



£1

*"All powerful, untameable,  
awestruck we fall to our knees  
as we humbly proclaim:  
You are amazing, God."*

# The Parish Magazine

**JUNE & JULY 2024**

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



## 'Our Quilt'

In January 2024, inspired by the 'Speak Their Name' memorial quilt that had been exhibited at the Carlile Institute, Councillor Ann Jurczyn contacted a few people in the Meltham community who she knew were interested in all things textile. She suggested of the possibility of developing a similar piece to represent the communities of Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw.

At a meeting on 22nd January a plan for "Our Quilt" was hatched. It was decided that the quilt will be a collaborative textile piece made from approximately 100 handmade fabric squares representing and celebrating 100 features of the villages of Meltham, Wilshaw and Helme.

Each square has been handmade by the creative community of area and has been made using any craft including knitting, crochet, patchwork, embroidery, applique, felting etc to represent shops, community organisations, churches, playgrounds, fields, anything to help us build a creative "map" of where we live. Each participant has worked onto a 'base' square piece of fabric with the finished design of 8" x 8".

The blank squares were made available to be collected from the Crossroads Shop from 1st March and we requested that the squares be returned by 31st May.

Many squares have already been received (see pictures) and we have been overwhelmed by the variety, the imagination and the quality of the work. Over the next few weeks, we will be sewing all the squares together to complete the quilt which will be launched by the new Mayor, David Haigh, on Friday 5th July, at the start of the Meltham Memories weekend, in the Jubilee Room at the Carlile Institute. It will be there all weekend so please pop along to see it.

Liz Simmonds



## In this issue ...

Photo taken by Simon Ball on 10th May	Cover
Our Quilt	Inside cover
Parish Officials	Page 4
A Note from the Editor	Page 5
A Letter from your Vicar	Page 7
Going Greener - Moving towards an Eco Church	Page 9
Crossroads Update	Page 10 - 11
Meltham Shoebox Team update.	Page 12
Revd Maureen, 25 years of Priestly Ministry	Page 13
Update from Bell House Care Home /From the Registers	Page 15
Coincidences? / Easter 2024	Page 16
Weekly services for June & July / Churches Together	Page 17
200 Club / Flowers / Coffee Morning	Page 19
Just for Fun / Singing For Health	Page 21
St Mary's Report / St Mary's Flower Festival	Page 23
Helme Ladies Update	Page 24
A Note from the Parish Treasurer	Page 25
Meltham Scarecrow Festival / Spring Poem	Page 30
Photos of the Recent Events	Page 31
Honley Make Voice Choir Live at LBT	Back Cover

**God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.**

– Billy Graham

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

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**CHRIST CHURCH**

**Churchwarden** Vacant

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**melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com**

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

## Prayer for Growth

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



### A note from the editor ...

Hello!

Welcome to our June / July Parish Magazine. What a jam packed edition we have for you! Lots of interesting articles including a note from our treasurer (pg 25) an update from Teams4U (page 24) a lovely thought from Jean W on the centre page. Please also note (pg 17) that **30th June** will be a special Parish Communion with a celebration afterwards. Can't wait!

**Also a BIG congratulations goes to our Simon Ball for receiving a Pride of Meltham award. Thank you for all you do for this parish, you truly are a star!** I'm sorry I couldn't fit in a bigger acknowledgement there's just so much to fit in this month!

Again, I am so thankful for all your wonderful contributions for this edition. It has made my job so much easier and I think makes a fantastic issue. Please continue to send them in.

The deadline of the August / September magazine will be earlier due to school holidays:

**Monday 15th July 2024**

Please send submissions via:

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

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

God Bless, Fiona.

### Meltham Prayer Chain

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

Confidentiality is always respected.

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

Christine Rolls      340342

Hester Deacon      657069



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## Letter from your Vicar

A former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, '*Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!*'

This month sees the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which will be watched by millions across Europe and the world. Yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say no to the wrong things in our lives and yes to the good things, yes to God's plan.

