

# Meltham Parish Magazine



£1

*Friday's good, but Sunday's coming,  
Don't loose hope cos Sunday's coming!*

**APRIL & MAY 2025**

[www.melthamparish.co.uk](http://www.melthamparish.co.uk)

# Meltham in Bloom



# 50th Birthdays



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**“When Jesus came to earth, He did not cease to be God;  
when He returned to heaven, He did not cease to be man.”**

– Anon

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

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**Churchwarden** 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.

**GROWING**  
Your Church  
Culture ♦ Desire ♦ Prayer ♦ Plan

## A note from the editor ...

Hello!

Happy Easter!

Spring is in the air and also in the Parish Magazine too!  
On the inside cover you can see Meltham in Bloom too.

Apologies that the magazine is running late, again!  
There is lots going on in the vicarage with the children  
and it doesn't help with getting the magazine done.

But do not fear, we are here and lots to see. Turn to  
page 8&9 to hear what exciting events are happening  
in the church. The centre pages will help keep you up  
to date with all the changes in services as well as a big  
announcement from Leeds Diocese.

Finally see on page 25 where it's all change at (The)  
Helme! Thank you for those who continue to support  
me and the magazine by sending submissions in. The  
deadline of the June / July magazine will be:

**Friday 23rd May 2025**

Please send submissions via email to:

**[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

When I wrote my letter for the April issue of this magazine last year we were in the middle of celebrating Easter. This year it comes three weeks later and so we are just coming to the end of Lent and preparing for our Easter celebrations. In last year's letter I reflected on the need for change and how the Easter narrative can help us to understand some of the pains and joys of change.

*“During the period of time between Good Friday and Pentecost that the Apostles struggled too. None of them would have voted for Good Friday and on the day of Ascension they all wanted Jesus to stay with them, but the Church needed Pentecost just as much as we each needed Jesus’s resurrection.” Meltham Parish Magazine April 2024*

At that time, it had become clear that, as a parish, we had experienced many changes that had occurred over the previous few years many of which we had little or no control over. This led us (the PCC) to believe that it was time to take stock of where we were and to seek to understand what God might want us to do next. That we might find a way to make things more sustainable and seek to grow as God's Church here in Meltham. To have a proactive plan, a Godly vision.

A lot of good work has been done on this over the last year, particularly by the PCC, steering groups, and through prayer meetings. I would like to express my deep gratitude to all who have been involved in this challenging work. We believe that this involves our Churches working more closely together and more of what this means in practical terms will be explained as we approach our APCM on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May.

As this is Easter time and I continue to reflect on the Easter narrative. This year I have found myself increasingly aware of Jesus's clear sense of direction. Luke 9:51 states that *“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem”*. Jesus faced a great deal of opposition; his disciples didn't want him to go and even the pharisees warned him of the danger he would face but, believing that his Father had a plan he kept moving forward.

To say that moving from the Old Covenant situation pre-Easter to the New Covenant reality post-Easter involved some hardships would be an understatement. Of course, we know how much Jesus had to suffer but this would certainly stretch the faith of his disciples too. They almost lost hope until by Pentecost they knew they had a sure and certain hope.

Like us, God's Church today, the disciples didn't fully understand God's plan. All the disciples could do was to commit themselves to moving forward with Jesus. It is my hope, my prayer, and the clear intention of our PCC that we should do the same.

God bless,  
Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)

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EASTER

## The God Story

Have you ever sat in church, listened to the Old Testament reading, then you're asked to stand, you hear the gospel reading and when you sit down again you think – "What were those readings really all about?"

