



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1st May 2024



Reports for the Parish of Meltham, Christ the King

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Section A

Vicars report APCM 2024

I'd like to start by thanking all the many people who have been involved in the many successes that we have enjoyed over the last year. Our Churchwardens, PCC members, treasury team, and steering groups have all given a great deal of time and shown considerable faith, wisdom, and commitment.

As a parish we have enjoyed successful and busy periods especially over Christmas and Easter. We have been able to engage with new people and those around the edge of Church life through events like the pancake party, treat fest, and the Easter trail. Our ALPHA courses and family services along with invitations to special services such as harvest festivals and Mother's Day have provided a very valuable opportunity for people to become more closely involved. All those involved in greeting, making coffee, and making people feel welcome should know that their part will never be seen as "small". Everything that is done by each person to make the good news of Jesus more accessible is a greatly valued part of the tapestry of being a living and God serving Church.

As we look back over the last year there is much to celebrate. We are very pleased to welcome Rev Elizabeth Snowden to our parish and I am grateful to her for her increasing involvement in the ministry of the parish, just as I am deeply grateful to all those who continue to enable the ministry and services of our four Churches. It is with sadness that we celebrated the life and ministry of Rev Peter Rolls and Rev John Radcliffe. Each served this parish for decades with the kind of dedication and commitment that means they leave a sizable gap in the life of our Churches, but most importantly within our hearts.

People often say that the Church doesn't like change, and some changes we would all like to avoid if it were at all possible, but like it or not as time goes on change just happens. This we cannot avoid, what we can do is decide how we will face that change. It is right to take time to mourn what is lost, but we must also be a people of hope who look to the future expecting our God to provide continuing blessings if we chose to follow his plan.

We shouldn't be too hard on ourselves when we struggle with change, but we should continue to trust our God. 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.

This doesn't mean that the change they experience wasn't difficult. The emotions each one of the disciples felt were real and deep. There was loss and pain, but there was also joy and hope.

Over recent years our Churches have experienced a period of change, some of which we wouldn't have chosen. The effect of our congregations aging, of Covid which exacerbated already existing issues, and more sharing of services which, while this has had some positive results, we should remember it was a response to the very considerable increases in energy costs.

The truth is that change is inevitable.

The question is how we will choose to respond to it?

There are questions that we as a Parish have known need to be asked and answered for many years. Perhaps we might wrap these questions together by asking "what does sustainability look like?" We all know that there are no easy answers and that there never have been. In fact, asking the question will inevitably lead to some very challenging conversations. However, I believe that over the last few years relationships between the people of our four Churches have grown in such a way that we are now able to ask that question. Most importantly that with Gods help we can find an answer that leads to the kind of hope which is embodied in Easter and Pentecost.

As our new PCC and steering groups meet over the next year we will begin to address some of those difficult questions. I will be encouraging all involved to do so with kindness, honesty, care and love for each other, and above all faith and hope in in the wonderful plan that Christ Jesus has for his Church here in this parish.

Please pray for all involved in this process, including yourselves, that by God's grace we may find ourselves and our plans aligned with his most wonderful plan.

God bless, Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)

St. James' Churchwarden's report 2023

Section A: Fabric and maintenance

- Handrails have been fitted by the steps to the chancel. The joiner's high standard of work has meant they blend in perfectly whilst improving access to and from the communion rail.
- A loft ladder has been fitted to create safe access to the gallery above the entrance as this is used for storage.
- The worship area has become a warmer space through replacing 3 radiators and a installing an additional radiator, all of which have fans.
- A plug socket has been fitted in the boiler room so that there is a source of electricity for outdoors.
- The fire protection and alarm system were serviced.
- Despite several requests, roof repairs and gutter cleaning have not taken place but will be pursued.
- Maintenance work in the graveyard and car park has continued to be carried out by volunteers and there has been a focus on making sure that the church building is visible. A new 'mulching mower' was also purchased.

St. Mary's Wilshaw
Churchwardens Report May 2024

During the last 12 months we have had a condition survey done on the decorative panels which were uncovered last year, and also the decorative finishes in the Chancel, this was done by Lincoln conservation part of Lincoln University.

The Sunday school at last has been de-cluttered and the old plastic and metal framed chairs have been replaced with new folding chairs which take up less room when not being used. During the colder months the Sunday school has been used for Church services to save on heating bills and Helme Church has joined with us for these services. We are still doing zoom services for Sherryl in Australia and some of the more local people who can't join in person and on occasion the people at Bell house have also joined in. Our thanks go to Liz Pearson for creating new PowerPoint presentations each week and also Jackie France.

The outside of the Church is mostly in good condition but some of the fall pipes need looking at and need painting. The graveyard is in good condition and is kept tidy.

The church clock has had another blip this year and stopped for no reason that I could find, we got it going again, it has now had it's annual service and is now working fine again and keeping good time.

I would like to thank Revd. John and all the hard working people who help and support him throughout the year, and also a big thank you to Ruth.

And once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps with the running and maintenance our Church and Church grounds.

Thank you all.

Peter J Pearson.

Christ Church Helme.

As we are all aware Life is difficult for Christ Church at present. We have no Heating due to the boiler needing replacing (which we are not allowed to do as the Church of England's goal to be Carbon neutral by 2030 prevents us). The Organ needs a new blower motor. There are several additional smallish maintenance jobs that also need attention and generally the place is looking a little neglected.

With an increasingly Elderly and reducing congregation sustainability of Sunday services must be in question, especially in the winter.

I know there have been rumours in the village that the plan is to close Christ Church. In speaking to people, I like many others are aware of the pain and genuine sadness the situation has evoked.

However, let's move to the positive

Firstly, I know there is absolutely no question of Helme closing. It is a much-loved building and carries special memories for many families in Meltham. I'm very aware of Rev John's the PCC's and many people's personal commitment including my own to ensure this does not happen.

Secondly Janet Rocket and Jenny Brook are joining the PCC to represent Helme Thank you both this is really encouraging.

