

# THE PARISH OF MELTHAM

## CHRIST THE KING

50p

*O Holy Night*



December 2022

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



## Meltham Treat Fest, an alternative Halloween.

The parish had its first alternative Halloween evening on 31st October from 5-7pm. It was a fun night full of games, sweets, hot Chocolate and craft. 53 adult hot chocolates were given out - but not every adult had one so it was very well attended. Everyone had a positive comment about it and this spilled on to the local facebook community group as well.

Everyone of all ages joined in the fun of decorating giant marshmallows, making lanterns or little animals. Trying to eat a donut on a string with no hands was worth a watch as was the children trying to fish out stars from a big bucket of slime too! The event certainly showed that Church can be fun and positive conversations were had too. A big Thank you to all involved on the night and those who held the evening in prayer.



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**Lord Jesus Christ, may we never cease to wonder at your birth, when heaven touched the earth and you came to be among us; our Saviour and our God.**

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

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**Facebook Page: Parish of Meltham - Christ the King**

## 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!

A very warm welcome to those who may be reading this for the first time. We hope you like it and find something that interest you in it. The magazine is printed every month and 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 year. I really couldn't make it the magazine it is without you. This month is a great Christmas edition and you can find out about all what is happening in our Churches this Christmas on the centre pages. Also there is an update from MMS on Pg 19 and from The Crossroads project too on pg 10

The next deadline for the **delayed** January magazine will be:

**Tuesday 3rd January 2023**

Please send them via:

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

or

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



God Bless, and have a joyful Christmas.  
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.

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Hester Deacon      657069

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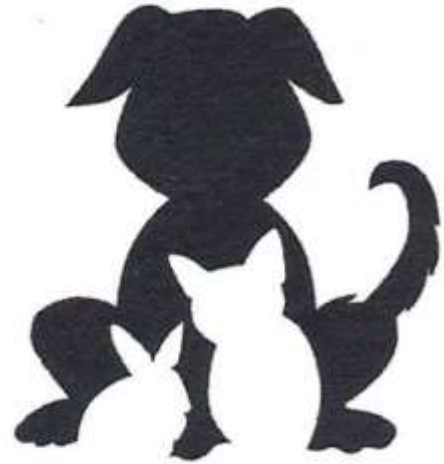
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## Letter from your Vicar

*A vicar with failing eyesight glanced at a note that Mrs Jones had sent to him. The note read: "Bill Jones having gone to sea; his wife desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety." Failing to observe the punctuation, the vicar announced: "Bill Jones, having gone to see his wife, desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety." And thus, the rumours started.*

Very few will have failed to notice the increase in the cost of living we have experienced in recent months and the most startling increases for most of us are represented by our gas and electricity bills. Whilst the government is apparently spending many billions of pounds to soften the effects of increased energy costs November has seen a doubling of household prices. This is on top of what were already significant price increases over the previous year, and it seems there are more increases on the way.

The government is also providing some assistance to businesses and charities (which includes Churches) though this help is significantly less generous. This presents quite a challenge to our four parish Churches. If we continue as normal and use the same amount of energy as we did last year our collective annual bill is likely to be increased by tens of thousands of pounds per year for at least the next couple of years.

So, what should we do? We could seek to increase our income to cover the additional costs but, while this will need to be a part of the answer, simply asking people for more and more money especially when the cost of living is increasing so quickly can't be right. We need to try and reduce our spending particularly on energy and the only way to do this in the short term is to reduce the amount of energy that we use.

There have been various suggestions as to how we might achieve this including the distribution of hot water bottles and blankets. However, the most realistic suggestion seems to be that, for the coldest months being January, February, and March, we do not open all four Churches every Sunday morning. Options as to how and if we should do this will be considered at our Parochial Church Council meeting on Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November so, a decision will have been made by the time that you read this magazine. I am very aware that this is not a first-choice option for many and wish to be clear that all four Churches will be open as usual from Easter Day (9<sup>th</sup> April).

I recently received an email that said: "This is our saying of the day after someone asked what I thought about the church closing for 3 months" "we are not closing churches we are doing this to keep our churches open."

Continued....

I can't begin to express how much I agree with and support this response. The closing of any Church causes me real personal sadness, and this would of course be all the greater if the Church in question were one of ours.

