

A scenic landscape featuring a dirt path that leads towards a bright sun positioned behind a range of hills. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The sun's rays create a lens flare effect across the scene. The overall mood is bright and hopeful.

January 2023

50p

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the light of Christ
this new year!

THE PARISH OF MELTHAM
CHRIST THE KING

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Snow White

1ST- 4TH MARCH 2023

Script by:

Jonny Yates email: jonnyyates1990@hotmail.co.uk

Additional text by Kirsty Haigh

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May the Lord bless our coming year with spiritual growth,
love for people, and many opportunities to spread the
Gospel of life.

(Author unknown.)

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Amen.



A note from the editor ...

Happy New Year!



Wow! What a great edition
to kick start the new year.

Hear about all the wonderful
events that took place across our parish on the run up
to Christmas. Especially the trip Judith took with the
Meltham Shoe boxes (back pages) Also the ever
popular Carols in the Park and Pub (pgs 12 & 13)

This month's edition is running a little late. I'm sure as
a valued reader you will forgive me and understand the
time that this magazine needs as well as the pressures
of being a mother and the vicar's wife too! As a result
February's edition will be coming very soon.

Therefore please can you send in your contributions to
me as soon as possible so I can include them.

The next deadline of the magazine will be:

Friday 20th January 2023

Please send them via:

melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com

or

via the vicarage letterbox.
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God Bless,
Fiona.

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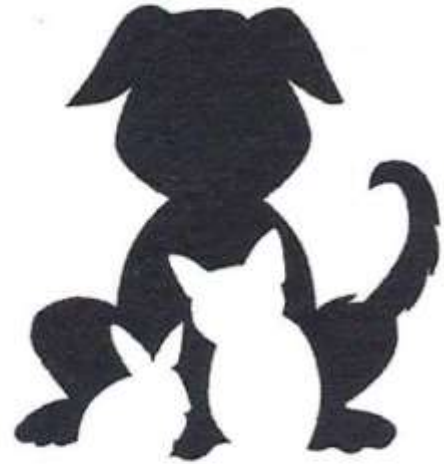
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Letter from your Vicar.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
John 1:5 NRSV

We have had a couple of challenging years to say the least. I am sure that I will never forget trying to lead carol services in 2020 while having to explain that we should all keep on our face masks, maintain our distance, and under no circumstances should anyone actually sing the Christmas carols (though I'm still not entirely sure of some of the logic). Of course, we did have some high points like carols in the car park and last year was better. Although due to Omicron it was still nothing close to normal.

This Christmas was a good Christmas. Okay, so some things are still recovering but we could sing our carols without restriction. We could even shake hands when we wished each other a happy Christmas. Overall numbers at our various events and services were back up to something close to normal and in some cases may have been higher than in recent (pre-covid) years. St Marys and St Bartholomew's had lovely carol services and the Christingle at Helme was a great joy. At the beginning of December, the Christmas fair was a great success, the light turning on was well attended, and I am personally very pleased with the new nativity scene outside of St Bartholomew's. Carols in the park was a little wet and cold but the hot chocolate in St James Church afterwards was greatly appreciated by many (I think we were all grateful for the wisdom in finishing a few minutes early). Carols in the pub is always a personal highlight for myself, and on Christmas Eve both the crib service at St James and midnight Communion at St Bartholomew's went well and were well attended and joyful.

I really must thank a great many people for their hard work and commitment both in making these wonderful events happen this year and for helping to keep them going over recent years. However, that will make this letter far too long so, thank you all and I hope I get the chance to thank you in person if I have not already done so.

And so covid brought plenty of darkness, but the light did not go out. Even at the darkest times it just kept shining and particularly at Christmas. Now we have strikes, a cost-of-living crisis, energy bills that will make your toes curl, and a war in Ukraine that will soon enter its second year.

Recent years have been difficult, and the next will not be easy. When we gather at Christmas, we do so to remember more than the birth of a child. The bible describes Jesus as the Messiah, our saviour, the prince of peace, Emmanuel/God with us, and as I quoted at the beginning of this letter, the light that shines in the darkness.

We have had some darkness, and it seems that the clouds are not ready to clear yet. But the light of Christmas, the light that is Jesus in our world, has not gone out, and I do not believe that the darkness will ever be able to overcome it.

Therefore, I wish you all a very happy new year, filled with the light that never gives up.