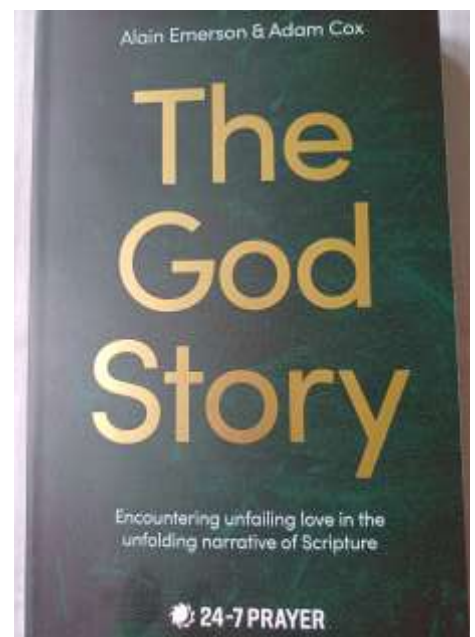
We have readings from the Bible every week and it can be like wandering through a forest with no obvious path and where it seems the language is like going into a forest which is so thick you can't see the trees or the path through it

The Old Testament is full of stories. We might think - . What were those odd names and why did God do that?

Normally we like a good story. If Rev John began a sermon or talk with the immortal words, 'Once upon a time' we would immediately be ready to be captivated, curious to know what these inviting words will give life to? We love it when we are drawn into a story. Story is the way we find meaning, weaving narratives to make sense of the chaotic clash of events and experiences that make up our lives. As human beings we are meaning-making creatures, and yet so often we struggle to make sense of the Bible and how it fits into the world and our place in it.

**Adam Cox and Alain Emerson** have written a book called , "**The God Story**". Their aim is to tell the whole story of the Bible in a compelling and well-structured way that brings all the pieces together. They have articulated the most important story ever told, one that spans culture, place and people - the drama of the Bible. They've done it in a way that does justice to its ancient roots, while making it accessible to new generations.

They've written it all as an invitation to us - to live in this story until we live it out. It will help us to find personal meaning and purpose in light of God's overarching and awe-inspiring plans for humanity as laid out in Scripture. It is the story we're all waiting to hear. It's published by 24-7 Prayer International and is worth a read.



Some people in the Parish had bought the book and found it helpful. It seemed like a good idea to set up a group and week by week discuss each chapter how God's story is unfolding, what strikes us and what we find puzzling. What does it tell us about God's plan for the world – and for us? How can we apply it?

**Every Thursday at 8.00pm there's a Zoom group** – just click on a link I post –

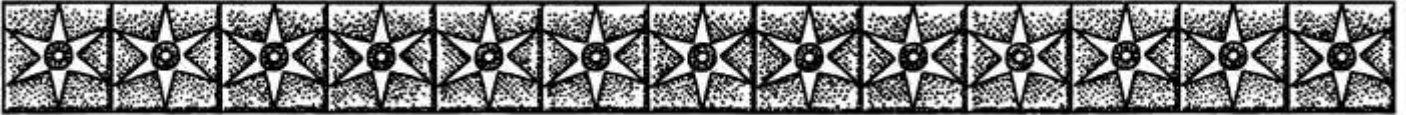


then, in the warmth of your home you can share your thoughts, listen to others and be inspired! It lasts about an hour.

I post the link on the “Meltham Church at Home” WhatsApp group. If you’re not part of this group, just send me a message to 07885430085 and I’ll send you the link. It doesn’t matter if you can’t always attend. I’ll post a link to a sermon on the next chapter for you to listen or watch at home.

It’s good to learn and share together!

Nigel Priestley



## OASIS QUIET DAY

**TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

**St James’ Church, Meltham Mills. 10.30 – 2.30pm approx**

The Oasis Team have listened to feedback and have decided to move from our usual Thursday to a **TUESDAY** for our next Quiet Day.

We hope that people, who for various reasons are unable to make it on a Thursday, will be able to join us on **TUESDAY 20th May** instead.

Also, we shall hope to end the day earlier, by 2.30pm, for those with child care or other commitments.

Apart from these changes, the day will follow its regular pattern. There will be a theme for the day, lead by the Oasis Team; a mixture of Worship; reflection and prayer; periods of Silence; a lunch time for Fellowship; ending with a Service of Holy Communion in the Celtic Tradition lead by either Rev Martin or Rev Elizabeth.