Last year, the congregation at Christ Church, Helme chose not to meet for a while because they were waiting for their heating system to be repaired. A number of people, including brides who had weddings booked contacted me distressed because they had heard a rumour that the Church had closed.

Please let's all listen carefully to what is being said, observe the punctuation, and recognise the spirit with which it is said. Rumours can be damaging and cause genuine hurt and distress, so let me repeat:



"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"

**"We are not closing churches we are doing this to keep our churches open."**

Happy Christmas and God bless

Revd. John Dracup (Vicar)



## **CHRISTMAS 2022**

*Will you be alone on Christmas Day?*

*Will you be struggling financially to heat your home and cook a Christmas Dinner?*

*If you are answering 'YES' to either or both of the above questions, or know of someone who does, you or they could qualify for an invitation to attend a 2-course Christmas Dinner at the Meltham Parish Church Hall on Christmas Day.*

*There will be an optional donation of £5 per head  
(children under 11 eat free).*



*For more details, contact:  
PAM MURGATROYD*

*Tel.: 01484 349857 or 07761 393502  
email address: [pammurg.mgt@gmail.com](mailto:pammurg.mgt@gmail.com)*





## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



On the days leading up to Christmas, starting on the first of December, what joy! A cardboard Advent Calendar brightly decorated with concealed cardboard doors to open one by one on the days leading up to Christmas. Of course this one treasure was shared between me and my big sister with Mum having to resolve many issues as to whose turn it was and who got to open the best and biggest, door number 24.

Having searched the Net, I now know that the first advent calendars were produced in Germany in the early 1800s but not the cardboard type that I first knew. I also found out that the production of the Calendars was put on hold on the outset of World War II as paper and cardboard was limited. Reading through the same article on the Net it concluded by saying that 'the religious meaning of Advent Calendars has been lost'. Perhaps that is true so a couple of years ago here at St Mary's Wilshaw we decided to do a **Reverse Advent Calendar**. We would buy an item of food, tins or non-perishable goods and instead of opening that cardboard door in our calendar, each day we would put a food item away and bring what we had saved to Church on Sunday. After Christmas, everything that we had collected was taken down to the Food Bank in Meltham for distribution.

So I hope that this has given you 'food for thought'. We are doing the same thing again this year...

*Judith Moore*

The PCC has agreed that it would be good for all the churches in the Parish to take part in the Reverse Advent Calendar this year. The Food Bank would be very grateful of your support as stocks are often low in January. It has been requested that Christmas themed food is not included.

# CROSSROADS CENTRE



'In October a week's shop takings went from the Crossroads to the Pakistan Food Relief.

One of my most wonderful teaching assistants was Shameem. We have remained friends since I retired and she was able to put us (Andrew, Crossroads treasurer and I) in touch with a local charity in Pakistan. This is their response from the Sindh region of mid Pakistan.

'The people of the Pakistan flood affected area would like to thank the Meltham Crossroads Project Charity having sent nearly £1400. The money was used for buying necessary food, clothes, shoes, clean water and medical help etc. We pray for everyone. A huge thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Humanity unites us all. Your support was extremely appreciated.



Take care xx '



'When I was choosing a reliable person to deliver our support I thought, things like having knowledge of the flood area where help hadn't been reached due to the roads being damaged. My dad's friend who does charity work, but on a smaller regular scale came to my mind. He was honoured to do something for the Crossroads people. His exact words were "Great are the people of United Kingdom, feeling the suffering of Pakistani so far away. This shows humanity is superior "



He knew the area that help didn't get to by any other aid work. He gathered few volunteers and they bought necessary food, clean water, books, clothes, shoes, blankets, mosquito nets and arranged a medical team with medicines to help. The team collected and delivered within a week. The response was amazing from the people receiving aid. Some were in tears that in UK the community care so much. Others picked their hands to pray for Meltham people.

Then a group prayer was offered as a way to thank everyone involved in this project. Every face was satisfied with relief. Flood affected people want to thank you for your support and the hope they have today. They send love and well wishes for you all.'

Shameem Began.  
Jane Collins

## Meltham Food Bank



I've been a bit remiss in previous newsletters in forgetting about our biggest and best resource – our growing band of volunteers, and what working in our warehouse, or driving out and about does for them. Volunteering for us is actually a two-way thing, and it's win-win...

For our clients – they receive much needed food and toiletries, not to mention support and signposting to other agencies. The feedback we get tells us that we're making a massive difference to their circumstances in difficult times.