God bless, Reverend John (Vicar)



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GOING GREENER - Moving towards an Eco Church

“Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good” Genesis 1v 31

Firstly, may I wish everyone a very happy, peaceful, and hopefully, a somewhat Greener New Year!

I hope you all had a good Christmas holiday spending time with family and friends; exchanging gifts; sharing good food; relaxing in front of the telly and setting off for the occasional brisk walk! Didn't the trees look beautiful in the hoarfrost, and what about the sparkling spider webs? Magical.

I did manage to keep a few eco thoughts in my head – not many, I confess, but I did try and God loves a trier - I hope! I recycled a large bucket of empty bottles!! Well, it's a start.

A few tips from the diocese for January to ease us in to a green 2023!

In the kitchen:

1 Never put warm or hot food into the fridge or freezer, no matter what they may do on 'Masterchef'!! Your fridge will have to work extra hard to keep it cold; always allow food to cool down first.

2 Use a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap and save £25 a year in energy bills – don't forget to use an eco product!

3 When making a cup of tea, only boil the amount of water that you need. You waste electricity (and money), heating water you won't use.

4 Stop using aluminium foil for cooking wherever possible; use a container with a lid. Aluminium is a rare metal and its extraction and purification uses a lot of energy. Well, I never knew that!

5 Eat less meat, particularly red meat. Producing 1 kg of beef produces the equivalent CO₂ to you driving a 300mile round trip while leaving your lights on at home! That's quite shocking, isn't it?

Let's see if we can incorporate some of these ideas into any New Year resolutions we may be thinking of, especially the one about red meat.

God Bless us in our efforts

Jenny Mathers –Eco Champion

CROSSROADS CENTRE



*(we have) different gifts, according to the Grace given to each of us.
Adapted from Romans 12.6 (NIVUK).*

December was a really busy time for all those involved with the Crossroads Project.

We started our celebrations in November with an early Christmas party enjoyed by everyone able to attend, with a wonderful selection of food provided by the volunteers, a quiz and entertainment by the shop volunteers. There was our annual visit by members of the Meltham and Meltham Mills Band who entertained us with Christmas songs and carols. The gift of Music was a real blessing at this busy time and we were very grateful to everyone's contribution.

The Foodbank as always was very busy as food parcels, Christmas hampers and daily deliveries continued right up to Christmas. Thank you to those of you who gave so generously by purchasing filled bags from Morrisons or donating money and food so that everyone could enjoy a more fulfilling and happier Christmas. We were delighted to receive early the Reverse Advent calendar items from the Methodist Church which included Christmas goodies just when they were needed and the Reverse Advent gifts from the Anglican churches after Christmas which boosted our diminished supplies. Thanks also to the local textile business who donated lovely blankets made here in Meltham.



The Crossroads shop – began the festivities with the Christmas on a budget sale at the Methodist Church which was a great success not only financially but with the atmosphere it created for many people who could afford lovely gifts at very reasonable prices, this was followed by Christmas sales running until the week before Christmas.



Gifted volunteers created brilliant displays and festive windows and many opportunities for families to buy not just necessities but treats for all the family. They provided a welcoming and helpful presence in the busyness of Christmas shopping.

In the Crossroads Centre our gifted sewers and crafters produced items to sell and to give away, draught excluders out of silky scarves, colourful rice bags, scrunchies for children's hair and much more.



If you would like to join either of these groups. Craft and Create meets on Thursday in the Centre 10.30am till 11.45am and the Sustainable Sewing bees meet on Friday mornings 10am onwards. New members welcome.

What ever gifts you have we can use them in the Centre, Shop or Foodbank. If you would like to join us in any capacity, please call in any morning or contact us at the Centre on 01484 854400.

Thanks as always for your prayers and support, Sue Priestley

Crossroads Foodbank News

This Christmas, even though times have been tough, the community showed how it embraced the real Christmas message in some touching ways...



We were asked by someone about how he could help provide some Christmas cheer for families who most needed it. He provided us with the treats necessary to make up hampers to distribute to households. When I asked him if he minded being mentioned on our social media page, he said “ No. Just say ‘ a local man’ ”. When I put this on our page, I got an interesting comment: “It’s worth noting his gift does not stop at the generous food donation. Staying anonymous is also a wonderful gift for all the men of Meltham. You just don’t know if the person you say ‘good morning’ to in passing, or meet in the Post Office is that special guy. Be nice to everyone, and not just at Christmas”...