Thirdly We are installing some new electric heating. This will not solve all the Heating issues but will be a practical part solution.

Fourthly The graveyard and other practical jobs continue to be maintained by willing volunteer labour ,which shows the communities commitment.

Fifth As we continue to grow as a parish Christ Church has a unique and vital role to play we have already seen the very successful Forest Church Style Christingle, and hope to see more similar style events.

Sixth The church is regularly used by the School.

I could continue but my hope is it show the potential and commitment for Christ Church. Personally, I am totally convinced that as we prayerfully work in a loving, outreaching way, seeking to be transformative, and relative to people as we bring the Good news of the Christian Gospel, to our community we will see a continuation of, and increase in the growth we are already seeing across our parish. I'm convinced Christ Church Helme has an important role to play in our Parish Mission.

In Christ Church as with all our buildings we are stewards of a vital future asset.

Finally to use one of Reverend Johns Phrases, We do not worship the building but how we look after the building shows our Worship to God.

So lets by our prayer, work and faith look forward to a bright and flourishing future for Christ Church

Mike Still On Behalf of Christ Church Helme

St Bartholomew's Warden Report

In the 12 months that we have been churchwardens at St Bartholomew's, we've had lots of cause to thank God as we believe he is behind every one of our successes, and lots of times we've been on our knees asking God for vision and guidance on how we proceed.

Worship

We have three worshipping communities in St Barts each week, with additional monthly worship with Women's Fellowship. St Bart's Tots/Toddler Church meet on Tuesday mornings, we hold a said holy communion followed by coffee and lots of chat on Wednesday mornings and our Sunday services. We regularly see about 100 different people at services over a month, about 50 different people each week, but rarely everyone all at once.

Wednesday worship is growing. The Wednesday service has been a real positive this last 12 months. It is well attended and continues to grow steadily, with a friendly, happy and committed fellowship. Hopefully we can continue to build on this growth. With it being the only mid-week service within the parish it gives opportunity for people with weekend commitments to still come to church and learn the gospel. It is also another string to the parish bow that we can offer various different kinds of services for people to attend and enjoy.

Sunday worship is changing. We are really encouraged by some wonderful worship through the seasons with particular highlights at our Harvest service last year, our pop-up Nativity and the Hour at the Cross on Good Friday. We shared services with St James through the winter and hosted two Parish Communion with food and fellowship afterwards that were a real highlight. Now back in our regular pattern of a services each week at 09.30am, we are hoping that people old and new will get used to the pattern. Second Sunday will always be All Age Worship. Third Sunday will always be Holy Communion, with organ, choir and sung gloria. First (Communion) and Fourth (Morning Prayer) Sundays will vary in style and music depending on the 'staff' available. Our aim is to have high quality worship each week that is sincere and focused on learning more about and praising God. We know we can't please all of the people all of the time!

Fabric

We have a long list of work that needs to be completed on the building. We are working with our architect to draw up plans and our aim is to have completed internal work on the east wall, west wall (plastering) and whole church (decorating) by Advent 2024. We are also looking at options for some re-purposing of the side chapel to make this a more usable space. We have started consultation with regular attendees and will continue to have wide conversations about needs and options before putting a proposal to the Diocese and PCC for decisions. Fortunately, the generous legacy from Miss Muriel Stead and previous legacies from a number of people put us in a strong financial position for these development projects.

Operational costs

You all know how much your bills have gone up at home. It's not different for church, and we are living with significantly higher costs for gas, electricity, insurance and for every service we buy from tradespeople, e.g. for fire safety etc etc. Our giving is static. We are always grateful for any gifts you feel you can give and there are a number of ways to give. If you want to know options, Ruth on 07974 943443 can help. In the past fundraising has been a large source of income for St Bartholomews. We no longer have the volunteers to keep this up beyond our coffee mornings. As a result, we will continue to have tough decisions to make to meet our financial responsibilities and obligations given that our expenditure is greater than our income each year. Clearly not sustainable. The new PCC and St Barts steering group welcome practical ideas and manpower to help.

Church House/3 Greens End Road

One such tough decision has been the one to sell Church House and some of the land adjacent. The obligations of being a landlord are changing, the house is in poor repair and we simply could not afford to renovate the house to the standards necessary to continue to rent. The sale (subject to contract) will mean that the foot entrance to the Parish Hall will move further along Greens End Road later this year and we will be able to re-purpose the front of the Parish Hall to make more space for access, bin storage for Crossroads and (hopefully, if our plans are successful) more disabled parking. There is significant structural and other improvement work to do in the Parish Hall, including repair of the large east window which you may know is in very poor repair and PCC have already approved for some of the proceeds from Church House to fund this work.

Only God knows what his plans are for St Bartholomew's. A large number of Meltham people want the church to be there when they need it – warm, clean and welcoming. A very small number of dedicated volunteers make this happen.

We are indebted to Catherine Moulson and Anne Halstead, our assistant churchwardens who do an enormous amount of work in the background – much of it invisible but still crucial. Also, massive thanks for the blessings of Simon Ball and Jean Collison who make sure that most weeks we still have live music in church. And to Peter Murgatroyd who picks up a number of the jobs that have to be done but again are unseen but keep the building safe. And to all those who help with coffee, coffee mornings, welcoming, reading, singing in the choir, and everything else – thank you.

We also want to take this opportunity to once again thank Peter Blackburn for his service in so ably looking after the St Barts finances over many years. Peter continues to support in all sorts of ways including a regular helper with gardening at Calmlands and a whole host of other tasks. We are grateful Peter for your service. Ruth has picked up with finance responsibilities with the help of Anne to bank cash. Anyone who understands finance and has some basic computing skills would be very welcome to get involved.

Many people in our regular congregations are elderly. They have had their years of supporting church actively. You still have a job to do please – all of you – please pray for St Bartholomew's that we will find the way to welcome more people of all ages, and to make decisions that ensure that God's work in Meltham flourishes in future.

We are standing down as Churchwardens at the APCM, but we will both continue to be active members of St Barts and do what we can to serve God in this place in our time.