For our lovely volunteers - there's a plethora of different benefits! Recent studies have shown that volunteering has been linked to a feeling of wellbeing, happiness and life satisfaction. Even in a busy township, loneliness is a modern day curse. Being a volunteer helps people make social connections, forge lifelong friendships, and feel part of a community. Young people find that working with us for a few hours a month has helped them in finding a job or career, and it's a useful addition to their CV. We have volunteers who are low in confidence, or have learning difficulties, and I'm confident that it's helped them out.

Here's what one of our volunteers have said about working for Crossroads Meltham Foodbank:

*I like knowing that the work I'm doing is directly helping to improve the lives of those in our community and have enjoyed contributing to solving the challenges we have faced in needing to rapidly expand our service over the last few years - Lorna*

It's worked wonders for me on a personal level. When I started with the foodbank, my life had decided to turn itself upside down. I couldn't see a way through the messy, black hole that it had become. The group held my hand, and I was given a chance to take the ball and run with it. I'm eternally grateful that it started to work out.

Finally, a word on our demographic...

I've just scrolled through a list of our manpower, and realised that I should have said "womanpower", as we menfolk are outnumbered by over 3 to 1. So, lads, lads! We need to look at this...We're a gender in crisis – we've lost our way in modern life, and need to find a way back!

We're back at the Church Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> for our second Coffee Morning, so please come along and show your support.

Bless you all

Chris Sinclair



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It is with sadness we report that our former choir member Haydn Webster has recently passed away. Haydn sang in the choir here for 69 years man and boy as well as the G&S Society. He will be missed by everyone who knew him but especially by Maureen, Ruth, Jonathan and his grand children. We

offer our prayers and sympathies to them all at this sad time. We also have our choir member Denis Armstrong in our thoughts and prayers as he has recently lost his darling wife June. Denis and June were married for 66 years and Denis was with Haydn in Blackpool when he first met and set eyes on June! We were able to get together a good choir with helpers to sing at June's funeral and give her a good send off!

We have had various singers helping us in the choir over the past few weeks and have sung at the Annual Memorial and Remembrance services. We appreciate the help of these occasional singers and hope they enjoy singing with us too. We hope to be able to continue to get a choir together more frequently throughout Advent in the run up to Christmas and of course will try and do the odd spot of carol singing here and there - watch (or listen) out for us! Anyone who wants to join us in the choir for a sing either occasionally or more regularly will be most welcome - the more the merrier!

- Simon Ball.



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



We all love a white Christmas, but how about a greener Christmas?

If you can balance sustainability with affordability, congratulations!!

I'm really struggling with that one this year, and I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way.

However, I will really try to buy less; to shop more locally; consider using a wider range of locally grown, seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables; eat less, but eat better; eat less meat and enjoy more plant based foods! Buy pre loved – the recent Cross Roads 'Christmas on a Budget' Market was a huge success – brilliant effort, well done! I will try to avoid plastic in Xmas cards and in wrapping paper so that they can be recycled; keep the thermostat fairly low; turn lights off when I leave room; make lists so I don't waste time and money!! O yes-Eat Fair Trade chocolate, lots of Fair Trade chocolate!

May I wish you all the Happiest of a Happy greener Christmas and hopefully see you again in the New Year

God Bless us in our efforts  
Jenny Mathers –Eco Champion



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## Meltham Shoe Box Team

Things were a little different this year for the Meltham Shoe Box Team.

The warehouse volunteers started their job a week later than normal and were asked to attend the warehouse at St. James Church for shorter days. We were conscious of the amount of fuel needed to heat the church, so we started later at 10am and finished at 2pm. As you can imagine it did not exactly work out exactly as planned! Folk are more than willing to stand for hours checking box contents and the oo's and ah's to be heard regarding the lovely things contained in the gift filled boxes received, were just as plentiful as in other years.

The generosity of families in West Yorkshire is unbelievable. The total number of boxes received has exceeded our expectations and to date we have processed **4062**, but I understand there are a few more yet to come in!

The boxes will go to children in Romania and Ukraine and are sure to bring lots of happy smiles.

Thanks go to all who have donated a box, fillers, money or volunteered in any way.

People keep on talking about 'Next Year' and God willing I hope to see many of you once again in 2023

The Meltham Shoebox Team wish you all have a healthy, warm and joyful Christmas!

