now suddenly it is Autumn! The 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, close bosom-friend of the maturing sun' etc etc as wrote the romantic poet John Keats, in September 1819. No thoughts of Climate change; or threats of environmental doom to trouble his creative mind! But of course, tragically Keats was already suffering from tuberculosis and would be dead just two years later at the young age of just 26.

It seems every generation has 'natural' disasters and tragedies to either overcome or learn to live with. Frequently termed 'acts of God', folk would find some consolation in saying it was all part of God's will, part of His plan.

Nowadays, in our more enlightened time, or so we like to think, we have the world of science and technology helping to explain the reasons for so many of these 'acts of God' occurring. So often, and to our shame, we have discovered they have happened as a direct or indirect result of human activity; inactivity or negligence. I am quite sure they were not in the plans of our loving, creator God, who as God the Son, came himself to earth to give us life and life in all its fullness! *John 10:10*

Surely after the extreme weather events experienced this summer, nobody can honestly still believe that climate change and global warming isn't really happening? Did they not see or hear the terrifying wild fires breaking out in Europe; Canada and Australia? the horrifying earthquakes in Iran, Turkey & Morocco? the devastating floods where tens of thousands of lives have been swept away? The sight of vast areas of sea ice melting away, perhaps changing the environments and bio diversity of the frozen continents forever? The words 'of Biblical proportions' were frequently used to describe the overwhelming impact of these disasters. Do we never learn?

And now, it seems, the government is thinking about rowing back on many of its progressive 'green' policies, trying to balance the extra costs of 'going green' with the rising costs of daily living. Let's be honest, it is always the poorest people in our society and throughout the world who pay the biggest price, who really struggle to make ends meet. With thoughts of colder weather on the way the future can look very bleak. A wise government of any institution, must be sensitive to the needs of the people and adjust policies where and when the need arises whilst still keeping sight of long term goals.

The Church is just the same. We are called to be faithful stewards of this beautiful blue and green planet which we believe God, in His grace and generosity has given us to be our home. A home where we could live our lives and raise our families for generation after generation, where everything we need is freely and generously given.

Trying to go greener can feel challenging; often initially more expensive, requiring quite a bit of discipline and effort to sustain. All we can do, with God's help, is to keep trying to do the best we can with the resources and strength we have been given. No one said it was going to be easy!

God bless us in our continued efforts. Jenny x



Crossroads Centre Update

In the 1970's I was privileged to be part of a performance of 'Come Together' a Christian musical written by Jimmy and Carol Owens.

One of the songs I can still remember is a song with these words in the chorus which I still think about

*'Freely, freely you have received.
Freely, freely give'.*

These last few weeks have reminded me of what a generous community we live in.

Last week (18th – 23rd September) we were able to donate a week's takings from the Crossroads Shop for the relief work in both Morocco and Libya. I'm not sure how much was raised but before the appeal had started over £70 was handed in at the Crossroads Centre.

A couple of weeks ago the Crossroads Grant Committee met. They are sometimes overwhelmed by requests for Grants, but the Committee has always been able to help many families, individuals, and organisations over the last 28 years, and continues to do so. My thanks to Sangeeta Enright the Chair of the Grant Committee and Anne Halstead the Secretary who between them, do all the preparation and paperwork necessary to bring the requests to the committee. Thank you also to the members of the Grant Committee who have served so faithfully, some for many years.

Another generous gift: of new and nearly used clothes for girls was donated and almost immediately given to a family identified as desperate for clothing for their teenagers by our Community Plus worker. The family were delighted, and we give thanks.

'Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver' 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.

As always thank you all for your kindness, prayers and support

Sue Priestley

In order to function, and build a relationship with our clients, we need to know a bit about them and their circumstances. However, we inhabit a world where data can be amassed and misused by the unscrupulous and entrepreneurial. Ever noticed how the advertisements we see seem to be strangely well tuned to our interests? We deal with people who may be wary about the information that businesses hold on them. Unfortunately, some see us as being in cahoots with the authorities, and it's just not the case.



A good rule of thumb is: hold only as much data as is necessary to service their needs – we don't need to know their mother's maiden name, their first pet or the primary school they went to. In order to live within these parameters, we've reduced not only the data we hold, but also the length of time we hold it for. GDPR is particularly important in the charity sector, and woe betide any business who falls foul of the law. Trust is so important to people, and once it's gone, it takes a long time to win it back.