A lady working in a shop told me that she wasn’t buying as many presents, and wanted to give a sum to the Foodbank instead. A week later, she said that she was sorry that she hadn’t done it yet, but the family dog had needed expensive treatment, and she would still do it later in the week...

In a better world, foodbanks wouldn’t exist, but we’re likely to be in it for the long haul. We don’t receive grants or public funding, so we depend on our community, and we’re lucky that we’re at the centre of such a big-hearted community. We are acutely aware that, as in the natural world, the New Year first brings lean times, and are prepared for them . If you listen to the news, you’ll hear a lot of chatter about “levelling up” – I honestly think that we’re ahead of them there.

It’s been a busy time of the year, so we’re blessed with our group of willing volunteers. Helping is a two-way thing, so it’s good to hear what they say about it:

“From just two of us, Debbie Still and myself keeping the Foodbank going in 2019 after its founder Roger Furmedge sadly had to step down, we now have 56 volunteers. We are a positive, motivated band of diverse people, and through Crossroads Foodbank, we are given the opportunity to help those in need around us. It gives me a deep sense of purpose and humility to be part of the project coordinating volunteers and meeting our clients”. Jane

Bless you all

Chris Sinclair

Carols in the Park - 4th December

There are only so many arrangements that are made for Carols in the Park over which I, as organiser, have control. But the weather isn't one of them!

This year despite the forecast and the probability of further rain, over 200 people came to the Robert Ashton Memorial Park to sing and share in the event which for many families, starts Christmas.

The candles were lit - and re-lit! The readers represented some of the local organisations that help to make Meltham special. The story of Christmas was told in their readings and in the words of the Carols. The Schools provided a lovely choir. Meltham Community Choir sang their hearts out. Meltham and Meltham Mills Band were as supportive as ever. There were plenty of stewards - and Mince pies from Morrisons. Richard Whiteley was a brilliant compère. The sound system worked really well.

The afternoon became a little damp and many attenders came into St James for hot chocolate courtesy of a team of volunteers and Bewleys to warm up, dry out and chat.

The event has the financial support of Crossroads and the Town Council, for which I'm very grateful. The event is a reminder of the grace of God which is freely given to all.



It was lovely to read on the Meltham in the Know Facebook site a comment thanking "the choirs, organisers, Meltham Band, Mayor and volunteers who turned out. Even the weather didn't dampen spirits!"



Carols in the Pub - 17th December

There's something really quite special about Carols in the Pub at the Waggon and Horses in December

Maybe it's the fact that we ask complete non-Church goers (so far as we know) to read the stories of the Nativity. Or maybe it's because we ask those men present in the Waggon to come out and sing as one of the 3 Wise Men - and not only were we not short of volunteers but this year we almost had to have a selection process for the Wise Men as 6 men came forward! Simon even managed to recruit a 'Mary and Joseph' for the St Bart's Carol service the next evening.

The good news of Christmas was shared, and many conversations were had. Remembering that Jesus first miracle in John's gospel was to turn water into wine at a Wedding reception - so we know God our Father is pretty supportive of fun events, He must have been chortling this year! The atmosphere was great. Simon Ball, one of the great maestros of Meltham got everybody singing their hearts out, Richard and Rev John told some awful jokes and then the Christmas karaoke songs were found. Joy to the world!

Thanks again to Pam Cox for encouraging us to come - and if you missed it. Then plan to be there this December!



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The following was piece was printed in a Christmas card my parents received recently. I make no apology if you have seen this before or even received a similar card yourself. But I thought is was so good I wanted to share it with you all.
Fiona.

“The Son of God”

by Jeffrey Archer

He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter, and his mother a decent woman,
but they were of no significance,
and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education.

And yet, as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters
n the council chambers.

He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven,
and living off bread and water and the occasional fish,
while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen.

He became the manager of a football team known as The Disciples,
not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down
by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition.

The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble rouser, but couldn't decide what
to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God.

They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the
ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they'd hear of him.

