

# The Parish Magazine



50p

Wonderful

Prince of Peace

Emmanuel - God with us



**DECEMBER & JANUARY 23/24**



**Treat Fest - An alternative Halloween**

After the success and fun of last year Meltham parish once again held an alternative Halloween party for primary school aged children. It was a fun night full of games, sweets, hot chocolate and crafts. Everyone had a positive comment about the evening and said how kind it was to put on such an evening for FREE!

The giant marshmallow decorating was a hit as well as lantern making, although watching kids trying to eat donuts with no hands was worth a watch. As was the bucket of slime.

The event once again showed that Church can be fun and positive conversations where had too. A BIG thank you to all involved on the night and those who held the evening in prayer.



**Richard is 100!**

**Congratulations** to Richard Styan on your 100th birthday. Such an inspiring man who still sings in the community choir.

As part of his celebration he received a card from King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The card read, "We are so pleased to know that you are celebrating your one hundredth birthday, this brings our warmest congratulations and heartfelt good wishes on such a special occasion" signed by both King and Queen.

## In this issue ...

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Image courtesy of Parish Pump                            | Cover        |
| Treat Fest / Congratulations                             | Inside cover |
| Parish Officials   | Page 4       |
| A Note from the Editor                                   | Page 5       |
| A Letter from your Vicar                                 | Page 7       |
| Going Greener - Moving towards an Eco Church             | Page 9       |
| Foodbank Update  | Page 10      |
| Magazine changes ahead / Toddler Church has moved        | Page 11      |
| Letter from the Rt Reverend Nick Baines                  | Page 12      |
| 1 Corinthians 13 Christmas / Crisis update               | Page 13      |
| To all our friends / Reverse advent calendar             | Page 15      |
| Forest Church Christingle / Weekly services for January  | Page 16      |
| Weekly Services for December and Christmas Services      | Page 17      |
| From the Registers / 200 Club / Flowers / Coffee Morning | Page 19      |
| Just for Fun   | Page 21      |
| Parish Volunteers  | Page 22      |
| St Mary's Report / Bell House Report                     | Page 23      |
| Meltham G & S Society                                    | Page 24      |
| Helme Ladies Update / Parish Communion                   | Page 25      |
| Meltham Shoebox Team                                     | Page 30      |
| Meltham Remembers  | Page 31      |
| Happy Christmas  | Back Cover   |

Christ became what we are  
that He might make us what He is.

– Athanasius

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

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**Churchwardens** Vacant

**All magazine enquiries.**

**melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com**

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

## Prayer for Growth

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

### A note from the editor ...

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A very warm welcome to those who may be reading this for the first time. We hope you like it and find something that interests you in it. The magazine is available in our Churches or on the Church website: [melthamparish.co.uk](http://melthamparish.co.uk)

Thank you to all who have contributed this month and throughout the last year. I really couldn't make the magazine it is without you. This month is a great Christmas edition and you can find all about what is happening in our Churches this Christmas on the centre pages. Also there are ideas on how to make it a more greener Christmas on page 9 , and a lovely remake of 1 Corinthians 13 on page 13. There is **BIG NEWS** on page 11 on how this magazine is changing so do check that out.

The deadline of the February magazine will be:

**Monday 22nd January 2024**

Please send submissions via:

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

or

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



God Bless,  
Fiona.



### Meltham Prayer Chain

Meltham Prayer chain has representatives from every church in Meltham and serves to pray for any need or difficulty.

Confidentiality is always respected.

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

Christine Rolls      340342

Hester Deacon      657069



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# Letter from your Vicar

## Happy Christmas

Trees and decorations are starting to go up around the parish and for the next few weeks my diary looks even more full than usual. Clearly Christmas is coming. I always look forward to this time of the year and in Meltham there are so many good reasons to do so.