Ruth Murray-Webster and Stephen Asquith.

Diocese of Almondbury and Kirkburton

Parish of Meltham Christ the King

Electoral Roll Report for 2024

It is hereby certified the number of electors upon the Church Electoral Roll of the above

Parish, as prepared for the Annual Meeting held on :

Wednesday 1st May 2024

We have had the pleasure in welcoming 8 new Parishioners to the roll this year

Mrs Dorothy Jones, Ms Veronique Bataille, Ms Melodie Golton, Ms Amanda Godwin, Ms Mary Painter, Mrs Wendy Pearson, Mr Andrew Pearson, Mrs Judith Powell.

Sadly, we have removed 5 Parishioners from the roll over this last year

Mr Cyril Legg, Miss Elizabeth Leach Moved out of the Parish

Peter Harvey, Margaret Oakes, Sheila Hirst Sadly passed away

The number of Parishioners on the roll in 2024 is

190

Signed

Jennifer Hill

Electoral Roll Officer 10th April 2024

PCC Secretary's report 2023

Since the last APCM there have been 7 PCC meetings all well attended and quorate.

Wednesday 10TH May 2023: The main Agenda items were the Election of the Parish Officers and the sub committees. Church Hall Steering Committee and the Fabric group.

Wednesday 21st June:

The main items on the agenda were the Parish Share and the Church house. It was also agreed that the Parish magazine would be moved to bi-monthly, and the price would rise to £1

Wednesday 13th September: Agenda items included the Parish website. The new Parish logo was approved.

Wednesday 25th October: Main items on the agenda were the Sale of the Church House, and the Church Hall fees. The PCC approved the Safeguarding Plan and the Social Media Policy

Wednesday 29th November: Items on the Agenda included information about the Draft budget, services in the New Year and renovation and renewing of the Parish noticeboards.

Wednesday 24th January 2024: The main agenda items were The Approval of the Budget and the Easter events

Wednesday 6th March Agenda items included the Budget 2024, work identified in the parish by the fabric Group and a discussion regarding the introduction of the shared cup

Thank you to all our PCC members who have faithfully attended this year and contribute so much to Parish Life.

Sue Priestley (Secretary to the PCC)

Deanery Synod Report 23-24

Bishop of Huddersfield: the Rt Rev'd Smitha Prasadam

Archdeacon of Halifax: Venerable Bill Braviner

Almondbury and Kirkburton Area Dean: Rev'd Julie Anderson, Emmanuel Benefice (Armitage Bridge). Lay chair – Hilary Pollard, Almondbury

Huddersfield Area Dean: Rev'd Rachel Firth, Huddersfield Parish Church. Lay chair – David Corps, Marsden

The Deanery Synod has continued to meet for its statutory 4 meetings a year, some face to face, others via ZOOM. We have frequently joined with the Huddersfield Deanery, both for convenience and efficient use of time and resources. This works well. Usually some 40-50 members attend.

During the four meetings there have been good discussions on a wide range of subjects:-

- There is a lot of help available to Parishes to assist with Resources; Finance; Buildings; Faculties; Green Issues; Safe Guarding etc. Area Deans are often the first person to call on if problems arise.
- There are many recurring topics following on from the COVID Pandemic – Falling numbers, especially among the older age group; Finances and meeting the Parish Share; Building maintenance and the cost of heating. Trying to become more Eco friendly and Greener; Safe guarding; Attracting younger age groups; How to be 'inclusive' yet remain true to traditional views? How to live comfortably together with differing opinions? Asylum Seekers – how best to help? How to close buildings but keep the congregations? How to administer the Chalice post Covid? Is it the Vicar's decision or the PCC's? How to encourage a deeper commitment both in time and money; How to remain 'relevant' in a rapidly changing society?

All good stuff!

The Deanery Synod also keeps us informed of the activities of the wider Church of England. It is good to be reminded that we do belong to a worldwide Anglican community. A community which by having a structure of Steering Groups; PCC's, Deanery Synods; Diocesan Synods; General Synods and World Synod, the ordinary member of the congregation, through the democratic process of elections and voting can influence decisions not only at Parish level but through all the levels right up to the World General Synod.

It reminds us that we are part of a huge world wide body of Christians proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and for us it begins in Meltham!

Jenny Mathers. Deanery Rep, St James'

Safeguarding Report for APCM

The 'Safeguarding Dashboard' has continued to be a vital tool in identifying the required actions and reviews that must be taken.

The traffic light system also highlights the relative urgency of each outstanding action.

It also provides an action plan summary which is used to update the PCC on progress periodically.

Safeguarding Incidents or Expressions of Concern

Nothing to report.

Safer People

All current PCC members hold up to date DBS certificates.

13 of the 14 PCC members have completed their training, whilst 2 volunteers need to complete theirs.

As PSO, I have completed all required training for the role.

Safer Activities

The PCC has authorised three church activities (Toddler Church, St James' Sunday School, and Pastoral Care), where additional safeguarding actions were required. In addition, two ad-hoc church activities were also authorised by the PCC (Treat Fest and Pancake Party). All these church activities are now subject to risk assessments, safer recruitment processes, volunteer training (including awareness of how to promote a safer church) and DBS checks.

Hire of church buildings

We have several premises in the parish that are hired to 'non-PCC controlled' organisations. All of these groups either have their own safeguarding policy or have adopted the Parish Safeguarding Policy.

Actions for 2024

All policies and procedures are now in place. There is some training that needs to be completed by a few people.

The focus for 2024 is to develop our 'safeguarding culture' within the parish, to ensure that we have the right behaviours in all our churches and we continue to keep them as safe as possible.