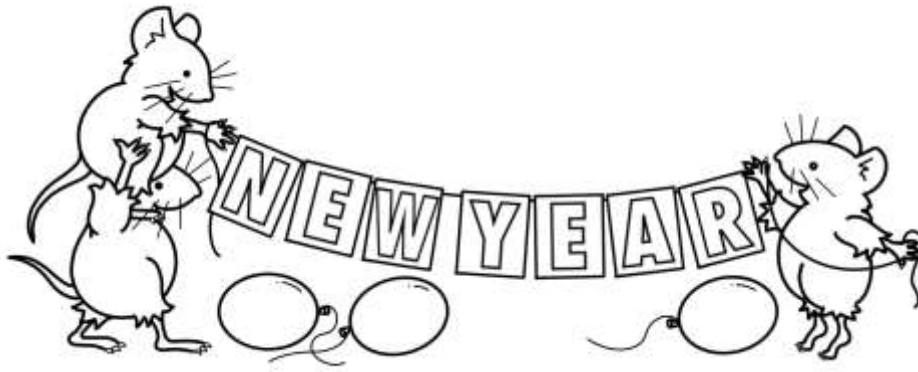
The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain denied
on more than one occasion that he'd never been a member of His team.

When He died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press
reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful
career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy,
and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, He'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends,
or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his brand.,
or spin doctors to sharpen his image,
and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date,
so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So how can one explain that over two thousand years later,
Jesus Christ is still the best known celebrity on earth?

Could it just be that He was the Son of God?



Diocesan News

In a recent new year message to clergy, The Right Rev Nick Baines, The Bishop of Leeds Diocese, explains that “ the next Bishop of Huddersfield has been identified and nominated” We await further information about who the successful candidate is, but it is hoped to be announced in February. Bishop Nick goes on to say; “The Dioceses Commission has given me permission to appoint a new Bishop of Ripon and interviews will take place at the end of February. Both bishops will be consecrated at York Minster on 22nd June 2023.” The Right Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley has been in Ripon since 2017, but has now been announced by Downing Street as Bishop of Newcastle, with her installation set to take place in early 2023.

The Right Rev Nick Bains also continues to encourage everyone to encourage each other throughout 2023. He says “ The economy is a disaster, our politics are a mess, financial problems are ubiquitous, the future in Europe is uncertain (e.g Russia/Ukraine) and the clouds are not dripping pure joy. But, Christians are called to be defiant, seeing the light of God in Christ refusing to be imprisoned by the darkness - always holding out the light of hope. This is where the rubber of our theology hits the road of lived reality and we discover if we really believe what we claim to believe”.



Our Lay Reader Jacqueline France, has received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology. She went to Durham Cathedral to receive it on 5th January accompanied by her husband Andy and daughter Alex.

Jacqueline has worked hard for several years (along side her normal working week) to follow her calling and gain her Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Massive Congratulations and Well Done from everyone in the Parish.

Congratulations

As agreed at our Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting on the 30th November 2022. Until April, there will be a Sunday church service at 9.30am & 11.15am weekly. Normal services to resume on Easter Day.

Service pattern for New year 2023

January

8th St James 9:30am and St Mary's 11:15am

15th Methodist Covenant service 10:30am - (at Meltham Methodist Church)

22nd St Bartholomew's 9:30am and St Mary's 11:15am

29th St James 9:30am and Christ Church 11:15am

February

5th St James 9:30am and St Mary's 11:15am

12th St Bartholomew's 9:30am and Christ Church 11:15am

19th St James 9:30am and St Mary's 11:15am

22nd St Bartholomew's 7:30pm (Ash Wednesday communion)

26th St Bartholomew's 9:30am and Christ Church 11:15am

March

5th St James 9:30am and St Mary's 11:15am

12th St Bartholomew's 9:30am and Christ Church 11:15am

19th St James 9:30am and St Mary's 11:15am

26th St Bartholomew's 9:30am and Christ Church 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.

- On Easter Day (9th April) all Parish Churches will resume their normal Sunday service pattern.

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St Mary's Report

On 20th November it was the Feast day of Christ the King and we heard how King Jesus turns the world's values on their head and gives us hope.

Sunday 27th November was Advent Sunday which marks the beginning of the new church year and we lit the first candle on the Advent wreath. We were reminded that Advent is a wake up call telling us to watch and pray and to get ready for the coming of Jesus. Christmas came early to Wilshaw as two of our children are heading for Australia for the holiday. We heard about the surprises we enjoy in our stockings and crackers and how the story of Jesus' birth contains many surprises too.