On Saturday the 2nd of December we will have the Christmas fair in the Church Hall, carols with the band outside St Bartholomew's, and the turning on of the village lights, followed the next day by carols in the park. The following weekend will see us celebrate with carols in the pub at the wagon and horses on the Saturday and, the always creative carol service at Wilshaw at 6pm on the Sunday. On Sunday the 17th St Bartholomew's will hold an interactive nativity at 4pm. I'm particularly looking forward to what we are calling a "Forest Church Christingle" on Saturday the 23rd at 4pm at Helme Church. On Christmas Eve St James' will have their Crib service at 4pm and St Bartholomew's will hold midnight communion starting at 11:30pm.

In addition to all of this I will have the great joy and privilege of joining in with the celebrations of some of our community groups and all our schools. You just can't have too much Christmas, though I will be ready for a rest by boxing day.

Please do come along and join in with as many of these wonderful events as you are able to, and I really do hope you have a very happy and joyful Christmas.

## And a happy New Year

Of course, this is a double issue so I must also wish you all a very happy New Year. During the first few months of the New Year our service pattern will be changing in a similar way to last year with our four Parish Churches sharing services and buildings.

Choosing to do this is neither an easy or simple decision and both myself and your Parochial Church Council have given this serious and careful thought. We do understand peoples desire to meet in their usual place of worship.

Last year I was concerned as to how this would work out, but it proved to have many positives beyond the financial concerns that initially inspired the idea. This year we hope to build on those positives though, clearly heating bills are still a very significant motivation. Please let me assure you that all those who meet midweek are also making every effort to contribute by meeting in the smaller spaces at the rear of our buildings.

These are challenging times, but I truly believe that if we work together as a parish and use our resources wisely, we can have many more happy New Year's, working together and building God's ministry within our community.

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**

### **Are you dreaming of a green Christmas? Part 2**

How are we all doing? I must confess I am finding it quite a challenge to keep thinking 'green' while the festive season is almost upon us! It's just too easy to slip back into old habits acquired over a lifetime of stuffing stockings with cheerful plastic and lots of sparkle! But hopefully we are gaining knowledge and knowledge brings confidence! So here are a few tips and hints to help us have a great Christmas Day whilst not causing too much damage to our planet – Good luck!

**Christmas Dinner:** Plan a sustainable dinner by choosing locally sourced, organic ingredients, plant based or low-impact meat options, and incorporate seasonal produce that hasn't been flown half way round the world! Use reusable dinnerware and cloth napkins and table covers instead of disposable. Consider energy efficient cooking methods like a slow cooker or air fryer. Watch portion sizes to avoid waste and compost scraps instead of throwing them away! Lastly don't forget the eco friendly washing up liquid and cleaning stuff!!

**Gifts for children:** Consider giving eco friendly toys made from sustainable materials, such as wooden puzzles or organic cotton stuffed animals. Educational gifts like books on nature or DIY science kits promote learning and sustainability. Another idea is a reusable lunch box set or a stainless steel water bottle for school. Encourage outdoor activities with gardening kits or birdhouse building materials. Opt for items with minimal packaging to reduce waste.

**Gifts for grownups:** Consider eco-friendly gift options like attractive reusable shopping bags, sustainable kitchenware or indoor plants. Bigger presents: ask what people would really like – it saves expensive mistakes and disappointed faces! Use recycled or reusable wrapping paper; encourage the children to print on brown wrapping paper with Christmas printing stamps and use coloured string or raffia to tie them. Opt for energy- efficient LED lights for decorations. Encourage 'Experiences' rather than physical gifts, a theatre visit; a cookery course; an exciting outdoors activity - create memories.

Finally how about buying a family gift, something that comes out every Christmas, something that your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will treasure over the years - a beautiful traditional Nativity Set? Such a gift would put Mary, Joseph, their precious baby, our Lord Jesus, along with angels, shepherds and kings, at the heart of the family Christmas. God's greatest gift to the world, sending us His Son, celebrated every Christmas.

Have a joyful, peaceful and very Happy Christmas and, of course, a Greener New Year!

God bless us in our efforts, Jenny x

# CROSSROADS CENTRE



It seems like no time at all since last Christmas, but that may be a symptom of the advancing years – or mine at least. It's a very important time for us at the foodbank for a number of reasons. We are fortunate to be at the centre of a warm hearted and generous community, and depend on this generosity to help us through the leaner times ahead. Also, our clients won't be visited by as much festive cheer as other families. The demands of putting food on the table, providing a roof over their heads and heating a home may be a bridge too far, not to mention joining the merry-go-round John Lewis themed annual spendathon.