Richard Whiteley

PSO

15th April 2024

Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is used every week by our regular hirers, Pilates, Zumba, Good as Gold, Flower Club, Over 60's, Helme Ladies and Slimming world. We also had bookings for Children's parties, private parties, and shows. The Stage Co. produced a fabulous pantomime in March 2023, and in May it was great to welcome back the Meltham Gilbert and Sullivan Society who did 4 performances of Ruddigore. The hall is being used a lot more by the Parish for mission, in February we hosted a pancake party and in October a Light party, both these events were a huge success. The PCC have started having their monthly meetings in the small room and back in February this year Revd John hosted a beetle drive for the Parish, this was well supported and Rev John celebrated his birthday as well. The Parish have a sunrise service at the Cock crowing stone on Easter morning and approximately 30 people come to the hall for breakfast. Coffee mornings are still well attended, and some groups raised over £500 plus for their charity. The hall has been used for lunches, Crossroads Christmas party, memorial services and in October it was lovely to host a Rock Choir and Ukraine singers and dancers. St Bartholomew's Church hosted another Christmas Market which was well attended, along with the Stage Co who hosts the Santa's Grotto.

Fabric

The window/stonework at the back of the hall needs some extreme work, we have had one quotation to repair the stone mullions and glass, but we are in the process of seeking a 2nd one. We do hope to get this work done in 2024 and then we can start thinking of refurbishing the main hall.

St Bartholomew's Women's fellowship has kindly bought the hall a new vacuum cleaner and coffee urn, we are very grateful, and we thank them for their generosity.

200 Club

The 200 club was set up in 1981 to assist with the running, repair and development of the hall. Due to many reasons we have approximately 36 vacancies. If anyone would like to support the church hall and become a member the cost is £13.00 per year (25 pence per week) and the prizes are

£200 in December, £100 in June, £50 in each of the remaining months, £10 x 52 weeks (the number of £10 payable is determined by the number of Saturdays per month)

Each member receives 5 sets of 3 digit numbers and the winners each month are decided by the last 3 digits of the monthly premium bond numbers starting with the first £1,000,000 winner and then the bonds in order drawn.

If you are able to support the church hall and become a member please contact either:-

Catherine Moulson – 01484 850171

Michael Farrell - 07768 258257 or e mail m.farrellphd@btinternet.com

We do need help with the running of the Parish Hall, the occasional setting up of coffee mornings, flower club meetings. If anyone is interested or who knows of anyone who would be interested in being our odd job man please contact

Revd John Dracup

Ruth Murray-Webster

Anne Halstead

Church Hall Steering Group

Parish of Meltham Christ the King financial report for APCM

Parish of Meltham Christ the King

Financial Report for Annual Parochial Church Meeting 1 May 2024

This financial report is provided for the PCC of the Parish of Meltham Christ the King (the Parish) for their Annual Parochial Church Meeting (ACPM) to be held on 1 May 2024. It provides details of the receipts and payments associated with the Parish for 2023.

The Parish incorporates four churches – Christ Church, St Bartholomew's, St James', St Mary's plus the Church Hall and Church House – the latter's finances managed through St Bartholomew's. Receipts and payments are separated into unrestricted and restricted funds and this report comments on notable receipts and/or payments during the year.

Legacies of unrestricted funds received in 2021 provide a significant buffer but mask underlying pressure on operating income and costs. The PCC continues to pursue ways to put the Parish on a sustainable footing for the future.

Records have been independently examined by Stephen Hendy from Data Developments Ltd.



Ruth Murray-Webster

Parish Treasurer

Independent Examiner's report

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and they consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date: 25th February 2023 Signed:



Stephen Hendy



Approval of accounts: _____ Revd John Dracup

Parish of Meltham, Christ the King Statement of Financial Activities For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	83,244.02	13,298.48	96,542.50	86,187.91
Income from charitable activities	44,020.04	5,216.54	49,236.58	56,104.29
Investments	4,843.03	111.30	4,954.33	159.43
Other income	845.54	0.00	845.54	1,124.41
Total income	132,952.63	18,626.32	151,578.95	143,576.04
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	1,360.30	0.00	1,360.30	2,666.32
Expenditure on charitable activities	132,350.36	23,642.70	155,993.06	179,174.17
Other expenditure	3,221.16	0.00	3,221.16	2,951.67
Total expenditure	136,931.81	23,642.70	160,574.51	184,792.16
Net income / (expenditure) resources before trans	-3,979.18	-5,016.38	-8,995.56	-41,216.12
Transfers:				
Net transfers between funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net movement in funds	-3,979.18	-5,016.38	-8,995.56	-41,216.12
Total funds brought forward	253,274.98	43,326.37	296,600.35	337,816.47
Total funds carried forward	249,295.80	38,308.99	287,604.79	296,600.35
Represented by				
Unrestricted				
General fund	1,434.25		1,434.25	4,242.14
Designated				
Christ Church	3,153.24		3,153.24	1,192.20
Christ Church Development Fund	14,062.47		14,062.47	14,062.47
Church Hall	27,096.64		27,096.64	21,471.51
St Bartholomew's	17,718.60		17,718.60	19,985.09
St Bartholomew's Church Choir	3,397.71		3,397.71	4,045.94
St Bartholomew's Development Fund	123,072.10		123,072.10	124,461.79
St Bartholomew's Womens Fellowship	1,034.57		1,034.57	595.17
St James'	25,319.57		25,319.57	19,072.75
St James' Development fund	6,817.18		6,817.18	16,993.18
St Mary's	9,011.30		9,011.30	9,759.57
St Mary's Development fund	17,178.17		17,178.17	17,393.17
Restricted				
Christ Church Memorial Fund		569.16	569.16	569.16
Godfrey Beaumont		29,857.57	29,857.57	33,856.50
Church Hall Roof		1,288.11	1,288.11	1,332.76
St Bartholomew's Children's Work		391.52	391.52	391.52
St Bartholomew's Mums & Tots		170.00	170.00	170.00
St Bartholomew's Organ		3,587.00	3,587.00	4,547.00
St James' Children Overseas			0.00	38.75
St James' Grave Upkeep			0.00	50.00
St Mary's Organ Fund		2,445.63	2,445.63	2,369.68
Total Funds	249,295.80	38,308.99	287,604.79	296,600.35

The Parish had £287,605 cash in the bank or in hand at 31 December 2023, of which £38,308 was restricted for specific purposes, see detailed breakdown below.