On 11th December it was St Mary's carol service which was held in the evening. Rev John, with the help of several volunteers, spoke about different words you can find hidden in the word "CHRISTMAS". Lots of people wore Christmas jumpers and hats, the church was beautifully decorated, and we sang lots of carols. We enjoyed mince pies and Mulled wine following the service. With just a covering of snow on the ground too, it played an enjoyable part in the run up to Christmas.


The following Sunday the service was held in the Sunday school and we discovered that children's nativities tell a beautiful story but that in reality what Mary and Joseph agreed to do for God was not easy and would have implications for the rest of their lives. On Christmas Day a good number of people attended a Communion service and we heard how it is not always the biggest, most beautifully wrapped present that is best. It may be the smallest or plainest one but one that is given with the most love and that the most precious gift of all is God's gift of Jesus.

Our thanks go to all who led our services, led prayers, read lessons, provided music and refreshments. Thanks also to those who made 20+ wreaths and ran St Mary's stall at Meltham Christmas Market which was a great success.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and happy New year.



Bell House Care Home

On Wednesday 7th December our friends at Bell House  enjoyed a Carol Service when Rev Judy invited us to "Come and See". We thought about what Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men saw on that first Christmas. We had a reading from St Luke's gospel and sang three of our favourite carols. It was a lovely to share this happy time together and to be able to have a nice chat afterwards.

JUST FOR FUN!

Wishing you all “a Happy New Year”. It will be hard for some of us but we’ve got to try and if I can make people smile for a second or two, it will make me feel happy.

I was dreaming of a white Christmas, but the white ran out so I had to drink the Red.

She was only a whisky drinker, but he loved her still.

Did you know? -no matter how far you push an envelope it’ll still be stationary.

Shocking - a hand grenade was thrown into a kitchen in France. It resulted in linoleum blown apart.

I have two hats hanging on the Hat rack in the hallway, I heard one say to the other “You stay here, I’ll go on ahead”.

A 4ft fortune teller escaped from prison. The police described him as being a small medium at large.

Two eskimos sitting in a kayak were feeling cold, so they lit a fire. Needless to say, the kayak sank, proving once again “You can’t have your kayak and heat it”!

I rang the Doctor and said “Doctor there’s something wrong with my foot. What should I do?” He replied, “Until I’ve had a look at it - limp”.

I haven’t been sleeping well since “My Juney” passed away, so last night I took a sleeping pill and slept like a log. When I woke up this morning I found myself in the fireplace.

Enough of this rubbish.

God Bless one and all. Denis A.

A dog’s life

A couple had gone to their minister for counselling because their marriage was in trouble. The husband began by complaining that he led a dog’s life at home. To the minister’s surprise, the wife immediately agreed. “After all, he rushes into the house with muddy feet, tracks across my clean floors, barks at nothing, growls at his food and makes himself comfortable on the best furniture. Then he falls asleep and snaps at you if you disturb him.”

Biblical cooking

This recipe quiz was found in Becket News, No 57, January 2014, Bulletin of the Hamburg Anglican Church.

If you can prepare this dish without looking up the references in the Bible, you should be on Mastermind! It is suggested the Authorised Version is used. (You can find it online at www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/) - **Answer on page 25**

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lb of Judges 5:25 (end);
- 2 ½ lb of Jeremiah 6:20;
- 3 1 tablespoon of 1 Samuel 14:25;
- 4 3 of Jeremiah 17:11;
- 5 ½ lb of 1 Samuel 30:12;
- 6 ½ lb of Nahum 3:12 (chopped);
- 7 2 oz of Numbers 17:8 (blanched and chopped);
- 8 1 lb of 1 Kings 4:22;
- 9 2 Chronicles 9:9;
- 10 a pinch of Leviticus 2:13;
- 11 1 teaspoonful of Amos 4:5
- 12 3 tablespoons of Judges 4:19

Preparation:

Mix 8, 9, 10 and 11, and put them aside. Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream. Still beating add 4, one at a time. Then add 5, 6 and 7 and beat again. Then add 12. Bake in a low oven for 1½ hours

Can you do this Sudoku?

Answer on the inside back page.