Judith Powell



*Thank You*

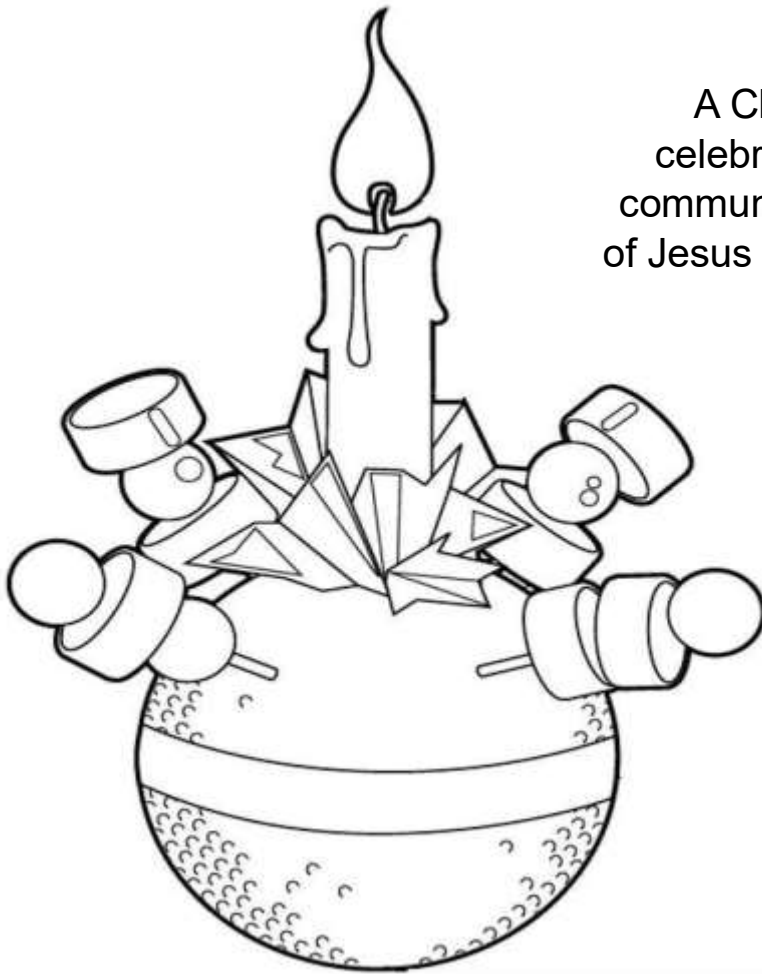


Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 'Crisis' coffee morning. We are always amazed by people's generosity and the support which this event receives. Before the start I was given £100 from someone who lives in Ireland! It was our busiest morning yet and it was lovely to once again see both familiar and new faces helping out or buying. We're delighted to say that £5000 has been raised for the charity which we know will have a positive impact on the lives of people in need.

Alison and Richard Whiteley



# Christingle in the Parish of Christ the King.



A Christingle service is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

**Saturday 17th December**

**4pm**

**Christ Church**

**Helme**



## **Memorial Service**

A good number of people attended the annual memorial service for the parish at St Bartholomew's Church 4pm on Sunday 6th November. Rev John led the service, Peter Blackburn and Rev Judy read the lessons and Simon Ball was organist. St Bartholomew's choir led the singing and Irene Harrop and Val White assisted with the lighting of candles in memory of loved ones. Rev John spoke about how our loved ones have helped us in the past but how we can help one another now on their behalf. Refreshments were served after the service.



John and Anne Halstead would like to thank the PCC and all the church family for the flowers, cards and love to sent to them both these past few weeks. Thank you, Anne x



## Weekly Parish Services for December

You are all welcome to join us at any of the following usual weekly Services:

St Bartholomews Church, Meltham - 9.30am

St James' Church, Meltham Mills - 9.30am  
(1st Sunday of the month is a 'Family Sunday' service)

St Mary's Church, Wilshaw - 11.15am

Christ Church, Helme - 11.15am

Please keep an eye out 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 3rd** December, Christmas Market, Church Hall, at 10am - 4pm

**Sunday 4th** December, Carols in the park, at 4:00pm  
Robert Ashton Memorial Park, (off Huddersfield Road/Meltham Mills Road)

**Sunday 11th** December, Carol service, at 6:00pm  
St Mary's Church Wilshaw.

**Saturday 17th** December, Christingle, at 4:00pm  
Christ Church, Helme.

**Saturday 17th** December, Carols in the pub, at 7:30pm  
The Wagon and Horses.

**Sunday 18th** December, Carol service, at 4:00pm  
St Bartholomew's Church, Meltham.

**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,

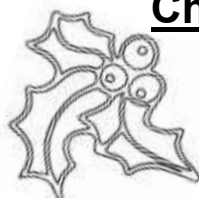
9:30am St James Meltham Mills.