Our monthly parcel total has plateaued at around 80 parcels per month, and should stay around that mark. It's likely that the cost of living crisis will get worse before it gets better, so why is our total not increasing by the month? The answer is simple: clients who've used us regularly are getting help with their issues by being signposted to the right benefits, having their debts rationalised, and so forth.

The late summer (I think the trades description people may disagree with me describing it thus), stretches our volunteer base, as it's the holiday season and many of us are taking a well earned break, but the workload still has to be dealt with. We're so lucky to have the volunteers that we do. We're also lucky to have such a generous community to fund us – without you, we couldn't carry on doing what we do.

Bless you all
Chris Sinclair

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.**



- An interesting discovery

Back in June I mentioned that a team of volunteers from the Huddersfield & District Family History Society were involved in a project to record and photograph the monumental inscriptions on the graves in the Parish graveyards. The project is now complete. Rev John was very enthusiastic about our project and gave us some useful tips and information about the graveyards.

We have taken a set of photographs for each identifiable grave in the Meltham Parish, consisting of a shot of the full grave and its surroundings, close up images of the inscription, and where relevant, the kerbstones. Kerbstones are often used to show who is also buried in that grave when there is no more room on the headstone, so it is very important to record these. A full set of images enables us to accurately transcribe the inscription onto a spreadsheet and also helps the person who double checks the transcriptions for us. The full grave image helps anyone looking for a grave to more easily find its location.

Firstly, we started work at Christ Church in Helme. We thought this was going to be “a piece of cake” as we noticed that the graveyard had a grid system marked by engraved letters around the perimeter walls of the graveyard and also on the church walls. How wrong we were, we soon discovered that at some point the graveyard had been extended at the bottom right hand corner and consequently the grid system was out of alignment. This resulted in more than one review of our plan and renumbering of the plots.

We then moved on to photograph and transcribe the gravestones at the rest of the Churches in the Parish, finally ending up at St Bartholomew’s annex at Calmlands.

Here we came across a grave which unfortunately had been a victim of the Yorkshire weather and was badly eroded depicting the curious name *Countess Mena Hamon*. A Countess in Meltham!!? Could we believe this? After some research via Google we found that indeed this was the case and what a story unfolded. Just have a look at one of the family history websites or Wikipedia to reveal the full story. It even made the National Newspapers. No doubt, some of you may be aware of the faux Countess and her family story, which is also being published in the October edition of our Society’s Journal. It’s well worth looking into if you are not aware of the family saga.



This is the inscription for the Hamon grave:

“In loving memory of a/dearly beloved husband/Louis L Warner Hamon/born Nov 1st 1866/died Oct 8th 1936/also John Albert Hartland/dearly beloved son of Countess Mena Hamon/born Nov 17th 1899/died Nov 8th 1942”

You may be wondering what is going to happen to all the photographs and transcriptions we have recorded. The transcriptions are in the process of being formatted with a view to being available via the subscription website of FindmyPast. These transcriptions, along with plans of the graveyards and respective images are to be made available to researchers at the Root Cellar. Copies can be obtained on request via our website. www.hdfhs.org.uk

Our Society has a research room, the Root Cellar, just off Greens End Road in Meltham where a team of volunteers can assist with any queries you may have regarding family history. An extensive stock of booklets are on sale covering many church registers in the Kirklees area along with census returns from 1841 and 1851. There is online computer access to FindmyPast and Ancestry. The Root Cellar is open to members and non-members of the Society, with a small donation requested from visitors to access all our resources.

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



The Root Cellar, 33A Greens End Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 5NW

Tel. 01484 859229 E: secretary@hdfhs.org.uk W: www.hdfhs.org.uk

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Instagram: [huddersfieldanddistrictfhs](https://www.instagram.com/huddersfieldanddistrictfhs)

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Did you know that you can find help to research your family history, and that it is right on your doorstep? The Huddersfield & District Family History Society have a suite of computers with access to Ancestry and FindmyPast and many willing and experienced volunteers to assist you at their research room in Meltham.