Sometimes God's plan is surprising. God's plan can involve new approaches which can be very exciting but also rather puzzling. Jesus's approach was based on grace rather than law and many were excited though some of were puzzled, particularly some of those in authority. As we try to discern and understand God's plan for his Church here in this parish the one thing that seems clear is that we are being called to work together more closely. For this to work we need to learn to trust one another more and have faith in God's plan.

To press on towards this goal we need to train and build up our *godly muscles*. To do this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of the Church, that is the fellowship of Christians which is Christ's body.

God bless,  
Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)



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# CROSSROADS CENTRE



***Romans 12 v13 , the message says ‘Be inventive in hospitality’ is something we can all learn.***

The Crossroads Centre now based in the Old Town hall opened its doors in October 2019. The Official opening was performed by Mrs Constance Crosland a member of the Baptist Church who was and remains our oldest volunteer. Our new home had an accessible entrance and ground floor rooms. a reception area and a small food bank in the basement. We were soon up and running but with not much idea of how we were going to use all the space!

However, all that changed. Six months later the pandemic arrived. I believe this shaped the future of the Centre. Initially it became the base for the Meltham helpline and later the storage point for the donations for the shop. The Centre remained open throughout the pandemic and organised food deliveries We supported the foodbank which underwent a massive transformation which has continued to grow and develop and became a focal point for many. Now I feel we are well placed to support many in the Community with help and advice and be a welcoming space to meet new people and develop new skills.

I just want to describe a fairly typical Wednesday at the Centre. Two volunteers in Reception arrive early to meet the Fare Share Van. Fare Share is the UK’s national network of charitable food redistribution who deliver to frontline charities who we work closely with. The receptionists start by responding to any messages left and get ready to welcome people with appointments to see our debt and benefit advisor or to join the Warm and Welcoming Wednesday Coffee group.

Opening our doors at 10am up to 8 visitors sign in to the Warm and welcoming space. They spend a morning relaxing with refreshments, Quizzes and chats and wide-ranging conversations with new friends.

The first client who has contacted Chris our debt and benefit advisor through the web arrives for his appointment and a gentleman calls in to get the number for Age UK. A lady arrives to bring uniforms to local families from Uniform Exchange and 3 people call to bring donations for the Foodbank.

A couple of ladies arrive to look through the haberdashery. One lady needs ribbon to attach to aprons that she is making for St Barts Tots and the second lady needed buttons and zips.

6 food parcels are prepared and delivered and in the office a young lady received coffee and biscuits while she waited for her day parcel to be prepared.

In-between times we arranged website training for two of our trustees, did some photocopying for the foodbank volunteers and enlarged a copy of a knitting pattern on our slightly unreliable photocopier.

A slight emergency occurred when the disabled toilet flooded and needed **some** urgent plumbing work, fortunately for us Chris Sinclair was on hand, and it was soon sorted.

Towards the end of the morning a couple of visitors attending Warm and Welcoming Wednesday enjoyed homemade soup made by a chef who volunteers with us, and frozen soup was distributed to those who wanted it.

The last visitors of the day were a couple on holiday from Derby who were having a day out in Meltham and wanted to know what they should do! Fortunately, it was a sunny day and I sent them off to Folly Dolly Falls, and just hoped they could find it with my rather confusing directions.

As Chris had seen his final client, about 2.30pm we were able to close the doors, until tomorrow.

Thanks as always for your prayers and support, Sue Priestley



## Crossroads Food Bank

We don't receive any direct funding from state or local government, so we depend on local people and businesses to keep us afloat. Our weekly shopping bill is usually around £200 per week, so we're constantly worried about where the money will come from. We were delighted to receive a message from the Honley branch of the Yorkshire Building Society to tell us that we'd been nominated as their chosen good cause, and that they were donating £2,500 to us. On 10th May, Emily Pearson and another Emily from the same branch popped in to see us, and were most impressed with their tour of the premises. The Emilies were shown how the foodbank works, and liked the holistic approach that we take in helping clients get the support they need in order to get back on their feet.