So what are we going to do... Our volunteers will be helping out until the last minute knowing that it's a tidy break until normal life resumes in early January. Our phone line will be manned for emergencies during this period. Also, we've approached the amazing Liz Woodfield from Meltham Moor Primary, who's liaising with the other heads and providing us with contacts for families who'd welcome an extra boost with Xmas treat packs delivered by our drivers just before the break. This will help us to engage with households who may have been reticent in coming forward in the past, and that's vital – it's what we have to do. It's 2023 in an affluent and developed state not afflicted by wars, so no-one should go hungry, full stop.

Please dig deep for us this Christmas – you did last Christmas, Harvest Festival time, and as an ongoing thing throughout the year – it's needed more than ever, and it encapsulates what the true Christmas message is all about.

\* \* \* \* \*

On a lighter note...

We'll all be busy buying presents for families, friends, loved ones and so forth. Obviously, we try to tailor these with the recipient in mind, but do please consider the effect on other family members. As an example, You'd be well advised to think twice before purchasing a drum kit for a hyperactive nephew, or candles for a budding pyromaniac. One year in the distant past, my father had a moment of enlightenment, and on Christmas morning presented my brother and me each with a pair of bright red boxing gloves. The snag was that he was four years older than me...and he hated my guts. The rest is history...

Bless you all

Chris Sinclair

## Magazine changes ahead

Whilst helping to sort some paperwork at St Bartholomew's Church I was excited to come across the first ever edition of this monthly church magazine back in 1900. It was interesting to read what was happening then, but also relieved to see that in 1917 the first line written in April was, *"My Dear Friends, I am afraid the Magazine is very late this month, but I am sure you will excuse it when you realise the rush I have been living in lately."* See, it's not just me!

This next year in 2024, is the year the magazine will become **bi-monthly**. It will be issued every 'even' month as in February, April, June, August, October and December. This is due to many reasons, but namely the cost of printing has increased. This is in part due to Kirklees college stopping their subsidised service, but also the fact printing is a high energy consuming business. The Parish Magazine has been running at a loss every month. To help cover these costs, the magazine from February, will increase to £1 per issue. The price has not increased for at least 20+ years but the cost of producing it has.

However, if you are a subscriber and pay your £5 yearly subscription, this will NOT change. So in effect you will be getting an issue for FREE!

If you prefer to read your edition digitally and in full colour then you can download this from the church website [www.melthamparish.co.uk](http://www.melthamparish.co.uk)

I thank you all for your understanding in this situation and for all the help and support you have given and your continued support in the future for producing this magazine and hope I can continue to do it justice.

Fiona Dracup (Editor)



## Toddler Church has moved!

We have been based at Helme Church for over a year but, now we have set up our new base at St Bartholomew's Church.

We are very grateful for the support that we have received from the Helme congregation but there are certain realities we have to face, namely increased heating costs.

We have also changed the day to a Tuesday. This will enable us to slot into the current provision of work with toddlers, that currently takes place at the Methodist Church on Monday and Thursday mornings.



**Toddler Church welcomes pre school aged children with their carers, on Tuesdays, 9am - 11am (term time only)**

## A letter from the Rt Revd Nick Baines

The diocese has requested that the following letter to be included in all parish magazines across the diocese.



Dear Friends

I want to start with a big thank you to all those who give their money generously, individually and through their parishes, which pays the parish share. I know that for many that is very challenging.

Your parish share not only supports the clergy you see week in and week out, but also supports 310 clergy and curates right across the diocese. Share ensures we can provide them with suitable housing. Share lets us provide training, resources and guidance to over 32,000 worshippers in 441 parishes. Share enabled over 10,000 life events in our parishes last year alone.

Parish Share has a far reaching impact.

For every £100 that the diocese receives in parish share, it spends £133 on paying for clergy and ministry. Your parish share is vital for sustaining ministry and mission across the Diocese of Leeds.