It would be delightful to see some new faces. We realise a Quiet Day does not appeal to everyone but why not ‘come and see’? Pop in and stay for a while, take some time out; ‘Be still and know’. You may be pleasantly surprised!

Coffee and biscuits are served from 10.00 and if you are planning to stay for some lunchtime fellowship – please bring a packed lunch! Don’t worry if you forget – nobody will go without – remember those loaves and fishes!

Look out for more details nearer the time on the Parish Website or on the Church ‘Whatsapp’ group.



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## **Meltham Parish and Care for the world we live in.**

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

### **Reflections on a garden**

Most of us have some space around our home where we can put a few plant pots or maybe we have a garden.

In Genesis 2 v 13

*“The Lord God then took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”*

The man, the human created by God from the dust of the earth was given a task to look after the garden where God had placed him.

As we look around in these months of April and May we can see leaves on the trees and spring blossom we may have plants growing, flowering plants are coming into flower. Take time to sit outside or go for a walk and notice the brightness of spring.

This year Easter falls late and we might like to reflect on our journey through Holy Week as we reflect on the events leading up to the crucifixion. Many of the events are outside, we have the agony of Jesus with his disciples sleeping at Gethsemane. We have the crucifixion, again this happens outside. As Jesus hangs on the cross two criminals hang either side. One mocks Jesus the other defends Jesus and then ask Jesus to remember him when he comes into his kingdom (Luke 23v 39-43). Jesus forgives him and says, “Truly I tell you today you will be with me in Paradise.” This is an amazing response from Jesus and speak of the gift of forgiveness available to all. It is also intriguing that the word Jesus uses is a word associate with a garden

Paradise is derived from a Persian word that means “pleasure garden”. A place of beauty and rest and relaxation. The criminal is forgiven and promised entry into a place with Jesus that is a place of beauty and rest.

Take time out over the next few weeks to reflect on these verses and God’s forgiveness given to us so freely. But perhaps also to think how we can offer our open spaces perhaps not simply our gardens for ourselves but also our churchyards as places of encounter with God.

Rev Elizabeth Snowden



## God's gift to his people

*"He's gifted them with the know-how needed for carving, designing, weaving, and embroidering in blue, purple and scarlet fabrics and in fine linen. They can make anything and design anything" ( Exodus 35 v 35 The Message)*

The Crossroads Project, as many of you will know is a Community Anchor. Community Anchors are established local organisations who share their experience, knowledge and resources to support and help set up new local organisations. Many old and new organisations support the wellbeing and health of their members, helping them to develop new skills, build new friendships and for many an opportunity to leave their homes when frankly they would sometimes rather not.

As an anchor we are able to apply for grants from the local authority. This money enables us to support small organisations to flourish. Some of these meet in the Centre and we provide warm free spaces and resources and sometimes expenses to other organisations which are run entirely by volunteers.

Two examples which meet in the Centre are: The Sustainable Sewing Bees who now provide a community resource. With the help of the Crossroads Shop and generous donations, materials for Sewing, Knitting and Crafting can be obtained for a small donation. This has helped the guides who are busy sewing on badges for their camp blankets and also others who are creating flowers for the Yarn and Fabric flower bombing, Kirklees Woven festival in June. Look out for their work in Meltham.



The Craft Group are learning to paint and create and to have fun learning new crafts.

(Sadly, this group is not open to new members at the moment as it is full, but other opportunities will hopefully arise)



Thanks you as always for your generous support and prayers

Sue Priestley



## **Crossroads Food Bank**

We're still here, and we still need to be here, but it's counter-intuitive...