We are based in the modern building to the right as you go up to Greens End Garage, just after the Parish Hall on Greens End Road. We have an extensive family and local history library, with a range of books on the subject larger than any you will find in libraries around Kirklees. We can help with research in any part of the UK or beyond. If you feel like taking the first steps to what can be an addictive hobby, these are our opening times:

Monday	2.00 pm to 4.30 pm
Tuesday	2.00 pm to 4.30 pm
Wednesday	10.00 am to 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm
Thursday	2.00 pm to 4.30 pm
Friday	10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Saturday	2.00 pm to 4.30 pm

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

Helme Ladies Report

On Saturday of the Bank Holiday weekend, Helme Ladies held their Coffee Morning. The weather forecast was for sunny spells and showers, so no difference there then! We were ready when the doors opened at 9.30am, but it was a very slow start, was everyone going to picnic in the park. We need not have worried, all the usual suspects turned up eventually and the hall was buzzing. I know we had a lot there as I was washing up and it seemed to never end. So, all in all a very successful morning with around £250 to add to our charity fund, and my sincere thanks go to all those who helped.

Our next Tuesday meeting was a trip to the Garden Centre in Uppermill and first thing upon arriving was coffee. We had our usual gossip and put the world to rights, then decided what to do next. Some walked down the canal into the centre of Uppermill, others wandered around the plants redesigning gardens to fit the plants in. While looking around we saw the Christmas stock being put out on the shelves and it was still August. Everyone met up again for lunch, then wandered home with the spoils of our day out.

The invitations had gone out to past members of Helme ladies to help in celebrating our 50th Anniversary on Tuesday 12th September, the day it rained all day. We were in Helme Church for this celebration with a buffet lunch. We began with a short service of thanksgiving led by our Vicar Rev John Dracup, a couple of hymns, a reading and prayers. This was followed by the lunch and lots of gossip to catch up on and old photos of past events had been brought along and placed on a table for viewing. You could hear comments like "so don't we all look young on that", "where did you get that hat", "do you remember going on that parade" and the inevitable "do you know what happened to so and so". The special cake was cut by Jenny (first leader of the Young Wives) and Janet (first leader of Helme Ladies) and divided so everyone could have a piece. I will say this, Mavis makes a beautiful chocolate cake, thank you Mavis. When all the gossip had been caught up on and everyone was caked out, it was time to say our goodbyes. From me it's here's to the next 50 years.

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Oct 24th | Flower Arranging |
| Nov 7th | Coffee and cake at the Beaumont Arms |
| Nov 21st | Wildlife Talk with Kath Heaney |



Volunteer Poppy Sellers

If anyone would like to sell poppies in Morrison for the Royal British Legion, please contact –

Sara Thorpe – 07947 216695

Or I will be in Morrisons with a rota on Thursday tea time 5 – 6pm on Thursday 19th October.

Please come along and help, thank you very much



Dorothy Turners Funeral.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dorothy Turner took place at St Bartholomew's Church on Thursday 21st September. Dorothy was the wife of Rev David Turner who was the vicar in the Meltham area from 1979 - 1989. Rev John Dracup led the service and Rev Martin Short, the vicar of Honley gave a glowing tribute. Dorothy lived in Honley and attended the church there but always kept her contact with Meltham and worked tirelessly for the Shoebox appeal. Simon Ball was organist and we listened to a piece of music entitled "Smile" as we reflected on our memories of this special lady. Her daughter Elisabeth and her grandchildren Henry and Daisy and her wider family were supported by a large congregation and refreshments were served in the church hall. Dorothy's smile lit up a room and her love and kindness touched the lives of everyone she met. May she rest in peace surrounded by God's amazing love.



The Alpha Course

Have you ever thought to yourself - I've been going to church for years but I've never really got to grips with questions like:

Who is Jesus?,

Why did he die for us?

How can we have faith?

How does God guide us?

Why do we pray?

If God loves us, why is there so much pain in the world?



Alpha is a space to ask the big questions like theses and explore faith in an open, pressure-free environment.

If you would like to know more call/text Nigel on 07885430085 or email:

nigel.priestley@ridleyandhall.co.uk

Parish Services for October

You are welcome to join 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

October brings the Harvest Festival, all are welcome and are family friendly. If you would like to bring something for the harvest festival, we will be collecting on behalf of the Crossroads Foodbank. Please take a look on page 11 for ideas of useful items.