But we face a very real challenge. Parish share income has fallen by £1.5 million since 2019. At the same time, costs associated with parish ministry and the maintenance of clergy housing have increased by roughly the same amount of £1.5 million, due to the increased cost of living and materials. The Diocese cannot continue to spend significantly more than we can bring in.

At the root of Christian giving is a very simple dynamic. God has given to us freely in Jesus Christ, and our response in gratitude is to give not only of our spirit, of our discipleship, but also with our material gifts, including money. A generous culture is essential in the church, for reflecting the nature of the God whom we worship and who calls us, but also practically, to enable our churches to develop sustainable and long-term ministry.

I know continued generosity is a challenge, but it's a challenge we need to meet. I want to encourage parishes to build a generous church, rooted in growing generous discipleship of individuals, letting us do what we believe we are called to do. But if we believe in doing it, we need to pay for it.

Alongside this letter the PCC have received the share request for 2024 and a guide which provides a bit more detail on where the money goes. Please do ask to see it if you want to know more. I am encouraging everyone, both personally and as part of your parish community, to think about our shared purpose in building a generous church. You may want to talk with your PCC about your plans for next year and your response to the share request.

I am extremely grateful for those who give sacrificially. We could not do any of this without you.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Baines'.

The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines  
Bishop of Leeds

# 1 Corinthians 13 - Christmas Edition

(Source Sharon Jaynes, edited )

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

If I slave away in the Kitchen baking cakes and arranging  
food on a beautifully adorned table,  
But do not share the true meaning of Christmas,  
I am just another cook.



If I volunteer at a foodbank, sing carols in hospital and donate to charity,  
But do not demonstrate simple kindness to strangers it profits me nothing.

If I attend Christmas lunches, with party hats and crackers yet fail to be awestruck  
by the Christ who gave everything to come as a vulnerable child,  
I have missed the point.

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

Love sets aside decorating to kiss a loved one

Love is kind during Christmas though sometimes tired.

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

Love does not ask family to get out of the way, but is thankful; they are in the way.

Love does not give only to those who can give in return or are on our lists,

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

Love bear all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails, even at Christmas.



We would like to thank everyone who supported the 'Crisis' coffee morning. As ever, we're very grateful to all the lovely people who donate items or their time and everyone who comes to buy. Without all the different contributions the event wouldn't be as successful in both raising money and creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere on the morning. We're delighted that the current total is £5,080 which includes a donation from Jill Horman's 80th birthday.

Alison & Richard Whiteley

If you would like to find out more about the work of 'Crisis' go to: [www.crisis.org.uk/](http://www.crisis.org.uk/)

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**References and quotes available**



Telephone: 844307  
Mobile: 07789161232

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

## To All Our Friends By Pam Murgatroyd

We won't be sending Christmas cards,  
But it's not that we're not able,  
It's just that we would rather  
Put some food upon our table.

The cost of cards is bad enough  
But think of all the trees that are lost,  
And postage has gone up again,  
So think what that will cost.

It does not mean that we don't care  
For those who live alone,  
But not sending cards won't change a  
thing,  
We can still speak on the phone.

To speak in person means much more  
Than a piece of card in the post,  
And if I had the chance to choose,  
I know what I'd like most.

So please be understanding  
In our hearts you are still held dear,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a prosperous New Year.

Lots of love & best wishes  
Pam & Peter xxx



### Reverse Advent Calendar

For many years St Mary's Church, Wilshaw, do a reverse advent calendar. Instead of receiving treats every day through advent, they give an item in support for the Meltham foodbank. After 24 days the donations are given.

Join in and give it a try! Have a go during December and include non Christmas related items for a January drop off to clients.

Stuck for ideas? - Give these a try.

**Eggs**

**Crisps, Ketchup/Mayo**

**Sugar, Soup, Jam/Marmalade,**

**Long Life Milk, Tinned Meat, Tinned Tuna,**

**Savoury Biscuits, Shower Gel etc, Sauce for Rice/Pasta ,**

**Instant Coffee/Tea bags, Tinned veg, Custard/Jelly, Breakfast Cereal**

**Tinned Spaghetti**

**Stuffing/Gravy**

When done, you can put it into the red bins at the Coop in Meltham & Netherton.