I was born in the 1950s, and a household's average weekly spend on food was 34%. In 1974, it was 24%, and it's gone down to around 12% now. Employment levels have risen since the grim days of the 1980s, so why on earth are more and more people turning to foodbanks to keep body and soul together? Well, we have a cost of living crisis now, and there are deeper issues than grocery prices. In the 1950s, people would buy their own home by saving up, and not even needing a mortgage, which beggars belief by 2025 standards! We had a thriving coal industry, didn't need Russian gas, so energy was cheap. Poverty arises through a complex range of factors, and that's why we're still here, but hey ho...



On the plus side, in spite of receiving no direct funding, we're kept afloat by our community remembering who we are, and fundraising for us. The Waggon and Horses held a well attended Burns' Night Supper and quiz night, complete with piper, and raised a tidy sum to help us. The team we put up even came a creditable second! The Fourth Fiend hosted a Craft Evening, and they did it to support us. For longer than we can remember we've been winging it from one windfall to another, and somehow it's kept us going.

More recently, it's not just been about delivering emergency parcels to clients. We've been providing lunch packs during school holidays, when some households feel the acute loss of free school meals. One of our clients struggled without a washing machine, so we got her a good pre-loved one. Another had no cooking facilities, so we sorted a microwave. A local man has been sleeping over winter in a tent in the woods, so he comes in for a shower, use of our laundry and some food supplies. We couldn't do these things without the milk of human kindness that our community bestows on us.

Bless you, 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.**



## *Hair Design*



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delivering items to charity shops & the tip  
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***References and quotes available***



Telephone: 844307  
Mobile: 07789161232

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

## Update from Bell House Care Home

In our February service we heard about Jack Reynolds from Chesterfield who was breaking records as he ticked things off his bucket list right through to the age of 107! At 104 he was the oldest person to get a tattoo, at 105 he was the oldest person to take a rollercoaster ride, at 106 he did a zip wire, at 107 he got a cameo part in Holly Oaks, making him the oldest supporting actor on TV.

We concluded that it is important to realise that whether your life is remarkable or ordinary, only 1 goal matters: and that is to see Jesus. To know him, to love him, to share him with others. Make that your number one goal, however old you are, and you can be sure of a life well lived, now and into eternity.

In our March service our focus was on rest. We thought about the importance of having spiritual rest for our minds and bodies. We imagined being in a boat on a quiet part of Lake Galilee with Jesus and spent some quiet time pouring our hearts out to Jesus. We listened to Taize music which helped us to turn towards God, towards Jesus, as our souls began to open up to the peace of God which passes all understanding.

Jaqueline France

## Save the Date

Hot of the press!

We are going to do a really special event as part of our Parish outreach to Families and children

**Sunday 3rd August** we will need lots of help.

Not giving away too much at present so keep your eyes peeled for and see the next edition of the magazine.

Here's a teaser if you like puzzles:

T - -d- B-a- - P- - -i-



## 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*

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Margaret Sykes,

Anthony Portelli,

Michael Wroe

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



The Christian women of the Cook Islands in the Pacific prepared the service for the World Day of Prayer this year. To mark this special day people right around the world take part in this act of worship, over 24 hours. In the Maori language "Kia Ora a" is a form of greeting and means "May you live long and live well. May you shine like the sun, may you dance with the waves." The service was based on how God has made us wonderful and unique and how we are deeply loved by Him. Rev Andrew Marchington, Rev Judy Kenworthy and Rev Elizabeth Snowden led the service and the prayers. Elizabeth Pearson and Judith Moore read the lessons and Jean Collision was organist. Janet, Daphne and Alison told us the stories of Mil, Vainiu and Dr Dawn reminding us that God knows us, that He is with us and that He made us wonderful. We all received a flower to take home and thanks go to the Hospice committee for providing refreshments. The collection from the service will be used to help disadvantaged women and girls in the Cook Islands



## **Bishop Nick announces his retirement**

On 24th March, The Rt Rev Nicholas Baines, the Bishop of Leeds, announced his retirement on 30th November 2025. He says "It has been an immense privilege to have been asked to serve in this role, and it has been an honour to work alongside clergy and lay readers who demonstrate joy, vision, courage and resilience"

Bishop Nick has been in post nearly 12 years, since the creation of the Diocese of Leeds at Easter 2014. This new diocese was from the dissolved three historic diocese of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield. He thanked He went on to say, "I will continue to work as hard as ever until mid September before delegating to Bishop Toby while I begin to extract myself and do the necessary ... preparing".