Not only have they come up with the donation, but they're also going to start a collection point for our most needed items. We even sent them away with complimentary home-grown rhubarb!

Chris Sinclair

## Please continue to contribute to Meltham Food Bank

### They especially need the following items:

Semi Skimmed or Whole long life milk, Canned meat meals, Tuna, Eggs, Breakfast Cereal, Jam. Other helpful items include: Coffee, Sugar, washing up liquid, Toiletries e.g shampoo, shaving cream, shower gel, toothpaste, soap and feminine hygiene products.

Drop into the bins at the Coop in Meltham and Netherton. Fresh & frozen veg welcome but these must be delivered to the centre only.

**Financial donations are also welcome.**

Post through the centre door, labelled clearly 'Food bank'.

The foodbank is open **Mon-Fri, 10am - 12.30pm.**



## **Meltham Shoe Box Team (MSBT) Project 2023**

19 years 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 24th 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 began again on the 10th 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 7th 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 website. [www.teams4u.com](http://www.teams4u.com)

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 at St. James on the 15th 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, email: [judithandpaul@icloud.com](mailto:judithandpaul@icloud.com)

Meltham Shoe Box Team supporting Teams 4 You. T4u



### **Rev Maureen, 25 years of Priestly Ministry.**

29th June is the Feast Day for St Peter. A great day in the Church's calendar. Most ordination services both as Deacon and Priest, take place around this time known as Petertide. I was ordained deacon in Manchester Cathedral on 28th June 1998 and the following year on 26th June 1999 ordained priest in St Thomas, Oldham.

This year is a very special anniversary for me as it's the 'silver jubilee'. 25 years of priestly ministry, in 5 different diocese and with 13 very different congregations.

On **23rd June** I will be presiding at my Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin, **Hambleton at 11am**. Following the service there will be a very special cake and sherry, wine, tea, coffee and juice. This is your invitation to join me in celebration of this milestone. Please let me know if you are coming so we have enough wine!

Revd. Maureen.

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**References and quotes available**



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Mobile: 07789161232

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

## Update from Bell House Care Home

This month we looked at the command to love each other. First, we thought about how much God loves us, no matter what our faults are. Then we considered that sometimes God's love seems to be demanding, especially when we are asked to love people we might find a bit tricky. By understanding that He unconditionally loves all of us (warts & all!) helped us to see that we should do the same. We should obey His command, which is to love other people whatever circumstances they might be in. We learnt that when we do this, He will never leave us alone, he will always be at our sides. It is a complete fulfilment and pleasure to be in the presence of God, which we are when we share our love. This love will bring rich fruit which will exist eternally. We finished with a prayer:

*“Faithful God, your Son Jesus Christ gave us a new commandment, of love for each other and so we ask you to teach us to love you in our neighbours that by serving them we might also serve you. Amen”*

Jacqueline France

## Crossroads Haberdashery

Want to learn a new textile craft and don't have the equipment?

Needing some fabric to create that special item?

Needing some thread to sew something?

Then pop along to the **Crossroads Centre** and look what the haberdashery can offer you. There are lots of fastenings, ribbons, elastic too, just give a donation.

Open at the crossroads centre weekdays, 10am - 12.30pm



## 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*

Benson Bamforth, Arthur Jack Hildred  
Esme Lillie Brown, Amelia Osborne - Jobson  
Delia Bataille

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Elizabeth Maxwell, Michelle Beaumont

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 Rev John Dracup T: 07983937132 E: parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

## Coincidences?

I don't believe in coincidences – I believe it was the Rev Jim Dearden who used to call them God-instances and I agree.

I have had two such God-instances this week.

The first was on May Day Monday – I am a WWII fan and I was excited that a spitfire was due to fly over Meltham. At 2.00 pm I heard the plane and ran out into our empty car park at Carlile Street to watch it fly over. The plane turned and came back diagonally across the top of the car park at which point I was wildly waving both my arms (thinking he couldn't possibly see me) and the pilot dipped his wings in recognition. I was over the moon, it made my day!