10:00am Christ Church Helme.

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 18th December!**



**DIMPS**

*by Ville*

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## MELTHAM MUSTARD SEED UPDATE.

'My view is the sustainability project is now stable and steadily growing. The sugarcane fields are doing well and the three of them have been harvested already. 2 fields our own KMSYA (mustard seed young adults).

The project has purchased a plot of land using the returns from the sugar cane. We will build small houses to rent. Many sugar factories have now been constructed hence creating a lot of sugarcane demand hence reducing on the harvest age. (last year harvesting was very late and this affected the expected returns from the crop). We have high hopes of sustainability if we construct the rental houses in addition to the sugarcane. We shall build up to the proposed 21 hectares but after the second harvest. Then on our third harvest we can shall start building rentals in our purchased land once we have sufficient funding. We hope to do some fundraising when we start building. But of now the economy is still unstable and many of us are still fitting in it. But we hope to stabilize on our second harvest and after consolidating some good amount of money for school fees like for two years, we can start building.'

Fred Nyakana, Coordinator and leader of sugar growing initiative.



Edison (left), Baikem and Kato Stephen who were in further education have completed this year. Edison graduated in engineering, Stephen our medical student has passed his final year exams and he is now under internship. Baikem did a diploma in civil engineering and has since joined the police force.

Members of KMS are hoping to visit us next year to join in the final annual coffee morning and sponsored walk. Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>. As MMS withdraws it will be good to celebrate here in Meltham after our first involvement - to sink a fresh water bore hole in the village, as the nearest (contaminated) water source was a walk of 4 miles. The bore hole was officially opened in 1992 by John Bakanoba and visitors from Meltham. Subsequently MMS kindred foster care was created in 1996.

Pupils of Mustard Seed School in Kyema, Uganda, on Speech Day. Although the nursery is not formally part of Mustard Seed, we have worked and helped there, contributed to the buildings and seeing it grow. According to Emmanuel, one of our friends in Kyema. "On speech day this is when the Head Teacher and the school management give a full report of the school year finished to the parents and other dignitaries invited. Awarding of presents and awards to best performing pupils. The pupils also do entertain the parents and visitors".

Jane Collins

Nigel Priestly



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## **St. Mary's Report**

On 23rd October Rev Judy led a service of Holy communion in the Sunday school (much warmer). Unfortunately, due to illness and technical difficulties we were unable to share the service with our zoom friends that week but three of them joined us at church. We heard about what a special gift the Bible is because it teaches us how to live in harmony with one another and it shows Jesus to us. There was no service on 30th October to give us the chance to attend the Parish communion at St. James' church.

Lay Reader Jacqueline France led a morning service the following Sunday when Lucy read the lesson on zoom. We watched a video in place of one of the hymns. Jacqueline reminded us that Jesus will make everything new and that the best is yet to come. On 13th November Rev Judy led a service of Remembrance at St Mary's. There were people in church and on zoom. Shirley Langrick spoke about the visit she and her husband Neville made to the war graves in France. (Shirley 's Great uncle Rufus Crampton and Nevilles Great uncle Charles Langrick were killed in France) so this was a moving visit for them. It was good to welcome John Fox and Mr and Mrs Peter Foden who represented the Royal British Legion. Following the national anthem Peter Foden laid the wreath on the war memorial and John Fox lowered the standard as we observed two minutes silence. This service took place at 2pm to allow us to support the united Remembrance service in Meltham. Our thanks go to all those who have read lessons, provided music, led prayers and prepared services over the last few weeks.