The farewell service for Bishop Nick will take place on:  
Sunday 23rd November at 3.30pm in Ripon Cathedral.





## Weekly Parish Services for April & May

There will be a weekly Sunday church service at 10am & 11:15am at the following churches:

These will be as follows for **April**:

13th Apr - St James' (HC) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am

**17th Maundy Thursday Communion, St James' 19:30**

**20th Easter Morning Sunrise Service**, Cock crowing stone 5.45am  
Then afterwards at the church hall for breakfast.

20th St James' (HC) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am

27th St Bartholomew's 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am

Then also for **May**:

4th May - St James' Family Sunday 10.00am & St Mary's Wilshaw (HC) 11:15am

11th St Bartholomew's (HC) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am

18th St James' (HC) 10.00am and Christ Church, Helme (HC) 11:15am

25th St Bartholomew's (HC) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am

**Every Wednesday:** St Bartholomew's BCP (traditional said service) 10:30am

Please keep an eye out or follow us on the Church facebook page:  
'@MelthamParish' or go to the Parish website: [www.melthamparish.co.uk](http://www.melthamparish.co.uk)  
for updates on services and events.

### Please Note:

- The first Sunday In the month (10.00am) will be a Family Sunday service where people of ALL ages can join in the fun.

## Holy Week Events

During Holy Week, Monday 14th to Friday 17th April, there will be a time to reflect on the events of Holy week at the following events:

**Reflection and led meditation in the stillness of St James' Church. Join for all or just what you can manage Monday to Friday 8am - 8.30am**

**Maundy Thursday Communion, St James' Church 7.30pm**

**Good Friday 11:30am Service of Witness outside St Bart's Church.**

**An hour of reflection at the Cross 3pm at St Bart's Church**



Tel. 01484 859229 E: [secretary@hdfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hdfhs.org.uk) W: [www.hdfhs.org.uk](http://www.hdfhs.org.uk)

Facebook: huddersfieldfamilyhistory

Instagram: huddersfieldanddistrictfhs

Twitter (X): @HDFHS01


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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**Care Home Services**

**Greenacres - 1:30pm for 2pm start**

Tuesday 8th April  
 Tuesday 22nd April  
 Tuesday 6th May  
 Tuesday 20th May

**Helme Hall - 1:30pm for 2pm start**

Friday 29th April  
 Friday 27th May

**A popular service with the residents and it would be lovely to have a couple of helpers to help support these events.**

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

## **200 CLUB : February & March Winners**

722 £50 Mr. J. Shields	629 £50 Vacant Number
664 £10 Vacant Number	699 £10 Mrs. S. Ashton
702 £10 Vacant Number	328 £10 Mrs. S. Sinclair
954 £10 Mrs. S. Priestley	804 £10 Vacant Number
901 £10 Vacant Number	377 £10 Mrs. P. Redfearn
	247 £10 Mr. M. Farrell

### **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  
Cath Moulson 850171

## **St Bartholomews Flowers**

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

20/04/2025	The Lodge Family	18/05/2025	Mrs S Ashton
27/04/2025	Mr & Mrs P Jackson	25/05/2025	Free
04/05/2025	Mr B Shorter	01/06/2025	Mr & Mrs C Atkinson
11/05/2025	Mr & Mrs J Halstead		

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.