The second instance involves a lady in the village who used to help at Crossroads until she started with dementia and went into Greenacres Care Home. She has two children the same age as mine and I used to chat with her a lot. I also knew her husband who worked as a University Lecturer and I used to chat with him on the bus coming home from work.

About two years ago I was invited to a Greenacres Open Day where I helped to serve refreshments. I noticed that lady sitting outside in the garden whereas most of the residents were in the lounge listening to the entertainment. I suddenly noticed that her husband was sitting in the lounge and he was not aware or responding to anyone or anything. She came inside and as soon as she saw him there seemed to be a spark of recognition so she went and stood by his chair. He did not move or acknowledge her at all and I found this to be quite upsetting.

However on Tuesday afternoon this week as I was walking along to the Co-op, a couple were walking towards me in the sunshine, hand in hand and smiling. This was the very couple who I had last seen two years ago in Greenacres. They smiled and spoke to me. I commented on the lovely weather and how it was nice to see them out and about and off they went heading down Huddersfield Road. I was so thrilled and happy that they seem to have found each other again!

The month of May is a very sad time for our family. On 13th May 2002 we lost our grandson Isaac five days after he was born. Today he would have been 22 years old. Secondly, I have just found out that my Team Leader at work has a brain tumour and is awaiting the outcome of an MDT meeting to hear the prognosis and whether it is operable or not.

With the above in mind, I now realise that God has given me the two God-instances to cheer me up and help me through the two bad episodes this month. This knowledge not only strengthens my faith but gives me hope to get through this difficult time. I thank you Lord for your goodness and Grace.

Jean Wrathall



## Parish Services for June & July

You are welcome to join any of the following weekly services,

**St Bartholomew's, Meltham 9:30am**  
Second Sunday of the month is a 'Family Service'

**St James', Meltham Mills 9:30am**  
First Sunday of the month is a 'Family Sunday' service

**Christ Church, Helme 11:15am**

**St Mary's, Wilshaw 11:15am**

### Please Note:

- 'Family Sunday' services are where people of ALL ages can join in the fun together.
- **Sunday 30th June at 10:30am** This is a Parish Communion service where all four churches will join together at **St Bartholomew's Church**. This will be a particularly special Sunday. There will be a celebration afterwards. There will be NO other services on this Sunday

Please keep an eye out or follow us on the Church facebook page: **'Parish of Meltham - Christ the King'** for updates on services and events.

## Churches Together at Pentecost

On Sunday 19th May people from all six congregations joined together to celebrate Pentecost at St James' church Meltham Mills. This was a very special service of celebration. First of all it was Delia's baptism and we were joined by lots of her family and friends. Rev John Dracup led the service and baptised Delia. Rev Andrew Marchington gave the talk and officiated at a Methodist Communion assisted by Rev John, Sue, Alister, Ann and Judy. Hester Deacon and Susan Conway from the Methodist church read the lessons, Jane played the organ and Richard and Alison operated the power point. The church was full, we all had a good sing and it was good to see so many children sharing our worship. Fellowship continued over coffee and cake as we celebrated the birthday of the Christian Church.



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

Facebook: huddersfieldfamilyhistory

Instagram: huddersfieldanddistrictfhs

Twitter (X): @HDFHS01


Did you know that you can find help to research your family history, and that it is right on your doorstep? The Huddersfield & District Family History Society have a suite of computers with access to Ancestry and FindmyPast and many willing and experienced volunteers to assist you at their research room in Meltham.