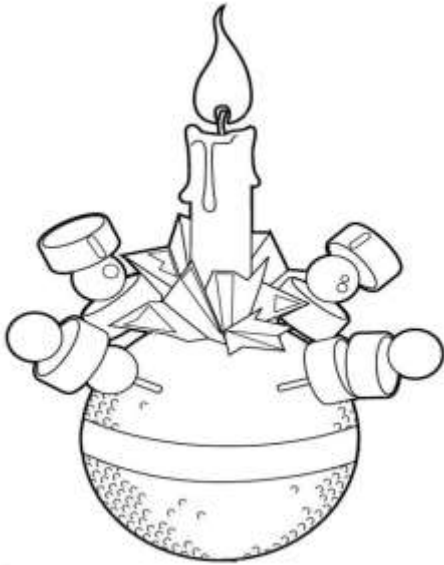
# Forest Church Christingle

Join us at Christ Church, Helme for our first forest church Christingle!

An interactive event that has all the elements of a traditional Christingle but also using our senses to engage with God and the world around us.

We will gather in the church for a Christmas carol to get us in the mood! Then outside to follow a trail that will enable us to connect with God whilst building our Christingles. We'll finish off by lighting our Christingles in church and a warming hot chocolate drink!

**It's going to be so much fun!! But don't forget to wrap up, wear some boots or wellies, maybe bring an umbrella and a torch!!**



**Saturday 23rd December @ 4pm**

**Christ Church, Helme**



## Weekly Parish Services for the New Year

As last year, due to heating costs, up until April there will be a Sunday church service at 9.30am & 11:15am weekly.

They will be as follows for **January**:

- 7th St James' (Family Sunday) 9:30am and St Mary's Wilshaw (HC) 11:15am
- 14th St Bartholomew's (HC) 9:30am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am
- 21st **Methodist Covenant Service 10:30am** - At Meltham Methodist Church
- 28th **Parish Communion Service 10:30am**, St James' Meltham Mills.

4th Feb St Bart's Family Sunday 9.30am and St Mary's Wilshaw (HC) 11:15am

### **Please Note:**

- We are all encouraged to join together on 15th Jan for a Churches together Covenant Service at the Meltham Methodist Church.
- The first Sunday in the month (9:30am) will be a Family Sunday service where people of ALL ages can join in the fun.



## Weekly Parish Services for December

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

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.

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

**Saturday 2nd** December, Christmas Market, Church Hall, at 10am - 3pm

**Sunday 3rd** December, Carols in the park, at 4:00pm

Robert Ashton Memorial Park, (off Huddersfield Road/Meltham Mills Road)

**Saturday 9th** December, Carols in the pub, at 7:30pm

The Wagon and Horses.

**Sunday 10th** December, Carol service, at 6:00pm

St Mary's Church Wilshaw.



**Sunday 17th** December, Nativity service, at 4:00pm

St Bartholomew's Church, Meltham.

**Saturday 23rd** December, Forest Church Christingle, at 4:00pm

Christ Church, Helme. - (Please dress warmly and bring your boots and torch!)

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup>** December, Crib service, at 4:00pm

St James Church, Meltham Mills.

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup>** December, Mid-night communion, at 11:30pm

St Bartholomew's Church.

### Christmas Day Services,

9:30am St James, Meltham Mills.

11:15am St Marys, Wilshaw.



### Christmas Jumper Sunday!

**We've all got 'em! Those fabulous, loud, cheesy Christmas jumpers. Wear yours to church on Sunday 17th December!**



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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

Holly

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Janet Gillham, Carole Tinker, David Simpson, Barten Addy,  
Sybill Carr, Doreen Ashby, Ian Mackenzie.