Sunday 1st October

St James' Church, Meltham Mills @09:30

Christ Church, Helme @ 11:15

Sunday 8th October

St Bartholomews' Church, Meltham @ 09:30

St Mary's Church, Wilshaw @ 11:15



Please Note: Sunday 29th October is a Parish Communion Service, this is when all four churches join together in celebration. This will be at Christ Church, Helme @ 10:30. There will be NO other services on this day.

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.

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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

Miles Crawshaw and Rae Elizabeth Maclaren

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

Erin Fay Lyons

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Rev Peter Rolls

Dorothy Turner

Kathleen Whiteley

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 : **September Winners**

508	£50	Mrs S. Farrell
538	£10	Mrs A. Halstead
961	£10	Mrs C. Norcliffe
022	£10	Mrs J. Hutson
830	£10	Rev J. Ratcliffe
422	£10	Mr J. Welsh

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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:

01/10/2023	Mr & Mrs M Farrell
08/10/2023	Mrs C Moulson
15/10/2023	Vacant
22/10/2023	Mrs M Walker
29/10/2023	Mr R Billington
05/11/2023	Mr & Mrs J Mitchell

Flowers are a lovely way to remember loved ones or to celebrate that special occasion. If you would like to put flowers on the Communion table in church we do have dates available if you would like to.

Please contact:
Catherine Moulson (850171)

Saturday Coffee Mornings

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

7th October - St Mary's Wilshaw

14th October - Christian Aid

21st October - Gillbert & Sullivan

28th October - Crossroads Shop

4th November - Meltham WI



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JUST FOR FUN!

An advert for I.P.A Beer? I saw a man wearing a black T Shirt on the back of which was the slogan - "I.P.A. lot at night"

Jurgen Klopp is the manager of Liverpool F.C. He has a sister who manages a stable for retired horses. Her name is Clippety .

My doctor told me I needed to burn some fat, so I'm grilling a Rib Eye steak.

I've been in bed for half an hour and just remembered I came upstairs for my pen.

Did you know?

Divers searching the wreck of a ship on the seabed 500ft below the surface, were amazed to find that the swimming pool on the ship was still full of water.

I can't afford an Ancestry DNA kit to learn about my relatives, so instead, I posted on line that I had won the Lottery.

In response to Pam's poem in the July/Aug magazine:

Dear Pam, I know that I'm old , nearly bald, drop thingsevery day, have arthritic knees, hips and fingers, have to walk with the aid of a stick, live alond, and have to write daft dotes for the magazine, have two speeds, Stop & Start. So please don't write any more poems about me.

Love to you. Denis A.

The jokes used by Jacqueline, at Bell house Care Home (see page 23)

What kind of car would Jesus drive? A Christler.

What did Eve say when handing Adam something to wear?

"Take it or leaf it."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her 5&6 year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honour thy father and thy mother," the Sunday School teacher asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

A man was coming out of church one day. The vicar was standing at the door as usual is to shake hands. The preacher grabbed this man by the hand, pulled him aside, and said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The man replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Vicar." The vicar asked, "Then why don't I see you at church except at Christmas and Easter?"

" My friend whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

The Account

Written for my friend Peter just after his funeral.

It comes closer,
Sooner, even bigger.
Unavoidable, inevitable, invincible,
the reckoning when nothing is wasted.

A calculation of infinite importance,
marking in sands that have run out,
a small line in time.
Without doubt an end, a death.
Your death confirming the certainty that
mine will follow.

Slowly, lost and diminished you left
yet I knew your hope stood strong,
and we wept.
I hesitate, pause, reflect; surprised.
Surprised I see a different landscape,
startled I feel a trust in my old heart
survives.

I sense a beginning,
Born of your dying, felt in your long
leaving.
I see a flame flickering, growing
brighter
kindly inviting lighting and leading me
through gloom.
You stood with me in my doubt
You had been for me the hand and
expression, the compassion of the
living God.

Hope transformed becomes my faith
revived, and now offers to me my
future, a new creation.

Humbled. I thank you.

Liz Ryan



Rev Peter Rolls Funeral

It was with sadness that we said a fond farewell to Rev Peter Rolls on Saturday 16th September. Peter has been a Lay Reader, Deacon and Priest for many, many years in the Meltham area and was very involved with Churches Together. What a privilege it was to share in this service along with his wife Christine and his family and friends.