Parish of Meltham, Christ the King					
Retricted Fund movement summary					
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023					
Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Fund balances Carried forward
Christ Church Memorial Fund	569.16				569.16
Godfrey Beaumont	33,856.50	12,000.00	15,998.93		29,857.57
Church Hall Roof	1,332.76	35.35	80.00		1,288.11
Jigsaw Ministies	0.00	535.98	535.98		0.00
St Bartholomew's Children's Work	391.52				391.52
St Bartholomew's Mums & Tots	170.00				170.00
St Bartholomew's Organ	4,547.00	192.00	1,152.00		3,587.00
St James' Children Overseas	38.75		38.75		0.00
St James' CRISIS	0.00	5,216.54	5,216.54		0.00
St James' Grave Upkeep	50.00		50.00		0.00
St James' Mustard Seed	0.00	570.50	570.50		0.00
St Mary's Organ Fund	2,369.68	75.95			2,445.63
Totals	43,325.37	18,626.32	23,642.70	0.00	38,308.99

A more detailed analysis of income and expenditure is summarised on page 4. Noteworthy points are:

- Giving is largely as budgeted but is static. Growth in numbers and spiritual commitment has not yet realised greater giving.
- We have started using the Parish Giving Scheme as well as offering contactless options.
- We paid £64,728 Parish Share of the £81,346 bill (80%)
- Continued delays in progressing planned fabric schemes due to lack of people. These are budgeted again in 2024.
- Going forward we are alert to the pressures of higher utility bills, and the impact of cost of living on giving. Plans to conserve funds as far as possible by sharing spaces are in place.

1003 - Freewill Envelopes (non Gift Aid)	-	2,656.00	-	2,656.00
1004 - Freewill Envelopes	-	3,016.30	-	3,016.30
1010 - Donations	541.11	2,606.04	535.98	3,683.13
1020 - Church collections	-	6,815.02	-	6,815.02
1050 - Gift Aid Recovered	2,000.95	16,409.72	160.50	18,571.17
1051 - GASDS	-	1,212.27	-	1,212.27
1070 - Legacies	-	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
1075 - Grant Income	-	216.51	192.00	408.51
Donations and legacies Totals	7,113.56	76,130.46	13,298.48	96,542.50
Income from charitable activities				
1045 - Fundraising	-	7,351.55	5,216.54	12,568.09
1046 - Coffee Mornings	-	1,008.48	-	1,008.48
1060 - Rent - Church Hall	-	15,990.00	-	15,990.00
1061 - Rental Income - church house	-	2,203.13	-	2,203.13
1063 - Rental Income - Other	-	2,775.00	-	2,775.00
1080 - Fees - weddings etc	2,123.95	10,934.00	-	13,057.95
1095 - Church magazine income	1,613.33	20.60	-	1,633.93
1098 - Insurance Claims	-	-	-	0.00
Income from charitable activities Totals	3,737.28	40,282.76	5,216.54	49,236.58
Investments				
1030 - Interest received	-	4,843.03	111.30	4,954.33
Investments Totals	0.00	4,843.03	111.30	4,954.33
Other income				
1099 - Sundry Income	-	845.54	-	845.54
Other income Totals	0.00	845.54	0.00	845.54
Income and endowments Grand totals	10,850.84	122,101.79	18,626.32	151,578.95
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
2016 - Fundraising costs	-	1,360.30	0.00	1,360.30
Raising funds Totals	0.00	1,360.30	0.00	1,360.30
Expenditure on charitable activities				
2001 - Utilities	-	14,472.96	-	14,472.96
2020 - Diocesan Parish Contribution	37,906.56	26,821.50	-	64,728.06
2030 - Cost of Parish Magazine	2,540.78	-	-	2,540.78
2040 - Maintenance, repairs and consumables	120.00	7,294.26	9,545.29	16,949.55
2041 - Maintenance - church house	-	492.00	-	492.00
2042 - Development Projects	-	15,870.53	-	15,870.53
2045 - Cleaning Materials	-	296.71	-	296.71
2050 - Upkeep of Churchyard	-	1.13	44.50	45.63
2070 - Charitable Giving	200.00	2,533.55	5,825.79	8,559.34
2071 - Mission & Outreach (including youthwork)	161.95	188.75	2,795.38	3,146.08
2080 - Insurance	9,746.87	-	-	9,746.87
2081 - Insurance - church house	320.44	-	-	320.44
2085 - Office Expenses	483.16	2.29	2,661.95	3,147.40
2086 - Books, Training and Course Fees	-	-	-	0.00
2095 - Altar requisites, candles and other costs of services	347.36	73.23	1,651.14	2,071.73
2100 - Staff Costs - Organist / Choirmaster	-	250.00	-	250.00



Section B

St. James' Churchwarden's report 2023

Section A: Church life

Looking back on 2023 it is good to realise that many established activities have continued to take place and that new ones have been added.

The church building has once again been open to welcome in the local community. Drinks and cake were served to those completing the Easter Trail and hot chocolate warmed up those who braved the snow at 'Carols in the Park'. People stayed to chat to their friends and to church members. A quiet space was provided for people attending 'Picnic in the Park'.

It was lovely to see both familiar and new faces at our invitation service in October and at our Christmas day service. We were surprised and delighted by the number of people who came to the Crib Service as there had already been a variety of family Christmas services held. The All Age Worship service engages children and families, some of whom only attend on this Sunday.

The building has also enabled our usual fundraising for charity. The 'Community Cards' group provided invaluable support to 'The Welcome Centre' and T4U sent lots of love in boxes from the warehouse. The generosity of many people giving their time, skills and donations meant that £5216.54 was sent to the charity 'Crisis' after the coffee morning.

We have celebrated as a church family in the baptism and blessing of church members. We have also shared what we find to be the good things in our church life. The African meal and the Harvest Brunch gave us the opportunity to relax and to socialise together.