**12th Apr** - Over 60's

**19th Apr** - Huddersfield Badger

**26th Apr** - Gilbert & Sullivan

**3rd May** - Willow Garden Club

**10th May** - Christian Aid

**17th May** - Held at Methodist

**24th May** - Christ Church

**31st May** - Fire Station

**7th June** - Meltham Wildlife



**DIMPS**

*by Ville*

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

## **Just For Fun** By Denis A

What you don't know - I once owned a pencil that used to belong to Shakespeare. Unfortunately he had chewed the end of it and I couldn't tell if it was 2B or not "B. That is the question, do you know the answer?!

- The present crisis in our NHS system means that we will soon be short of doctors and nurses and may have to resort to using vets to fill the places. Have you seen how Vets take temperatures? I say, Stay at home and keep safe!

- I've recently found two ways of arguing with a woman, - neither one works.

Question - Does a railway worker have to be trained?

- Last week someone asked me 'What inspires you to get out of bed in a morning?' I replied, 'My bladder mostly'.

Fred and his missus: Fred, "why do you keep buying plants when you just end up killing them?". Fred's missus, "Just to remind you what I'm capable of".

And finally, "As long as you have memories to look back on & dreams to hold on to. As long as you have faith to guide you, prayers to carry you through, and God's love in your hearts, you'll have everything you need. Stop moaning and get on with your life, it gets harder when you reach 90". Love to all, Denis A.



### **This is what we, who are aged 70 or 80 years plus, can look forward too.**

This is something that happened at sheltered housing complex. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central dining area. One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.

An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, he was completely unable to get up even the first step on the stairs, so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

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## **St Mary's Report**

On Sunday 2nd February we celebrated Candlemas at St Mary's with a service of Holy Communion. This is the time when we stop looking back to Christmas and start looking forward to Easter. Lay Reader Jacqueline France led part of the service and spoke about how Simeon and Anna met the baby Jesus and recognised Him as the Light of the World and of how this gives us hope for the future. Rev Judy was celebrant. Shirley read the lessons. Elizabeth was organist and Kim led the prayers.

There was no service at St Mary's which gave us the chance to share with the rest of the parish in United services followed by a delicious lunch and fellowship together. We have enjoyed two communion services, two services of the word and two Breakfast Churches when we enjoyed bacon butties at one and hot cross buns at the other. It has been good to welcome Rev John and Rev Dennis to lead some of our services and to share our worship with friends from Christ Church, Helme.

On Saturday 15th March we held a coffee morning in Meltham and our thanks go to all who helped in anyway, gave things for the stalls and all who supported us to make this such a happy and successful event.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and blessed Easter.

## **Parish Communion Services**

What joyful times we have shared together on the Sunday 26th January and Sunday 23rd February at the Parish Communion Services. At the end of



January, St James' Church were our hosts and Lay Reader Nigel Priestley led the service and assisted with the chalice. Rev John was celebrant and spoke about how important it is to come together and to be united. Simon Ball was organist and Jean Wrathall read the lessons. Fellowship continued with a welcome meal of lasagne and salad followed by a good selection of cake.

A month later we were together again but this time St Bartholomew's Church were our hosts. Rev John led the service and gave the talk reminding us that when we worship God we come close to Him. Our worship should be from the depths of our hearts and is and this will enrich our lives. St Bartholomew's choir led the singing heartily with Simon accompanying on piano and organ. Peter Blackburn read the lessons. Mike Still led the prayers and Alistair Storey assisted at the altar. Following the service we had a delicious lunch of quiche, salad and jacket potato and then apple pie and cream.

Our thanks go to those who make the preparations for these special times together, those who look after the children and make them feel welcome in church and those who contribute in any way, providing help, food and talents to make these wonderful times of friendship and fellowship.



The Pirates of Penzance is taking place in Meltham Parish Church hall, 14th to 16th May at 7.30pm and 17th May at 2.30pm.

Ticket price; Adults £16, under 16s £10. Tickets are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/meltham-gilbert-sullivan-society](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/meltham-gilbert-sullivan-society) or from The Flower Box or pay on the door.