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

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The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one

DIMPS

by Ville

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Helme Ladies Report

Helme Ladies gathered on 22nd November for their annual flower arranging competition. The theme this year was a Christmas table decoration. Soon bits of Holly, Ivy and other evergreen twigs were flying in all directions, candles appeared along with coloured baubles and other Christmas trimmings. I was not creating a decoration as I was Head Judge (I'm no good at it anyway!), so I mooched around to see how and what was being concocted. It is amazing what can be done with a few twigs and some artistic talent. While the ladies were having a coffee, I had another look around the finished decorations to try and pick a winner. It is a very difficult task as I didn't want to lose friends. At last, I came to a decision and this years winner was Marlene who was awarded the Barbara Quarmby Memorial Trophy.

On the 27/ 28th November Helme Ladies had a trip away, we went to Wentworth Woodhouse and, We left Ainley Top and after picking up at various places we eventually headed to Wentworth Woodhouse, which is one of the largest Stately Homes. No longer lived in the last owner removed all the furniture and paintings so it is an empty shell with lots of history and potential. Next on to our overnight stay at the Old Bell Inn at Barnby Moor, which used to be on the Great North Road, this was moved a few miles away so it could be upgraded to a motorway standard. When we arrived we were treated to a brass band concert, with mulled wine and mince pies. The overnight stay and the food were excellent so after a superb breakfast we left for Chatsworth House. The house was decorated for Christmas and after a tour round we could only be amazed and in awe at the hours of work put in by the staff. We left there for the journey home calling for high tea on the way and reflected on the wonderful time we had enjoyed. My thanks to Jenny for organising the wonderful trip.

The 6th December was the date of Helme Ladies Annual Carol Service and Light Lunch and, as hoped for, the weather was kind. Everyone arrived for 11.30am and the service began, we sang carols and had readings, the prayers were lead by Irene Harrop and Jean Collison played the piano. What a lovely sound and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. This of course was followed by the lunch with soup of the day being vegetable. The ladies dished out the soup and hoped there would be some left for us. Then out came the pudding, you could have crumble, rice pudding or lemon drizzle which all went down very well. We had a collection during the service and a raffle, the money raised will go into our charity fund. This year we have sent donations to Smile Train, Holme Valley Mountain Rescue, Meltham Wildlife, Meltham Food Bank, Meltham and Meltham Mills Junior Band and Alzheimer's. My thanks go to all the ladies who worked so hard, to Irene and Jean and to Helme Pie Ladies who provided the food.

Our last meeting of the year was on 13th December with a lovely Christmas Lunch at the Beaumont Arms Netherton. It was cold and frosty as we all made our way to the venue but it was warm and welcoming inside. We had a lovely lunch with Turkey and all the trimmings with everyone catching up on the latest gossip. We all made our way home after wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our next meeting is on 17th January in the village hall at 10am. If you want to know more of our activities and the fun we have then join us.

Upcoming Events: (Meltham Parish Hall at 10am)

Jan 31st AGM, Feb 14th Poetry with a Valentines theme, Feb 28th Beetle Drive

Saturday Coffee Mornings

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

7th January - Church Hall

14th January - Held at the Methodist Church for the Hospice.

21st January - Helme School

28th January - Wilshaw Village Hall

4th February - West Yorkshire Dog Rescue



The choir had a busy December – we managed to sing for quite a few services and we also sang at the funerals of two former choristers – Haydn Webster and Norman Webb. We are grateful to those extra voices who came to help us out singing in the choir which ensured we were able to give them both a good send off.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of our former choir member Norman Webb who recently passed away. Norman joined the choir back in 2011 and was a dedicated singer and supporter of the choir and church – he particularly enjoyed singing and also doing the readings which were always very well read with his unique style. Unfortunately he never got back singing with us following the Covid-19 lockdown and was not able to join us at church in his latter years. He will be missed by all who knew him

– a remarkable man. RIP Norman



Simon Ball

Maureen, Ruth, Jonathon, Josh, Helen and James would like to thank everyone for wonderful cards, flowers, kind words and the love they've shown to us after our loss of Haydn.

Thank you in particular to Revd John, Simon, St Bart's choir and Peter Murgatroyd and his team of bellringers for making the service of memorial for Haydn so perfect. And to Helen for organising a beautiful buffet and looking after us so well afterwards in the Church Hall.



Lamentations 3:22

The faithful love of the Lord never ends His mercies never cease.