Anyone wishing to have their loved ones names included in the book of Remembrance at St Bartholomew's please contact Jean Collison : Telephone 851816  
(there is a small fee of £5 for church expenses)

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

## 200 CLUB :

### November Winners

|     |     |                 |
|-----|-----|-----------------|
| 350 | £50 | Mr. J. Bradley  |
| 728 | £10 | Mr. J. Harrison |
| 735 | £10 | Mr. C. Brearley |
| 320 | £10 | Ms. J. Hoyle    |
| 805 | £10 | Mr. D. Earnshaw |

### Want to join the 200 club?

It costs just 25p per week (£13 pa).  
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:

All December - Advent Flowers

7th January 2024 Mrs Thackery

14th January Mr & Mrs A Ball

21st January Mrs A Schofield

28th January Vacant

4th February Mr & Mrs B Gregory

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.

**2nd Dec** - St Bartholomew's Christmas Market

**9th Dec** - Christ Church, Helme      **6th January** - Badger Society

**16th Dec** - Scout and Guides      **13th Jan** - Hospice

**23rd Dec** - Closed      **20th Jan** - St Bart's Church

**30th Dec** - Closed      **27th Jan** - Wilshaw Village Hall

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# JUST FOR FUN!

By Denis A

Just remembered: Once on a flight to Florida, I asked the Air Stewardess "How often do planes crash?", "Just once" she replied.

Driving home after an appointment at the doctors I said to June, "Funny that the doctor told me that I should touch myself whenever I feel like it". "NO" June said, "He said you could have a stroke at anytime!"

Who made King Arthur's Round Table? Was it Sir cumference?"

The Institute of Unfinished Research has concluded that 6 out of 10 people...

"What do you want for dinner? Savoury Beef, mouthwatering salmon, or extra tasty chicken?" "I'll have the mouthwatering salmon" said Fred. "I was talking to the dog" said Fred's missus.

Did you know?: - Some alligators can grow up to 15 feet, but most only have four.

- The producers of the film "Wizard of Oz" have removed the scarecrow from all the scenes it appeared in? They said it was offending too many people without brains.

K R Brain who used to be the Headmaster of H.V.G.S once called me a brainless idiot. Perhaps he was right. God Bless one & all. Denis A.

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>GOD'S PROMISE</b><br/><i>Isaiah 9:6-7</i><br/>CHILD • BORN • SON<br/>GIVEN • WONDERFUL<br/>COUNCELLOR<br/>MIGHTY • GOD<br/>EVERLASTING<br/>FATHER • PRINCE<br/>PEACE • LORD</p>  <p><b>AN ANGEL MESSENGER</b><br/><i>Luke 1:26-38</i><br/>ANGEL • GABRIEL<br/>JOSEPH • MARY<br/>FAVOUR • SON<br/>JESUS • GREAT<br/>THRONE • REIGN<br/>FOREVER • HOLY<br/>SERVANT • WORD</p> | <p>V R P R I N C E L R O D<br/>W O R D C F A T H E R E<br/>J A G M A N G E R G E B<br/>O W H O E V E R W I I J<br/>S J O Y B O R N O S G E<br/>E S L S E R V A N T N S<br/>P P Y J C H I L D E P U<br/>H R O S H E P H E R D S<br/>F A V O U R E F R W S O<br/>B I R T H S W O F O D L<br/>I S A V I O U R U R L O<br/>F E C O U N C E L L O R<br/>A N G E L B J V K D V D<br/>B E T H L E H E M G E S<br/>L A N G E L S R G O D V<br/>I G A B R I E L T D S M<br/>F P G I V E N A H U O A<br/>E E H G A V E S R W N R<br/>S A E G R E A T O N L Y<br/>O C H R I S T I N N J O<br/>N E O G O O D N E W S N<br/>F L O C K M I G H T Y B</p> | <p><b>A LONG JOURNEY</b><br/><i>Luke 2:1-20</i><br/>BETHLEHEM<br/>REGISTER • BIRTH<br/>MANGER • INN<br/>SHEPHERDS • FLOCK<br/>ANGELS • JOY<br/>GOOD NEWS • PRAISE<br/>SAVIOUR • CHRIST</p>  <p><b>THE BEST GIFT OF ALL</b><br/><i>John 3:16</i><br/>GOD • SO • LOVED<br/>WORLD • HE • GAVE<br/>ONLY • SON<br/>WHOEVER • BELIEVES<br/>ETERNAL • LIFE</p> |
|--|--|--|



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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 to Thursday & Saturday | 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm   |
| Wednesday also                | 10.00 am to 12.30 pm |
| Friday                        | 10.00 am to 12.30 pm |

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## **The Parish Volunteers**

A group of people who like doing some of the thousands of maintenance jobs around our Parish. 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, no problem.