## **Helme Ladies Report**

Since our last Helme Ladies report, we have had our AGM when our leader, Hazel, resigned after many years at the helme. (No pun intended!) Hazel was presented with an arrangement of flowers for her garden in recognition of her hard work.

As no one came forward to be leader, it was decided that the committee could share the many jobs equally. This seems to be working well.

We have met 3 times since the AGM to play Bag whist, have a Beetle Drive and recently held a auction of bric - a - brac and books etc, which raised over £60 for our funds. At the end of the year we usually have surplus funds which we give away to charities chosen by our members.

### **Interested?**

We meet on alternate Tuesdays at 10am in the small room of the Church Hall. We have a varied programme including speakers and in the summer we meet for walks followed by lunch at different venues.

If you would like to join us, you would be made very welcome.

Janet Rocket



### **Helme Ladies by Denis A.**

A group of 40 year old Helme Ladies met and discussed where they should go for a walk and then where to go and have lunch. They chose the Beaumont Arms in Netherton because they said the waiter wore tight trousers and had a nice bum.

10 years later, at 50 years of age, they met again & had the same discussion & concluded that the food & wine was good at the Beaumont Arms, so they would go there again.

10 years later, at 60 years of age, they again met & decided they would lunch again at the Beaumont Arms because it was peaceful & quiet and no one would bother them.

10 years later, at 70 years of age, they agreed that they should meet at the Beaumont Arms again because it was wheelchair accessible.

10 years later at 80 years of age, the group discussed & decided that the Beaumont Arms was a good place to meet for lunch because they had never been there before!

*- Only joking Helme Ladies, says Denis A xx*

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| 3. Over 16 - Individual        | 6. Businesses - General retail |

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Complete & return a Registration Form to  
Meltham Library, Fourth Fiend or Gerry's @ 33.

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**For more information contact:**

**PAM MURGATROYD on 07761 393502**

**or email [pammurg.mgt@gmail.com](mailto:pammurg.mgt@gmail.com)**

# The Vicar and the Organist were celebrating today! (1st March)

By Jill Horseman

The Vicar and the Organist were celebrating today!  
50/50 years of birthdays  
Hip, Hip Hooray!!!!



Johns our vicar and he's a comeriner  
He can talk the TALK  
And helps us walk the walk  
His sermons are amazing  
Vicaring is definitely his thing!!!!

Simons our Music Man  
He comes from round this way  
And what does he was play???  
He plays the piano ( and the organ)  
And we could listen to him all day

The party was so much fun  
Beetle drive and Pass the parcel  
Games that take some beating!!!!  
John could have done with a bell  
To make sure no one was cheating

Rub a dub dub bring on the grub  
Our Faith supper worked so well  
Such variety, lovely food you could not beat  
Grace was said, the hungry were feed  
And then we were in for a treat



A sing along with Simon  
raised the rafters in the hall  
La, la, la la we all joined in  
And as the end drew near  
It was abundantly clear  
We'd all had a BALL



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# Easter a Time to Reflect and Celebrate

Join us  
at any of these  
events you  
will be very  
welcome

**13th April**

**Palm Sunday 10:00am St James (the Church by the park)  
Holy Communion St Marys Wilshaw 11:15am**

**Monday 14th April to Friday 18th April**

**Monday 3rd - Friday 7th April**

**Reflection and Led Meditation on the events of Holy Week  
in the stillness and quiet of St James (the Church by the park)  
join for all or just one 8.00am-8.30am**

**17th April**

**Maundy Thursday Communion 7:30pm  
at St James (the Church by the park)**

**18th April**

**Good Friday 11:30am Service of Witness  
Outside St Bartholomew's (the Church in the village centre)**

**An Hour at the Cross (Reflection) 3pm  
At St Bartholomew's (the Church in the village centre)**

**20th April Easter Day**

**Sonrise Service at the Cock Crowing Stone  
on Wessenden Head Road 5:45am**

**St James (the Church by the park)  
Holy Communion 10:00am  
St Marys 11:15am**