## **United Parish Communion service**

How wonderful it was to share in this service as congregations from all 4 churches in our parish came together to worship God and to share Holy communion. St James' Church were our hosts and folk from Christ Church Helme (the "Rainbow Church") welcomed us and led the worship. Rev John was celebrant assisted by Irene Harrop who also led the prayers. Moyra Miller and Janet Rockett read the lessons. Rev John spoke about being united, not just in church but in the rest of our lives and reminded us that if our worship in church and our ministry out in the world is sincere and loving Jesus will be with us. God however does not appreciate empty words and insincere hearts so beware. With this in mind we were asked to pray about how we address the steeply rising costs of heating our churches this winter. It was good to see the church so full with people upstairs and in the crèche and fellowship was shared following the service, over coffee and cake provided by the folk from St James'. At these difficult times this service stood out as a beacon of hope - a light shining in the darkness - **thank you so much**

## **Bell House Report**

Rev Judy led a service at Bell House on Wednesday 9th, as we remembered those who have died as a result of war. We sang two hymns and heard readings from the book of Malachi and St John's gospel. It was particularly moving as one of the residents was remembering his father Arthur who died in the 2nd World War and another resident was thinking about her uncle Albert who was also killed in the war. Rev Judy led the prayers and we observed 2 minutes silence.

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Email: [wmd3millers@gmail.com](mailto:wmd3millers@gmail.com)



## Helme Ladies Report

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October Helme ladies had a trip out for coffee and cake. It was a lovely sunny morning as we all made our way to Netherton, where coffee and cake was booked at the Beaumont Arms. We knew we were in for a treat as all the cakes were home made and there was a large choice: chocolate caramel shortbread, Bakewell slice, coconut cake and two choices of chocolate cake, oh what to choose!! As we hadn't met for two weeks you can imagine all the gossip and chat we had to catch up on, we had a great time with lovely cakes in comfortable surroundings.

Our next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November was an auction, these are usually fun events. Tables were filled with objects the ladies had brought and we settled down to try and out bid each other. We had handbags, purses, jewellery, scarves, plant pots, shower gels, jigsaws and games. We also had two ladies who modelled some items, they did such a good job that the professional models had better watch out. The money we raised will go into our charity fund. All in all, we had good time.

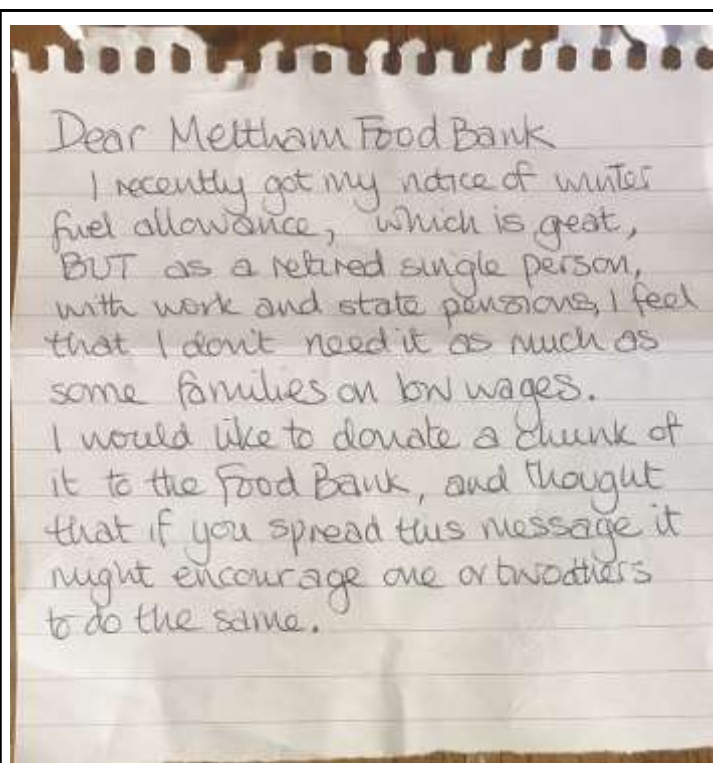
If you want to sample the good times, come and join Helme Ladies.

### Upcoming events:

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Carol service and lunch.

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas lunch at the Beaumont Arms.

Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 New Year party with faith lunch.



**“A FOOD bank worker has been left 'extremely touched' by an anonymous note left as part of a recent donation.” (The Sun)**

I found this lovely letter pushed through Crossroads' letterbox recently. I spoke to the lady who wrote it, and she was happy for it to be made public, as it may encourage others. Having shared it on our Facebook page, it was picked up by the Huddersfield Examiner, then The Sun.