We have continued to financially support the work of the Church Mission Society. Tim Lee came and shared news on the work of 'Jigsaw' in the Philippines and we have new mission partners called Rosie and Stu Bayford who were called to meet the needs of vulnerable people living in Recife, Brazil.

The Pastoral Care group have completed their Safeguarding training and are always willing to reach out to those who might be finding things a little difficult. They meet up occasionally to discuss what they or other church members may provide to enhance our church life. Prayer is offered after services.

Although the church building has been a welcoming space throughout the year, it appears that there are some people who don't know we are open. One of the discussion topics at Steering Group has been to improve our visibility in different ways. Physical embodiments of that aim were the Christmas lights which illuminated the church and the ongoing work in the graveyard. We have also continued to wrestle with the question of how to further develop the relationships which have begun with people who have come through our doors, played games in the park or attended carols in the park and the pub.

Our meeting together and our worship is enriched by everyone who gives of their time and their gifts in whatever way. As the only churchwarden I'm grateful for everyone who plays their part. I'd particularly like to mention Mike who has carried on with some of the tasks he had as churchwarden and Richard who is very much my right-hand man!

St. Mary's report for a.p.c.m (1st. May 2024)

We are only a small church & congregation but what a busy eventful year it has been. We have held a good mix of services, some have communion & some service of the word, this year has seen the introduction of "breakfast church-thankyou Nigel for your encouragement & support for this & to Lizzy Peter for the bacon butties:

On 1st October lay reader Jacqueline France led our first "forest church -taking church out into nature-brilliant!

Other special services over the last year were family services for Fathers day, animal service in the church croft, harvest festival, carol service and a service for Mothering Sunday. We held a service of Remembrance last November & welcomed our friends from Christ Church Helme to share worship with us & we enjoyed sharing worship with them several times. It was wonderful that all 4 churches were once again open every Sunday on Easter Day.

Our congratulations go to Arrabella & George who were married last August, to Benson Stuart who was baptised in St. Mary's porch in April, to Denis Armstrong who celebrated his 90th birthday. We have said farewell to Arthur Jones, Peter Harvey, Dorothy Turner, Ian Mackenzie, Michael Helliwell who have all had connections to St. Mary's & we are saddened at the loss of Rev. Peter Rolls and Rev. John Radcliffe, God blessed their ministry amongst us & they are missed.

We have supported many events services across the parish, the mustard seed walk coffee morning & special services arranged by churches together. It has been wonderful to share in the Parish Communion the delicious lunches so generously provided, we have reached out to our community by supporting picnic in the park, treat fest, forest church Christingle, reverse advent for the foodbank & offering services on zoom. We have been very involved in supporting the refurbishment of Wilshaw village hall, have helped with Wilshaw fun day & Wilshaw welly walk. There has been a coronation street party up the Avenue. (had to hold this indoors as it rained us off) & fund raising included a Mexican night, a cocktail night, several coffee mornings.

Rev. Judy Kenworthy has retired from taking the monthly service at Bell House care home. Rev Judy is delighted that our lay reader Jacqueline France has taken on this ministry. Our thanks go to all who lead our services, those who lead intercessions, read lessons, prepare & operate power point presentations & provide music for our services. Thank you to Peter our Church Warden for all he does, to all who support St. Mary's in anyway.

We ask your prayers following a roof fall in church as we are not sure whether our flower festival and a wedding in July will be able to go ahead. We thank you for all the friendship and fellowship we have shared in the parish over the last 12 months.

Many thanks for this!

Bell Tower Captain's report 2023

Our practice night on Thursdays is still well attended, we are supported by ringers from Holmfirth and Armitage Bridge. The ringing at Holmfirth takes place every Friday morning and is becoming quite popular with visiting ringers.

The Tower at St. Bart's will be open to visitors during the Scarecrow festival as planned and I am intending to use this as a recruiting opportunity. The ringers will be entering a scarecrow in the competition using Paris as our theme, he will be "The Lunchpack of Notre Dame"!

We have periodically arranged for the bells to be rung during coffee mornings on Saturdays and this serves as an extra opportunity to practice. I intend to resume this now that the weather is improving. We have accommodated a number of visiting bands and of course we are always happy to ring for weddings when requested.

The clock is serviced annually, paid for by Kirklees and the Carillon is serviced by the man that restored it , Hills Tower Clocks.

During the year, Matthew Golton and I have managed to restore the single bell at St. James's to a ringable condition, enabling it to be chimed by means of a rope from the staircase below. The bell was hung originally so as to be rung normally but was immobilised for safety reasons in the past I presume.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support, ringing is improving after the terrible effects of the Covid epidemic, we were all robbed of 3 years of our lives I feel.

Peter Murgatroyd Tower Captain April 2024

Meltham Shoe Box Team

MSBT Project 2023

An overview

19years of shoe box checking in Meltham!!

The 2023 project began 6 November at St. James Church Meltham Mills.

We are blessed with a very loyal band of volunteers who turned up for work, bringing cartons from storage at TAYTRANS and setting up the church to receive donated boxes.

The church was made ready to process the gift filled donated shoe boxes by giving more space around the checking tables and purposely storing box fillers, extras, around those tables by age groups. We split the areas, where checked boxes are put into cartons ready for transport, hoping to avoid any mistakes when filling cartons. Otherwise, everything stayed the same as in previous years.

The heating system was updated whilst we worked! That was ok as the engineers worked around us. The whole project was far less stressful, quieter, and more relaxed as we were not pressured with loads of boxes and could take more time checking.

Our numbers of received boxes were less and that is disappointing. People in the UK are very aware of the rise in cost of living, and we feel that schools especially found it difficult to include our project, The boxes we received were of better quality than previous years. Christine our T4u treasurer, feels we received a higher percentage of donated money to aid transport costs per box than before.

We closed the processing warehouse on the 24 November having processed 3149 boxes placed into 301 cartons. Those boxes were delivered to children in the Ukraine.

Friday mornings are an opportunity for many to meet together at St. James Church. We enjoy coffee, cake and soup at lunch time. We have shared many things over the years. Making and sorting fillers. Chatting about family and friends and many close friendships have developed. It is with a very heavy heart that I have to report the death of two of our most loved volunteers. Nancy Burton and Dorothy Turner.