**Next Job?** Making 4 stable nativity scenes so each church can have one. If you are interested Please call Mike on 07867951512

## **St Mary's Report**

Sunday 5th November, Lay Reader Jacqueline France led the morning service which she based on "All Saints." We had a good sing and heard a reading from St Matthew's Gospel which is known as "The Beatitudes". Jacqueline spoke about how St Julian of Norwich reminded us that God made us, God loves us and God sustains us. We listened to some music based on All will be well and learnt that Friendship and Obedience are two powerful gifts given by the Holy Spirit. At the end of the service we shared coffee and fellowship with one another.

The following Sunday, Lay Reader Jacqueline led a Service of Remembrance at St Mary's at 2pm We were grateful to Mr John Fox, who was standard bearer and Mr and Mrs Peter Foden who attended the service as representatives of the British Legion. Elizabeth played the keyboard, Kim read the lesson, Judith Moore read the poem "In Flanders Fields" and Rev Judy led the prayers. Jacqueline spoke about flowers mentioning a rose for love and poppies for remembrance. We sang the National Anthem, the names of the fallen were read out and Peter Foden laid the wreath on the memorial. Two minutes silence was observed as we remembered all those who had made the supreme sacrifice.

St Mary's are exploring "New Expressions" of church and as part of this we welcomed Lay Reader Nigel Priestley to our "Breakfast Church" As he guided us through the parable of "The Prodigal s Son" we enjoyed bacon butties and coffee. We had interesting discussions about how a sculpture of the Prodigal son made us feel and how that related to the different characters in the parable. We had two hymns and a video, a Bible reading and some prayers. It was a very informal time of worship and fellowship which we thoroughly enjoyed.

This has been a very busy month looking back in remembrance but also looking forward with hope. Please remember Jacqueline in your prayers as she begins a new ministry at Bell House.



## **Bell House Report**

This month the residents shared a Remembrance Service for all those from this community and beyond, who were and have been caught up in the courageous but tragic events of war.

George did a great job reading from Matthew 6:28-30. We thought about the poppy, and how it has become the symbol of remembrance. The Bible reminds us that: 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' We then reflected that when Jesus said this, he was referring to the fact that he would eventually give his own life, so that we could be forgiven.

As we thought about the soldiers who have given their lives to bring peace, we also thought about Jesus who gave his life to bring us peace with God.'

## Meltham G&S Society – MGASS

Many of you will be familiar with the old Church G&S Society which ran from 1963 to 2019. We have a new society that continues to thrive as one of many groups hiring the Parish Hall.

We recently had to arrange our Autumn Concert, which was washed out by Storm Babet, a staged and costumed performance of Trial by Jury and an Old Time Music Hall Singalong where the audience were encouraged to join in.

Our next show, in May 2024, will be The Mikado, the most popular G&S opera ever written, which has delighted audiences for more than a century. It represents Gilbert & Sullivan at the height of their creativity.

Our Producer, Graham Weston has been a leading actor in the Yorkshire area performing nearly all the 'patter' roles and endearing himself to our regular audiences. He is much in demand for his comic acting and singing. Our Musical Director, Ewan Anderson, is from a professional Musical Theatre background. He loves G&S and is keen to join us as The Mikado is his favourite.

There has been some confusion, and some disquiet about the transition of the Church G&S Society to our current state, but we are hoping this quickly becomes 'old news' and we can continue going forward in partnership. We rent the hall as tenants, arranging our show around other users who have equal access. Anne Halstead has been particularly helpful and understanding in dealing with what is, due to new members, a fledgling committee. Ruth Murray-Webster continues to support us, indeed organised the refreshments at the last show, for which we were very grateful. MGASS, as all local groups, do need regular help, front of house, backstage, and singing in the chorus, all are welcome in any capacity. Please contact me on 07859 401244 or [martluke321@outlook.com](mailto:martluke321@outlook.com) for more information – we have lots of new members and you would be really welcome.