Here's the link, you will have to copy it into your browser. [https://apple.news/A9FCdPNyQT\\_KnNFZQRwNO1Q](https://apple.news/A9FCdPNyQT_KnNFZQRwNO1Q)

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Baptisms - we welcome you into the Lord's family

Mia Rose Hepworth

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Paul Balkartat,  
Karen Rogers,

June Armstrong,  
Edna Mccoubrey

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:

342     £50 Mrs. J. Walker  
534     £10 Mrs. S. Welsh  
238     £10 Mr. J. Harrison  
725     £10 Mr. J. Harrison  
422     £10 Mr. J. Welsh

For more info, please contact either:  
Michael Farrel 07768258257  
m.farrellphd@btinternet.com  
David Earnshaw 341968,  
C Moulson 850171

## St Bartholomew's Flowers

4th December	Advent
11th December	Advent
18th December	Advent
25th December	Christmas Day

If you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one, we have dates available.

Please contact  
Catherine Moulson: 850171



## Saturday Coffee Mornings

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



**3rd December** - Christmas Market

**11th December** - Scout & Guides

**18th December** - Foodbank

**24th December & 31st December** No coffee morning

**7th January** - Church Hall



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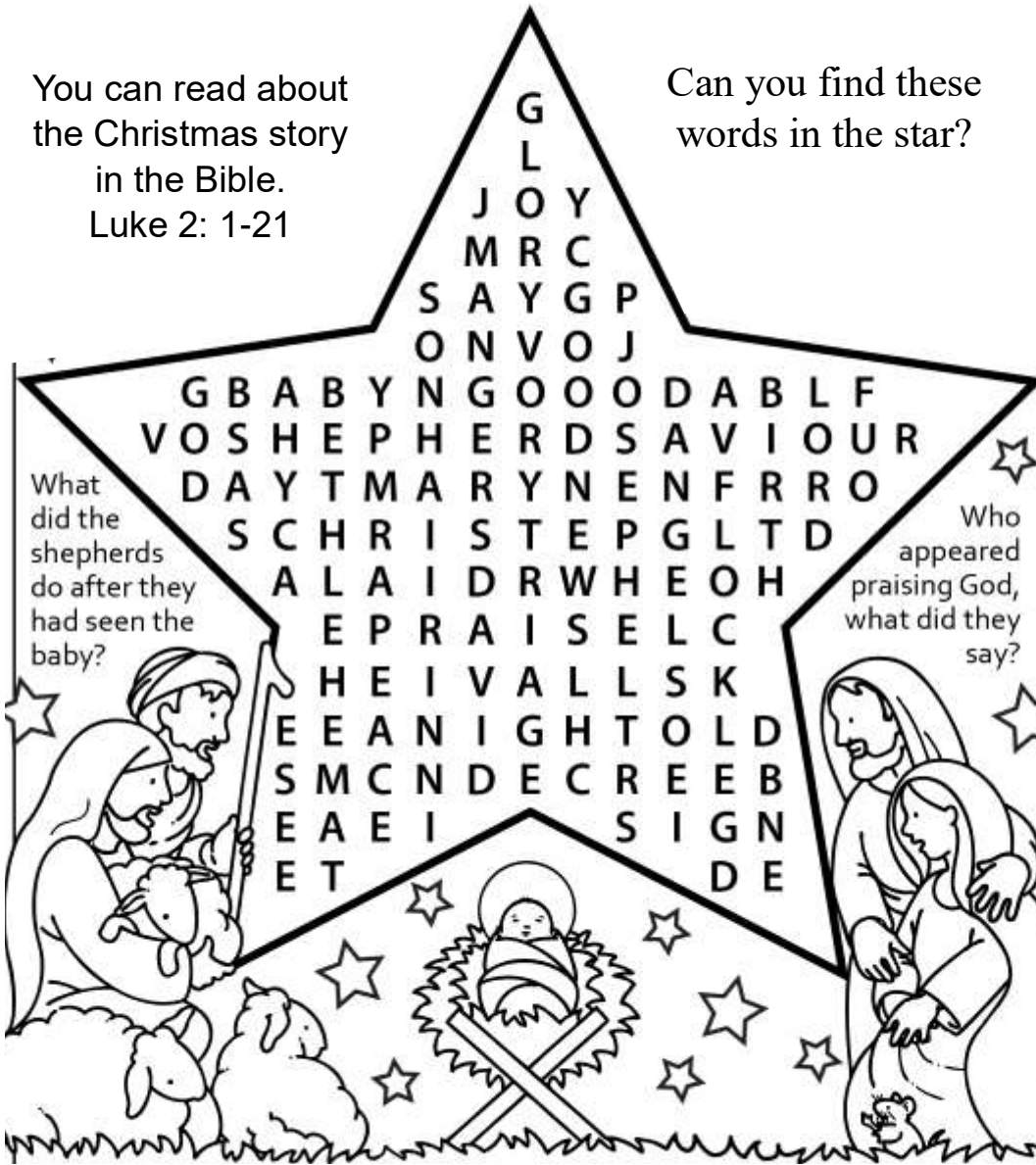
Telephone: 01484—687632