The Friday Meltham Shoe Box Team had filled approximately 200 boxes for 12+ Boys. We bought most of the items included in each box hoping that the older boys would appreciate more adult items. We are to run a similar project when we begin this year but add 12+ girls boxes. These boxes are completed and sealed on a Friday from May to October. Placed into cartons and stored by our friends at T until dispatched in December. Fundraising by our Team and a generous donation from TAYTRANS enables us to donate the cost of transportation.

Friday T4u shoe box Team meetings begin again on the 10 May.

Martin Warriner has led a group of loyal gentlemen who have spent hours sorting the storage in the church gallery and all those donated fillers!! Bill, Ray, OPi, Terry and Martin, we do appreciate all your hard work!!

Our thanks also go to our friend David Turner who wraps all our empty shoeboxes. Well over 2000 in 2023 and we have already taken a delivery for this coming year. David also donates lots of new fillers, Skipping ropes tennis balls pencil cases etc.

Help with fundraising is so important. Teddy Tombola is our main way of raising money to buy those new items for the 12+ boxes. This coming year we have 4 booked events so please help us with these. We are also grateful to Mandy Taylor and her team at TAYTRANS for the sweetie pots which are great value when sold at £1.

Honley Ladies Choir performed with Simion Wood at a Christmas concert in St James Church on the 7 December. Every seat was filled and with the help of a marvellous raffle managed by Hilary Scholes we were able to send all the profits down to T4u to help with the shoe box appeal. The church was warm, the new radiators worked well!

We were delighted that James from TAYTRANS accompanied a T4u box distribution trip to Bosnia to give children in that country a gift. There are opportunities for other folk to go to countries with the T4u teams, just check the T4u web site.

We are grateful to so many folk for their work with the Meltham Shoe Box Team. Meltham Post Office. The Crossroads Project for their grant to us. The church family at St. James for allowing us to use the church. The Crossroads Shop for donating fillers all year long. TAYTRANS for storage of cartons and loading of lorries. All our volunteers and box donors and many more!

Finally, 2014 is the 20th birthday of the Meltham Shoe Box Team!!

We are to celebrate by enjoying an Afternoon Tea here at St. James on the 15 June.

It will be a feast and we hope you will come. I have tickets so please get in touch as soon as you can as we have limited numbers.

Judith Powell

07954784317

Meltham Shoe Box Team supporting Teams 4 You. T4u

judithandpaul@icloud.com

The Crossroads Project

The Crossroads shop

At the beginning of this year the first phase of a programme of refurbishment began in the shop The first phase being done over the Christmas break. LED strip lighting has replaced the old strip lighting and the bays have been painted with new sign work added which has improved the working environment for staff. A disused toilet was capped off and shelving is to be built to extend the storage space. Plastering work was done in the kitchen and adjacent storage area and the kitchen units and a sink were replaced. Vinyl flooring has replaced old flooring that was becoming unsafe in the kitchen and toilet areas. A new till area has been installed and racks taken down from behind windows to allow more light into the shop. A blind has been purchased to cover the back of the children's display window to be used during cashing up and when the shop is closed.

Displays have been repositioned to create a men's clothing and accessories area and the women's accessories have been repositioned next to the women's clothing.

Windows and doors will be replaced over the coming months subject to planning permission and finally a new carpet will be laid.

The aim of the refurbishment is to provide a safe, warm environment for staff and customers, reduce energy bills, and enable the shop to be sustainable over the next few decades with increased security.

The foodbank has continued to be extremely busy, and we are pleased to welcome some new volunteers. Over 140 families and individuals are supported with Food parcels when needed as families struggle with rising costs and unexpected bills.

We are now encouraging the clients to collect their parcels, if possible. This means we are now getting to know our families much better and are able to help them with other issues to help them cope through difficult times. Clients and others are ably supported by Chris Smith our debt and benefit advisor and Nigel Priestley our legal advisor

The Crossroads Centre continues to be open from 10am to 1pm Monday to Friday and till 3pm on Wednesdays.

Grants to increase the number of services that Crossroads can offer have been applied for and received. A Health Inequalities Grant was applied for. This funded a Health Fair which took place in January in the Crossroads Centre and the Carlile Institute. Health professionals and local groups gave advice, and groups from Meltham provided information and advice on ways of keeping healthy and improving wellbeing. Despite it being a very cold and snowy day we were pleased to welcome those able to brave the icy conditions.

Warm and Welcoming Wednesday also qualified for a grant from the West Yorkshire Mayors Fund. It continues to meet for members to enjoy good company and conversation and this year with the addition of home-made soup provided by two of our foods bank volunteers

Craft and Create continues with an enthusiastic group, making cards. Paper angels and Christmas trees at Christmas and now developing their painting skills.

The Sustainable Sewing Bees continue to meet on Fridays using fabric from the Community haberdashery to make items to sell for the project and often just to chat together and enjoy sewing

The Outlookers, a service for the visually impaired, meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month and is open to anyone needing support through sight impairment.

Other local groups including the Kirkwood Hospice support group, the WI and the Bridleways Group also use the Centre in the evenings.

Recently a small group of young people aged 11 years upwards now attend a youth group run each Monday evening in our basement room, supported by youth workers.

The Grant's Committee continues to meet once a quarter. This year many groups have benefited from this service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Crossroads Project volunteers past and present for the commitment and hard work done over the last 29 years. This has ensured that we can continue to support many in need and provide some fun and friendship at the same time. New members to all our groups always welcome.

As always thank you to you all for your continued support prayers and generous donations which enable us all, to do what we do.

Sue Priestley (Chair of trustees)

TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN – MCT

Members of Meltham Parish join with members of the other churches in Meltham to form the Telephone Prayer Chain, where people faithfully pass prayer requests around the group and pray for the various particular needs that have been requested.