We are based in the modern building to the right as you go up to Greens End Garage, just after the Parish Hall on Greens End Road. We have an extensive family and local history library, with a range of books on the subject larger than any you will find in libraries around Kirklees. We can help with research in any part of the UK or beyond. If you feel like taking the first steps to what can be an addictive hobby, these are our opening times:

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

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### Care Home Services

Greenacres - 1:30pm for 2pm start

Tues 11th June - Songs of Praise  
Tues 25th June - Holy Communion.  
Tues 9th July - Songs of Praise  
Tues 23rd July - Holy Communion

Helme Hall - 1:30pm for 2pm start

Friday 28th June - Holy Communion  
Friday 26th July - Holy Communion

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

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



**200 CLUB :**  
**April & May Winners**

821 £50	Ms. C. Mitchell	038 £50	Mr. B. Shorter
775 £10	Mr. P. Large	038 £10	Mr. B. Shorter
952 £10	Mrs. S. Priestley	221 £10	Mr. S. Glover
699 £10	Mrs. S. Ashton	999 £10	Mr. J. Harrison
764 £10	Mrs. V. White	526 £10	Mrs. C. Norcliffe

**Want to join the 200 club?**

It costs just 25p per week (£13 pa). For more info please contact either:  
 Michael Farrel 07768258257      m.farrellphd@btinternet.com  
 Cath Moulson 850171

**St Bartholomews Flowers**

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

02/06/2024	Mr & Mrs C Atkinson	07/07/2024	Miss B Hirst
09/06/2024	W Fellowship	14/07/2024	Mr & Mrs S Ball
16/06/2024	Mr & Mrs M Jennings	21/07/2024	Mrs J Belch
23/06/2024	Mr & Mrs D Glover	28/07/2024	Vacant
30/06/2024	Mr & Mrs A Ball	04/08/2024	Vacant



Flowers are a lovely way to remember loved ones or to celebrate that special occasion. If you would like to put flowers on the Communion table in church we do have dates available if you would like to.

Please contact:  
Catherine Moulson (850171)

**Saturday Coffee Mornings**

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

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>1st June</b> - Meltham Wildlife           | <b>6th July</b> - St Bart's Church   |
| <b>8th June</b> - Quilting 4 Care leavers    | <b>13th July</b> - Church Hall       |
| <b>15th June</b> - Hospice                   | <b>20th July</b> - Women's Institute |
| <b>22nd June</b> - Flower Club               | <b>27th July</b> - Tia Greyhound     |
| <b>29th June</b> - Durker Roods Action Group |                                      |
| <b>3rd August</b> - Pie Ladies               |                                      |



**DIMPS**

*by Ville*

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## Just For Fun By Denis A

When Arnold Schwarzenegger who starred as the 'Terminator' in his film roles finally retires, will he be known as the 'Exterminator'?

Not many people know this. When I was a pupil at H.V.G.S. there was a kidnapping, but it turned out to be alright in the end. The teacher woke him up.

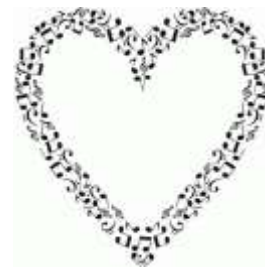
I once asked June, "When you are putting on your makeup for an evening out, which comes first, the mascara or the lipstick? Do they ever argue as to which should have the priority? June answered, "Of course they argue, but they soon make-up".

I was going to write a joke about an umbrella, but then I realised it would just go over your head.

Someone once asked me a ridiculous question. They asked, "How does the man in the moon cut his hair?" I said 'Eclipse it'

Enough is enough, Good Bless one & All, Denis A.

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🎵 It's the best day of the week.      🎵 I love singing the songs.

🎵 It's a friendly group and everyone is made welcome.

🎵 I can't sing for toffee! There is no pressure.      🎵 I always feel uplifted.

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## **St Mary's Report**

Life in Wilshaw has been very eventful over the last couple of months. We have shared three Services of the Word and three services of Holy Communion and shared with the rest of the parish as we celebrated a United Communion service at St Bartholomew's Church to mark Palm Sunday. Unfortunately, due to a fall of a section of ceiling in church we had to hold the Easter Day Communion in the Sunday school. We continue to hold our services there as we await a safety check and permission to repair the damage.