Rev David Kent led the service, Rev Chrissy Little shared some of the beautiful thoughts written in the cards received by the family and Rev John Dracup read the lesson. St James' Church was packed with people who have much to remember about such a special man, such a deeply faithful Christian minister and someone who was caring and kind. Heaven's gain is our loss and he will be missed.

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St Mary's Report

Our first service back, following the holidays took place on 3rd September when Lay Reader Jacqueline France led a Service of the Word at St Mary's. Elizabeth prepared the power point and played keyboard and Rev Judy Led the intercessions. We watched a video of the Gospel reading and Jacqueline led a meditation on Peter - "Rock or Stumbling Block?"

On the following Sunday we attended the Civic Service in Meltham so there was no service at St Mary's that day.

The **Civic Service** took place at St Bartholomew's church at 10. 30am. Rev John welcomed the Mayor of Meltham, Richard Noon, councillors, invited guests and representatives of many community groups. Prior to the service Meltham and Meltham Mills Brass Band led a parade through the town. Uniformed groups presented their flags at the church and these were received by Rev John. Deputy Mayor, Jean Wrathall read the lesson, St Bartholomew's church choir led the singing and Simon Ball was organist. We were introduced to Meltham's councillors by the Mayor. Rev John, assisted by his daughter Rebekah, spoke about "New beginnings and Working Together" using a rather fizzy visual aid! Pie and peas were enjoyed across at the church hall after the service.

On the 17th September it was a joy to welcome Jacqueline once more to lead our service. Two of the hymns and the Bible reading were on the screen, Kim Howe led the prayers and Elizabeth played the keyboard for the final song. Jacqueline spoke about how God's gracious forgiveness is our example of how we should forgive others. As usual the worship was shared with people on zoom as well as in church. Coffee and cake was enjoyed following the service when we all had a good catch up.

We are looking forward to the future with excitement now as we have permission to look into trying some "Fresh Expressions" of how we worship God in our community. We would value your prayers as we take this step of faith.

Bell House Report

17 ladies & gentlemen gathered to share worship at the Bell House Care home in Wilshaw. The theme of the service was laughter. We thought about the reading "a joyful heart is good medicine" (Proverbs 17:22) and considered the many benefits of laughter. We thought about the joy that is everywhere in the bible and how the people of God laugh and rejoice because of who God is and what God does. Whilst we recognised that God knows that we have times of sorrow and grief. But, as the Bible says, "weeping may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). We look to God to restore our joy.

We all did some laughing too, mainly at my bad jokes, which were nowhere as good as Rev John's!

Jaqueline France

The end of an Era.

The death of Peter Rolls on the 11th of August 2023 marks the end of an era in the life of our church. Peter had been at the heart centre of our church life for more than half a century.

I first came to James's church in 1974 ,it was a lively church led by Rev Eddie Roberts and there was an enthusiastic youth group meeting in the cellar of the Vicarage. At that time, I was involved as a Pathfinder leader in another church in Huddersfield but occasionally attended the cellar group and there I met Nigel and Sue and John Smith.

When Liz and I moved to Helme a few years later we began to attend St James's church on a regular basis. Things had changed, the youth group had been disbanded and the church was recovering following the disruptive ministry of the Rev John Huggett, the rebuilding process was led by several mature Christians including Philip Stead , Frank Dolby , Harry Preston and Mrs Hurst. And they were joined by younger Christians including Peter and Janet Rolls, Christine Walker and Nigel Priestley.

One of the key building blocks of the church was the Pre-school playgroup that met during the week in the old schoolhouse next to the church. Janet was the chairman, Christine the treasurer and my wife Liz was the secretary. The playgroup looked after about twenty preschool aged children and drew many of their families into the life of the church. One of the highlights of the year was the Crib Service on Christmas Eve , this was led by Peter and was always very well attended by many young families. As the children grew up many came to Sunday School, Pathfinders and then the church youth group.

During this time Peter trained as a Lay Reader and began leading services and preaching in our church. He also led house groups and prayer meetings on a regular basis.

In the 1980s and 1990s the church was thriving and Peter was at the centre of church life, he received the call to ordained ministry and trained with David Kent at the Northern Ordination Course. Nigel and I both trained as Lay Readers and we were later also joined by two further Lay Readers Hesther Deacon and Edna Lee . So, we had a variety of church services and most of our communion services were led by Peter, we also had a lively music group led by Christine.