Over the past year the prayer chain has been used but not too often. It can always be used more and we ask that we become more mindful of the Prayer Chain in our conversations with those we meet who are obviously in need of love, care and prayer support. It's a simple ask – “would you like us to pray for you -- we have a Telephone Prayer Chain who will pray for you in strict confidence”.

Thanks go to all the members of the Telephone Prayer Chain – for their care and commitment in praying for others and may the following words be an encouragement to us all.

‘When we pray, we participate in God’s work’

‘When we pray for others we emulate Jesus’

‘When we pray for others, we share in their burden’

‘When we pray for others, we learn to trust God.’

‘When we pray for others, we are also changed’

‘Praying for others glorifies God.’

If anyone feels they would like to join the Telephone Prayer Chain Team, please contact Christine 01484 340342 or Hester 01484 657069

Christine Rolls and Hester Deacon

‘COMMUNITY CARDS’ – MELTHAM GROUP



Community Cards is a voluntary organization with various groups in this area making a variety of greetings cards, tags, notebooks etc. which are sold in support of The Welcome Centre, Huddersfield and in doing so provides a place where people can come along, meet new friends, and be part of a team working together for a common purpose.

MELTHAM COMMUNITY CARD GROUP – This year we have cause to celebrate. We started our Group in 2014 and this year 2024 we celebrate our 10th Anniversary. We have 14 members and we meet each Friday morning in St James Church, Meltham Mills where we produce greetings cards which we sell in our various outlets. The group gives the opportunity for people to meet on a regular basis and work together with a common goal and we are always happy to welcome new people to the group. In December we were fortunate to welcome Richard Whiteley, who is Chair of the Welcome Centre Trustees, to come along and share with us the work of the Welcome Centre which gave us a real insight into the work that we support.

We would once again like to say thank you for all the support we have been given over the year by :-

- those who let us have their used greetings cards,
- those who work in our Meltham Team,
- those outlets where we are able to sell our cards,
- those who buy the cards we make,
- and thanks go to St James’ Church who very generously provide us, free of charge, with a place to meet and ample space for our storage needs.

Please continue to help by letting us have your used greetings cards and by buying our cards and also if you would like to join our Meltham Team please contact me for more details, bearing in mind that being artistic is not a criteria of joining the group, as some people think, but rather a willingness to be part of our team working together to do this work.

Christine Rolls 01484 340342

St Bart's Tots

The past 12 months have seen a number of changes with our Toddler Church:-

- Moved from Christ Church, Helme to St Bartholomew's, Meltham
- Changed from Monday mornings to Tuesday mornings
- We are now called "St Bart's Tots"

We are still a toddler church as we are more than just a playgroup because, what makes us distinctively different, is that Jesus is central to our purpose.

Since these changes, we have been encouraged by the number of new families that have started coming to St Bart's Tots. We now have 22 families coming along which are equally split between those who live north of Morrison's and those who live south of the supermarket. Fortunately, not all of them come every week which isn't a bad thing because it enables us to have the time and opportunity to chat with the adults and engage in some very meaningful conversations. The toddlers can enjoy playing with the toys, doing crafts and singing the songs.

During the morning, we all sit around the circular story rug for a short Bible story, which is perfectly aimed at the toddlers, and sing Christian songs. This is followed by our special way of responding to our prayer, with our "spirally Amen", before enjoying our snack time.

The wonderful encouragement is that some of the families have started coming to the monthly family services held at both St Bartholomew's and St James's.

As we build up our contact with young families within the parish, and tell people about Jesus, we pray that our outreach will continue to bear much fruit.

As a team, we would appreciate prayer support from members of the parish, as we seek to spread the Good News of Jesus to young families here in Meltham.

Chris Dronsfield

Team Leader - St Bart's Tots

The Alpha Report for APCM

Have you ever thought to yourself – “I’ve been going to church for years and I’m really not sure about my faith – why I believe what I believe.”

The Alpha Course is a brilliant opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith in a relaxed and friendly environment. It addresses using a Video presentation, questions like:

What is the meaning of life? Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I have faith? What happens when we die? Is Jesus Christ relevant to my life and the world today? How do we deal with guilt? Why and how should I pray? Why and how should I read the Bible? Who is the Holy Spirit? How can I resist evil? What about the Church?

In Meltham in October 2023 we started our third year of the Alpha Course with two Alpha Groups exploring just what faith is about.

Cptn John Smith lead one face to face group at the Crossroads Centre and I ran a Zoom Alpha where those taking part joined online.

There was a mixture of ages and experience in both groups. John worked with participants many of whom had been going to church for years. Some of these had never really sat down and talked through these topics. My group had several members who had little or no experience of going to church and who were dipping their toes in for the first time. The age range went from 15 years old to 75+. One participant, the son of one of my work colleagues, had gone to America to work on a YMCA Summer Camp and had come back with nascent faith, wanting to know more. Another had only ever been to church once in her life. Yet another had experienced a major change in her life and wanted to a think through her next steps. She hadn’t been to church since her teens.

The Alpha Course opens up conversations. This year two people contacted me once the course was underway to ask if they could join. Neither had any connections with Meltham. One came and went; the other started half-way through and wants to re-start in the Autumn from the beginning.

Some don’t last the whole course for various reasons. Most do. Faith is a process. One of the most encouraging parts of Alpha is the genuine conversations as we explore together the love of God for us.

And this year one of the participants has been so touched by what she learnt in our time together that she wants to be baptised! She joined with no faith, encouraged by a member of the church.

So if you want to reflect with others about your faith or you know of someone who you think would like to take part, get in touch and let me know!

Nigel Priestley MBE

Women's Fellowship Report April 2024

Our fellowship is now into its 49th year. Our membership is approximately 15 people. We meet once a month to share our faith with a short informal service, followed by a speaker. Some meetings we just have a chat and a cuppa and enjoy the company.

During 2023 we hosted a coffee morning. Had an outing to Cannon Hall and enjoyed two lunches held in the church hall.

We are always open to visitors who wish to occasionally join with us on the last Tuesday of the month at 2pm in St Bart's Church.

Catherine Moulson.