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

Anne Stafford,

Haydn Webster,

Christine Bradley,

Norman Webb

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 :

December Winners:

235.	£200.	Mr. J. Harrison
948.	£10.	Mrs. S. Dearnley
761.	£10.	Mrs. V. White
130.	£10.	Mr. D. Millard
127.	£10.	Mrs. C. Bradley.
		(Donated back)
155.	£10.	Mr. B. Moriarty

Want to join the 200 club?

It costs just 25p per week (£13 pa). Prizes are £50 per month except June where it is £100 & December where it is £200. The prizes determined by the last 3 digits of the monthly premium bond draw.

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

St Bartholomews Flowers



Flowers are a lovely way to remember loved ones or to celebrate that special occasion. The following flowers have been placed on the Communion Table in St Barts church by:

1st Jan	- Mrs Thackeray
15th Jan	- Mr & Mrs A Ball
22nd Jan	- Mrs A Schofield
5th Feb	- Mr & Mrs B Gregory

If you would like to put flowers on the Communion Table in church we do have dates available.

Please contact:
Catherine Moulson (850171)

Answers to Biblical Cooking (from page 21)

1 butter; 2 sugar; 3 honey; 4 eggs; 5 raisins; 6 figs; 7 almonds; 8 flour; 9 spices; 10 salt; 11 leaven may be taken as baking powder or as yeast; 12 milk.

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Trip to Suceava Romania December 2022

T4U

On the 11 December 9 of us met at Manchester Airport and flew, thanks to Ryan Air, to Suceava international airport Romania.

Suceava is in Northern Romania in the poorest part. We stayed in the University accommodation which was very warm and comfortable.

Day 1 We loaded a van with cartons of gift filled shoeboxes donated by the people of West Yorkshire and processed in Meltham and travelled to the Romanian Moldova border visiting a village school. Enormous families in this village up to 10 children in each family. Apparently, no TV service this far north! The children had no idea why we were visiting, and they were thrilled to receive a gift. Chaos ensued as we tried to distribute the boxes but finally every child had smiling faces. Then on to 2 different Pentecostal churches. Hundreds of Children arrived in their best clothes to meet the visitors.

Before each distribution Simon, our leader from T4U, gave a brief introduction as to why we were visiting and charmed the children with magic tricks!

Day2. 8am. We visited a home for disabled children. We left boxes for the children to be given out on Christmas Day. The staff told us that the children received very little at Christmas. The home was beautifully clean, the children and young people seemed happy and well cared for. All had medical problems and were terminally ill. It was in fact a Hospice. I was asked to sign the visitors book and noticed that the last entry was 2019. The lady who met us and translated for the team told us that the home was very short of equipment.

Each day had a similar pattern. Long journeys distributing to schools mainly. At one large school there were several floors for different age groups. We were told that the youngsters had different degrees of autism.

Romania is a huge country. We travelled North through snow and mud. The fields are enormous. Few cars about, many horses and carts travelling between villages. Children walk miles to get to school. Finishing school early in the day in the light for the long walk home. Following a distribution, we saw them on the roads clutching their boxes as we travelled on to our next appointment.

On our last full day we went South to a school where the majority of youngsters were Roma. We had the best reception here! They were in awe of Simons magic and so excited to receive a gift. On this trip we were running out of boxes. We had non left for 300 children we were hoping to visit and no 12+ boxes for the final school.

Our next visit was to some Roma families in their homes. We were invited into the poorest houses you could imagine. Lots of children with mothers. No men around. We gave out 'Home' boxes to the mothers and lots of extra gifts that we volunteers had in our back packs. The 2 room homes had little furniture. Beds were used not just for sleeping but for sitting and as tables. Mud everywhere. Unmade roads.



We wondered where they shopped as we were miles from shops, churches, hospitals. Visiting one home I met a mother with a toddler with a hare lip that I felt should have received medical intervention. She had at least 7 other children. She seemed quite overwhelmed with the generosity of the gifts.

The majority of the boxes distributed had been processed in Meltham. Without exception they were wonderful and gave such joy to the children.

It was a privilege to visit Romania and meet the children, Lucien the Professor from the University who had organised all the distributions, Anna Maria our translator and the drivers who looked after us with the van and our minibus.

An unforgettable experience!

Judith Powell



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

Solution to the Sudoku on page 21

Photos from various Christmas events.