On Sunday 7th April we welcomed Benson Stuart Bamforth and his family and friends to St Mary's for his baptism. It was a bit of a squeeze in the Sunday school and the actual baptism took place in the church porch using the emergency font. Rev Judy Kenworthy took the service and presented a Bible and Candle to Benson. God Parents were Rowan, Nicola and Elizabeth, Benson's sister, Bonnie lit the Paschal Candle and his grandma read the lesson. We have enjoyed a quiz about slogans, learnt about Jesus "The Good Shepherd" and of how we need to stay close to Jesus in order to receive spiritual nourishment from Him .

There was no service at St Mary's on 19th May so we could share in the Churches Together service for Pentecost. The highlight of the last month was our Flower Festival which took place on 17th, 18th & 19th May.



## **St Mary's Flower Festival**

St Mary's held their bi-annual Flower Festival on the third weekend of May. The Archdeacon, the Ven. Bill Braviner performed the opening ceremony on Friday 17th May at 11am and the theme of the festival was "Bible Journeys". As we were unable to use the church this time, due to a damaged ceiling the flower arrangements were displayed in the church porch and the Sunday school. Displays included "Our Faith Journey" and the journeys of Noah, Jonah, St Paul, Moses, the Shepherds and the Wise Men. There were also ones depicting the parting of the Red Sea, Jesus's journey to the cross and a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Refreshments were served throughout the weekend and "Valley Flutes" provided an outdoor concert on the Sunday afternoon. Grateful thanks for all the flower arrangers, all who donated the delicious cakes, homemade soup and raffle prizes. Thanks also to the "props department" our sponsors and all who helped in any way to make this such a happy and successful event .

(See inside back cover for pictures)

## Helme Ladies Report

Our next meeting was one which we all enjoy – Poetry Reading. There was a great selection of poems by, among others, Pam Ayres, Roald Dahl, Mike Harding and ones written by one of our ladies. We had poems about animals and birds, what we get like as we grow older and how your mind goes into overdrive when you get a Valentine card in later life, was it from Mike next door or Jim who owns the shop or a chap who does a neighbours garden only to find on opening it was from your Grandson who wants to come and stay. One of our ladies has gone blind but she recited two poems from memory and was word perfect. We had lots of laughs as usual, which is what life is all about, and finished with coffee and biscuits.

Helme Ladies usually have an Annual Dinner, but as we now meet on a morning it has morphed into an Annual Lunch. So, we were going to somewhere where we are made welcome, and the food is very good – the Beaumont Arms at Netherton. I am not going into detail of what we all had to eat, only to say we were not disappointed. We all had a very good time and if you don't believe me come and join Helme Ladies or visit the Beaumont Arms.

Play Your Cards Right used to be on television a few years ago, so we were playing the game at the next meeting. One of the ladies borrowed the cards from a friend so we were all set to go. If you remember you have to guess if the next card is higher or lower. There were lots of ooh's and aah's as the game progressed until we had all had two goes. Three of the ladies went all the way through and received a prize (not thousands of pounds), me I managed three cards on the first go and four on the second, so I was getting better. The morning ended in the usual manner, tea, coffee and biscuits and a good catch up on all the gossip.

Our next meeting was on St George's Day, April 23rd, with a talk on healthy living. The speaker was the daughter of one of our members and works in public health. This time she concentrated on infectious diseases and how vaccination has just about eradicated what we all suffered from as children. There had not been as much flu around this winter, so the vaccine had done its work there. Shingles was another vaccination we can have, and I personally would recommend you have it when you can, my mother had shingles and it was very painful. The childhood diseases that are around at the moment run their courses then disappear, but they are not around in large numbers. We had a very good discussion and se answered all our questions. We ended with the usual tea, coffee and biscuits.