Mobile: 07971—355078.

You can read about  
the Christmas story  
in the Bible.  
Luke 2: 1-21

Can you find these  
words in the star?

ALL, GO,  
DECREE,  
JOSEPH,  
DAVID,  
BETHLEHEM,  
MARY,  
BIRTH,  
SON,  
LAID,  
MANGER  
INN  
SHEPHERDS  
FLOCK  
NIGHT  
LORD  
GLORY, JOY,  
GOODNEWS  
DAY,  
SAVIOUR,  
CHRIST  
SIGN  
BABY  
GOD  
PEACE  
ANGELS  
SEE  
TOLD  
PRAISE



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...

## Denis Armstrong

### Misrepresentation

I bought a '7 Seed Sensation Loaf' at Morrisons, but when I took out the first slice of bread there were at least three dozen seeds in it. If this isn't a blatant misrepresentation of a product, I don't know what is. Do you think I have grounds for suing Hovis for falsely promoting one of these products? Perhaps solicitor Nigel or Judge Paul could advise on the subject.

Not a nice time for Denis A. Tears in October and November due to the 'passing away' of my darling wife June after 66 years of marriage. Time now to dry my eyes and get on with life, such as it is. As this is the December edition of our Church Magazine, I would like to take the opportunity of wishing all my friends and every member of our Church choir and congregation a "Happy Christmas". May 2023 be a happier one for all of us.

Finally: I put my Juney's wedding ring on my little finger. My daughter, Dawn, wants it but I can't get it off my finger. Not that I want to. Dawn lives in Germany, does that mean I have to go and live in Germany until I 'pop my clogs' and then she can have the ring, finger and all, if she still wants to wear it! Being an idiot, (as usual)

Bye, Bye and good riddance to 2022.

Stay well, safe & happy (if possible in the world of today), God bless one and all,

Denis A.

### **In Memory of 'My Juney', my dearly loved wife who passed away on 18th October 2022.**

God saw you getting weary,  
No cure was meant to be,  
He closed his arms around you,  
And whispered "Come to me"

Hold June in your arms Lord,  
Look after her with care,  
Make up for all she suffered,  
And all that seemed unfair.

And now my darling "Juney"  
We've already said 'Goodbye'  
I'll wipe the tears from off my face  
But will love you till I too die.

Loved & for ever remembered  
Denis xxxx

*Always*  
on my mind   
*Forever*  
in my heart



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## Meltham Remembers

A packed church shared together in a service of Remembrance on 13th November at St Bartholomew's at 10.30am. Meltham and Meltham Mills Band led a parade of uniformed groups, organisations and civic dignitaries to the church. Peter Foden was the Parade Marshall for this. The Royal British Legion standard was presented in church along with flags from local scout, guide, cub and brownie units. Rev John Dracup led the service and gave the address. Elizabeth and Mike read the lessons and Rev Judy Kenworthy led the prayers. The band accompanied two hymns, Simon Ball was organist and St Bartholomew's choir led the singing. The Act of Remembrance was led by Rev John and Richard Noon, Mayor of Meltham. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial outside the church following the service and the parade then returned to the car park for dismissal. Refreshments were then served in the church hall.

There was a wonderful display of 600 poppies in the church yard. They were made from the wreaths laid last year, the poppies were glued onto skewers and planted in the Church yard. A further 200 poppies decorated the inside of the Church.

Our thanks go to all who took part in the service, to those involved in the preparations for it, to Margret Thorley and Tom Bolland who created the display, Margret Walker 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.