For many years in the summer up to twenty of us would go to the Greenbelt music festival where we had a lively time of fellowship and fun. On several occasions in the winter there would be a parish weekend away at the Green Gables hotel in Scarborough on these occasions up to 70 people would go from the parish and enjoy a weekend of teaching fellowship and fun. Peter was at the heart of these events.

One of the major reasons why the church was thriving at this time was because at the very centre of things was the principle that we would care for and look after each other ,this was one of the key principles that Peter inspired in us . His life and ministry was based on love and care for others.

Many good things were happening within our church family at this time; Jean Burhouse was the inspiration for the Crossroads Shop and Crossroads centre;

there was a lively youth group of up to twenty young people led by myself my wife Liz and by Nigel and Sue . Judith Powell set up the Shoe box project .Carols in the Park became an annual event . Melham Churches Together was formed and here Peter played a central part as our churches became more involved in various community activities.

Whilst Peter may not have been the originator of many of these key activities he certainly was a key supporter and encouraged people to take part in these many community events.

When Peter retired as a teacher, more than twenty years ago, he dedicated his life to pastoral work. Peter was a non-stipendiary minister (he was not a paid member of the clergy) . Whilst the vicars of our parish have to spend much of their time on managing and maintaining four ancient buildings and the bureaucracy that goes with running a large parish, in contrast the focus of Peter's ministry was different . Much of their time was spent on looking after bricks and mortar, the focus of Peter's ministry was flesh and blood .

If anyone was sick Peter would visit them, bring them Communion, pray with them and support them, and if they were serious ill he would anoint them with the oil of Chrism that he had received at the Chrism service at the Cathedral each Maundy Thursday.

If a member of our church had family or relationship problems, Peter would lend an ear and offer words of support and encouragement. If you were frail and elderly and could you no longer come to church Peter would visit you and you would know that you were not forgotten.

The centre of Peters ministry was love, care and kindness . Peter was also a humble man; he was not concerned about his own status or position. Whilst Peter might not have been the most eloquent of preachers, you knew that what he proclaimed from the pulpit he lived out in his life . He was a man of integrity, and a man with great faith.

Peter was a man who lived up to his name, he was a rock, one of the foundation stones on which our present-day church is built.

The challenge for us who are left behind is to ensure that we in our church continue to show the love care and kindness to those that we meet on life's journey.

In simple terms we just need to follow Peter's example.

We will miss him greatly, but we give thanks for his remarkable life, a life based on love care and kindness.

Chris Ryan.



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Talking it Through

By Mabel Bagnell

I 'wrote' this piece 30 years ago and did nothing with it. Recently it has come back to me and I think this is the right time to share it .

*What do you want of me, Lord, now that I'm getting old?
I'm tired, Lord, and I'm weary, and I do so feel the cold!
My bones ache and I've gone quite deaf, so please speak up, you see,
I'm afraid I may not hear you when You speak to me!*

*I don't get out much these days. I have to rely on friends
To shop and 'keep an eye' on me. Oh, how I wish these knees would bend!
And yet, Lord, I'm so lucky - I have the time to spare,
If friends or neighbours need to talk, They know I'm always there.*

*I love it when the children come to visit me
I think of You, Lord, when You called a young child to your knee
And explained to your disciples how we all must try
To look to you at all times with the eyes of a trusting child.*

*What DO You want of me, Lord? I think I'm beginning to see.
That all that you want of me, Lord, Is to keep on being me,
Not wishing I was young again, but content here in my home.
Because I know, Lord, really that 'THE BEST' is yet to come!*

Amen / So be it!



The Parish Volunteers

Are a group of people who like doing some of the thousands of maintenance jobs around our Parish. Some of the group would regards themselves as church members and some not. The group is open to anyone who wants to help;. As well as the satisfaction of making a real difference to our parish, we also have fun and a chat. There is no pressure, come as often or as little as you like.

We just post what we are doing and communicate by WhatsApp. If WhatsApp is not your thing talk to Mike and we will find another way of including you. Fact is we do need more people! We would like to get done before Christmas, one more grass cut at Helme. Clearing up debris & moss, Making 4 more stable nativity scenes so each church can have one.