Our last meeting in the Church Hall before we embark on our programme of walks was a talk by Clive Pearson (Undertaker). He delved into the history of vehicles from hand carts up to the modern cars of today and the struggle to get cremations lawful. You can have a coffin made from various materials and you can also have it painted with a scene or trains, planes, cars or even ballet dancers (you could have belly dancers if that was your wish). The talk was very informative, but also amusing and the questions were varied and all answered to the best of his ability. We ended with tea, coffee and biscuits and looked forward to our series of walks (here's hoping for some good weather).



## A note from the Parish Treasurer

First of all – THANK YOU TO YOU ALL

Many of you reading this are regular givers to your church and this generosity is absolutely vital in us being able to carry on opening buildings and having them safe, clean, warm (ish) and welcoming. Anything you can give as a response to God's love in your life is very welcome and PCC try their very best to use this wisely to advance our mission of telling people about Jesus and being a position to continue to do that for years to come.

There are lots of ways to give. Our preferred way is using something called the Parish Giving Scheme. This enables you to give direct to your church, through your bank, in a way that saves admin work for me and the finance officers as it sorts out the giving and the gift aid really efficiently on your gift.

If you are interested to find out about this – let me know (for St Barts or Christ Church), or Richard Whiteley for St James' or Peter Pearson for St Mary's. Or you can look online using this URL [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

Don't be put off by it saying Parish – your gift is allocated to the church you want it to support, unless you want to give to the Parish overall as some givers do.

If you want to continue giving in the way you do now – by standing order, cash or cheque on the plate or using a free-will envelope you can.

The government now allows us to claim gift-aid on cash donations without knowing who the gift is from (as long as it's less than a £50 note!) so if you've historically used a free-will envelope but want to just put cash on the plate instead, you can do so knowing that we are not losing out in any way.

I will order some free-will envelopes again this year if that's your chosen way. Just let me know if you want a set.

And finally – A BIG THANK YOU TO THE FINANCE TEAM

Lots of work goes on in the background supported by Richard Whiteley, Peter Pearson, Jenny Brook, Anne Halstead and Michael Farrell. I couldn't do my job as Parish Treasurer without them.

And a happy retirement from the finance team to Peter Blackburn who served St Barts as finance officer for many years until he stepped down recently. I learned a lot from you Peter – thank you.

Ruth Murray– Webster



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# **SCARECROW FESTIVAL MAYDAY - MONDAY 6th MAY**

By Pam Murgatroyd

Fourth Fiend hosted the workshops, one, two and three,  
Scarecrow creating by Jonathan and me.

John Cotton gave stuffing, JTD gave us wood  
And people made scarecrows as many as they could.

The forecast was gloomy with a promise of rain  
And we hoped that our efforts would not be in vain.  
Scarecrows came to the hall on the Sunday at two,  
To see them all gathered was quite a view.

Monday dawned sunny, light wind and quite warm,  
Not as the forecast said, no thunderstorm.  
Scarecrows out in the morning, thirty in all,  
Some standing, some kneeling, some short and some tall.

Things started quite slowly, then people came out  
to look at the scarecrows, see what they're about.  
The Firemen had things for the children to do  
And then for your lunch, another great BBQ.

The Scouts and Guides had kids' games galore,  
Max and AFC at the school with many more.  
Then just after two, the sky overcast,  
But the Spitfire performed a super Fly Past.

The rain came after a perfect day,  
With so many 'thank you's', we have to say.  
We hope you enjoyed our efforts this year,  
Then next year we hope to see you back here.

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## **SPRING** By Pam Murgatroyd

Spring should be warm and sunny, The  
freshest weather you can get, But this  
year Spring has sprung a leak And  
every day has been very wet.

The ground is wet and boggy  
Wherever you go for a walk,  
There's too much rain to sit outside  
For a coffee or to talk.

It really is a pity,  
It really is a shame  
That we can't spend some time outside  
And this weather is to blame.

We can only hope that summer  
Turns out to be much drier,  
So that we won't have to stay indoors,  
To keep warm in front of the fire.



St Mary's Flower Festival



Meltham Scarecrow Festival (Below)



Churches Together at Pentecost (below)



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