We are Meltham G&S Society and we are keen to maintain our close, friendly links with the Church family,

Martin Luke (Chair) MGASS.





## Helme Ladies Report

We moved away from the Christmas theme for our annual flower arranging competition this year in favour of small is beautiful. I did tease the ladies after a visit to the Spring flower show in Harrogate, where I had seen all these beautiful arrangements, hats made from flowers, dresses too and all the large arrangements depicting all sorts of places. So, when we met on 24th October all these small containers appeared with flowers and greenery harvested from our gardens and perhaps our neighbours when they weren't looking. I bunged mine in the small bottle I had brought (I am no good at this) then prowled around the others as I was the judge!! While tea and biscuits were being consumed, I had another look at all the efforts to choose which I thought was the best. I chose the arrangement by Margaret Fenton, and she was presented with the Barbara Quarmby Memorial Cup to display and polish for the next year.

7th November we were going out – to the Beaumont Arms for coffee and cake – delicious cakes as we know. What a lovely relaxing morning we had as we consumed cake, tea or coffee and caught up with all the gossip!! What are you doing at Christmas? Well as far as I am concerned my family haven't told me yet. Where are you going on holiday? And lots of other questions. You can tell when cakes are home made as all of these were, so yummy and delicious. We had a great time.

### Upcoming Events:

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Dec 12th | Christmas Lunch at the Beaumont Arms   |
| Jan 2nd  | New Year Party and Quiz                |
| Jan 16th | Suzanne Calvert with more healthy tips |



## Parish Communion

On Sunday 29th October Rev John Dracup led a Service of Holy Communion at Christ Church Helme. All four congregations came together to share worship and was well attended. Rev Dennis Shields assisted with communion, Moira Miller and Eileen Hague read the lessons and Jean Collision played the piano. Rev John led the prayers and gave the talk. The ladies of Christ Church provided refreshments at the end of the service as we shared fellowship together. It was lovely to join together and catch up with those who we may not see regularly.

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## Missed the deadline for the shoebox appeal but still want to help?

Then show your support by coming to a very special concert at St James' Church, Meltham Mills on:

**7th December at 7pm.**

Profits from the concert will help boxes get to their destination to a child in Eastern Europe.

### Meltham shoebox team,

The generosity of families in West Yorkshire continued again this year with the total number of shoeboxes being sent to Eastern Europe is

**3149 shoeboxes**

That makes up into 391 cartons!

Thank you to everyone who sent in shoeboxes packed with love and all the volunteers who helped the team achieve this.

Don't worry if you didn't get chance to fill a box and still want to get involved, you can give a donation to help pay the travel costs to send them on their way. Please see **Judith Powell** to do this.

### Come join us in the New Year!

We are hosting a coffee morning.



Saturday 6th January 2024  
9:30am until noon  
Meltham Parish Church Hall  
HD9 5NW



#### £2 entry

Which includes –

- Tea/coffee
- Biscuits

Also, cake stalls, raffle, tombola, gifts and plenty more!

## Meltham Remembers

On Remembrance Sunday an outdoor Service took place at St Bartholomew's Church, Meltham. Prior to the service Meltham and Meltham Mills Band led a parade through the town to the church. In attendance were members of all six Churches, guides and scouts groups with their flags, councillors and representatives of many local organisations. Rev John Dracup led the service, Elizabeth read the lesson and the band accompanied the hymns and led the National Anthem. Names of the men who died in the two world wars and conflicts since then were read out and many poppy wreaths were laid at the memorial. Parade Marshall was Peter Foden and John Fox was Standard bearer for the British Legion. About 200 + braved the cold weather and some people were able to take part inside the church as the service was relayed there.

There was a wonderful display of Poppies in the church yard. Further poppies decorated the inside of the church with a beautiful display at the front near the piano. Our thanks go to all who took part in the service, to those involved in the preparations for it and those who created the display. Also those who helped to 'plant' the created poppies and for all who supported this moving act of Remembrance. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Happy Christmas and  
a Joyful New Year!



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