If you are interested Please call Mike on 07867951512

REVD PETER ROLLS

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the cards, messages, kind words, prayers, flowers, care and support we have received since the death of Peter. We have been completely overwhelmed.



His funeral service was a very special day - a time of thanksgiving for his life - and once again we were overwhelmed by the sheer number of people who came. We thank all those who were there and all those who for one reason or another couldn't physically be there but were with us in Spirit. Peter is missed and will be missed.

'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints' Psalm 116 v 15

Christine Rolls and family



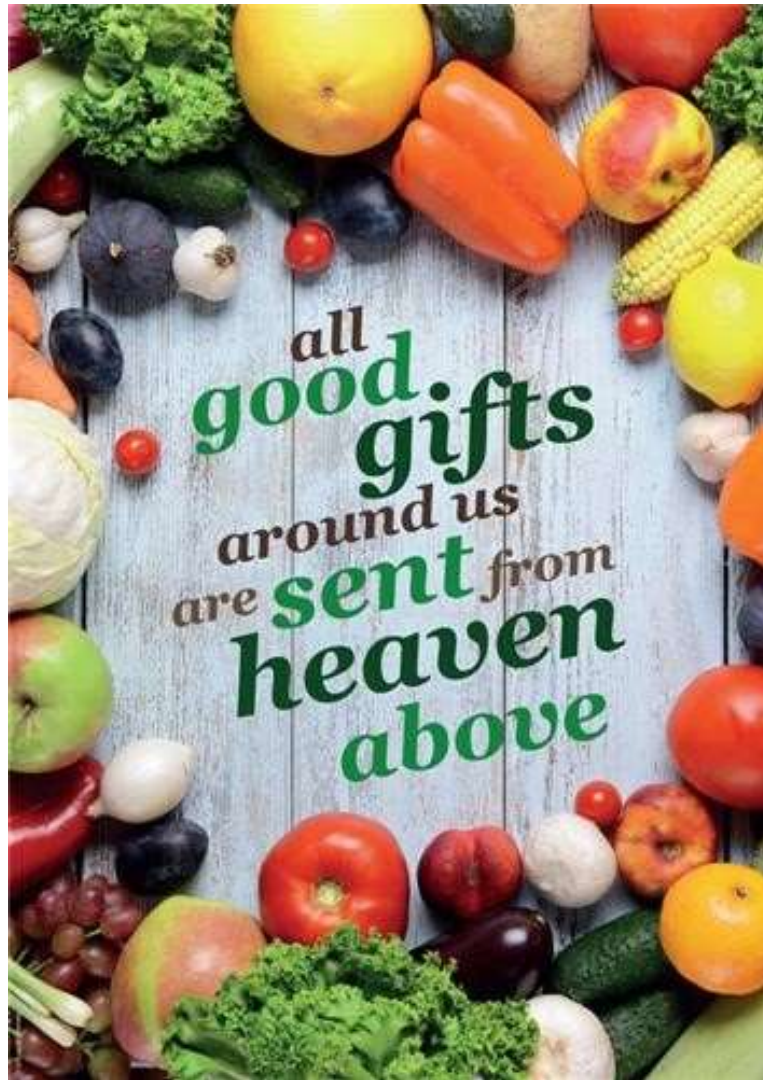
Home Grown

These have been grown over the summer months around the parish.

Bottom left: Chris D, Bottom Right: John S
Right: Surprise vicarage apples.

Left: Rosie's Papple, Below: Caroline H
Centre: Isaac's Corn.





1st & 8th October 2023, Harvest Festivals across the Parish.

We will be saying a **BIG THANK YOU** to God and to everyone else who plays a part in making sure we have food and water.

We'll also have the chance to say we're sorry for the things we've done, or not done, that takes away from God's desire for all people to have enough nourishing food to eat and clean water to drink.

As part of the service we will also be delighted to receive donations for the Meltham Foodbank. They especially need these things to help our neighbours across the village: coffee, sugar, eggs, canned meat or fish, toiletries, breakfast cereal or jam.

We would love to see you – everyone will be warmly welcomed whether they are used to coming to church, or not.

Sunday 1st October: St James' Church, @ 9.30am, Helme @11.15am

Sunday 8th October: St Barts @ 9.30am, St Mary's, Wilshaw @ 11.15am