

Meltham Parish Magazine

£1



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2024

www.melthamparish.co.uk



'Our Quilt'

Our Quilt is a community textiles project of approximately 100 handmade fabric squares representing and celebrating 100 features of the villages of Meltham, Meltham Mills, Wilshaw and Helme. Each square has been handmade by the creative community of area and stitched together to make a quilt

The project was initiated by Meltham Town Councillor, Ann Jurczynszyn, who was inspired by the 'Speak Their Name' memorial quilt that was exhibited at the Carlise Institute in 2023. The quilt measures 80" square and is a collaboration of working with different organisations in Meltham. There were, Meltham Quilters, Upcycle Fashion, The Crossroads Shop and the Community Haberdashery.

The quilt is available for display in local venues and well worth a look. If you would like to host Out Quilt on tour, please email Julia@upcycle-fashion.co.uk

Here are pictures I have taken of the squares representing the organisations and buildings of 'The parish of Meltham Christ the King'



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We receive more than we can ever give; we receive it from the past on which we draw with every breath, but also – and this is a point of faith – from the source of the mystery itself, by the means which religious people call GRACE

– Edwin Muir

VICAR OF THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING

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melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com

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

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A note from the editor ...

Hello!

Welcome to our August / September Parish Magazine. Summer is here, so pull up a deck chair, slap on the sunscreen, pour a cool drink and settle in! There's lots of interesting articles including the first of a three part article on Church Bells (pg 12). A lovely thank you from Liz Ryan (pg 30) and don't forget to check out the centre pages for info on the Oasis restart and summer services.

The front cover just doesn't do the community quilt justice and you really must try and find a time to go see it this summer at any of the community events.

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 October / November magazine will be:

Friday 20th September 2024

Please send submissions via:

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

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Letter from your Vicar

One day the vicar was explaining Communion to some young children. “The bible talks about Holy Communion being a joyful feast” he said, before asking them what they thought that might mean? One child pointed out that joyful means happy, another said that a feast was a kind of meal. The vicar paused and then asked, “what do you think we need to have a happy meal”? a little boy quickly responded “nuggets, fries, a fruit shoot, and a little toy”.

Summer is a time for holidays, rest, and fun, O yes and hopefully some sunshine. For many people good food is an important part of any holiday, and this is also true for my family. One thing we can be certain of is that wherever we go there will inevitably be one or more trips to McDonalds. This may not sound like fine dining to everyone but when you have children it’s a fight you can’t easily win.

Over the last few months our youngest, Jack, has had some very serious problems particularly with his epilepsy. This has involved several trips to hospital and at its worst point over twenty seizures a day. He is now getting back to himself and the joy of a trip to the “chippy shop” as he calls it, is a real highlight for a six year old boy.

Seeing a child’s smile as they eat a happy meal is one of those pleasures we too easily overlook. There are so many little things in our lives that can put a smile on our faces if we pause for a moment to enjoy them. A holiday or a day trip, a visit from family or friends, sunshine, flowers in the garden, or a smile from your neighbour, these are the things that make life good. Very often we are too busy or distracted to notice them.

For Christians Holy Communion is a joyful feast, it is a time to remember the great gift that God has given us through Jesus, and a chance to be fed by his grace. For our God it is a happy meal, one of those moments when his children pause in his presence, and he smiles at them.

This summer try to find time to enjoy the little things and let them bring a smile to both your face and your heart.

God bless,
Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)





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

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

Jacqueline very kindly gave us something to think about for our feature page on all things Eco Church.

World Environment Day - (5th June)

Wishaw celebrated this day through wild church worship. Until recently, the environment was just something humans took for granted, just the place we lived. It wasn't until we started to destroy it that we started to realise how precious it is. Once you realise what a state the environment is in, thanks to human greed and wastefulness, it can be overwhelming. People involved in climate change protest action have spoken about their huge sense of grief. The scale of the problem can numb us to action. But what is the point, we feel, if everything is so awful? Can the little we do make any difference?

And the answer is yes, we can only do a little by ourselves. But all those little changes add up to something greater than themselves. Because not only do they make their own difference, they create a change in culture, and this drives systemic structural change. And that is what is needed. And that is what we did!

In the commandments given in the reading from Leviticus 23:22, the people of God are told to allow the edges of their field to carry on growing, even as they harvest the rest of the crops. It's these wild corridors that support a wide range of wildlife, some of which are becoming distinct.

Peter kindly created a grass free area in the border of the memorial garden prior to the service. The congregation did some 'rewilding' of Wishaw and planted seed balls that will produce different 'wild' flowers. We then played Environment Bingo, which helped us to think about our beautiful world and our generous God!

Jacqueline xx



CROSSROADS CENTRE



I thought you might be interested to read the Crossroads Centre report as written for the Annual General Meeting which had a slightly lower attendance than usual due to a very important football game on the same evening especially if you were an England supporter. We were delighted to welcome a speaker from Hand to Mouth ministries who do fantastic work in schools supporting the RE Curriculum and sharing Jesus in imaginative and Creative Ways

My thanks as always to all the Crossroads volunteers in the Centre, the foodbank and the shop, and to all past members who made the Crossroads the Project what it is today. Quoting the National council for volunteering: *"The contribution of volunteers is often unseen and unrecognised by many, visible only through the incredible impact of their volunteering."*

In the Centre we are privileged to meet so many people who join the different groups that have been formed. It has been a year of making new friends, and enjoying the company of others, all keen to learn new skills.



We have been fortunate to have people willing to coordinate these groups and my thanks go to Jackie and others in Craft and Create group, the group are being taught delicate painting skills. Once a noisy laughing group, now a room filled with almost silent concentration all producing painting to be proud of. Also thanks to Ruth and others in the Sustainable Sewing Bees.



It has been interesting to partner with the Yorkshire Wellbeing group run by Naseem Kauser who has been running successful and fun crochet groups. They certainly have fun, make new friends and develop amazing skills. From this group a small group meet each Tuesday, to crochet, knit or sew and just enjoy a chat and a meet up with new friends.

The Warm and Welcoming group have sampled hot soup kindly made for us by Chef Philip. They also still seem to consume several Hot Cross buns kindly donated by Gerald and many Chocolate biscuits. They are ably supported by Hannah from Community Plus and Alison a Community Hub co-ordinator.

The Crossroads Centre is a Local Community Anchor. This has enabled us to access grants which enable us to provide free space and refreshments to the different groups that meet in the Centre. It also gives us access to advice and information from Kirklees which enables us to support other groups and signpost them to additional funding, As a Community Anchor in conjunction with the Carlile Institute we ran a Health Fair encouraging people to consider more healthy options in eating, exercise, specific health issues and general wellbeing. Despite being held on probably the coldest most snowy day of the year it was well attended and it is hoped to repeat it at some later date....

Crossroads Food Bank



Work goes on here at the foodbank, although it's become a little quieter lately. Maybe it's due to the holiday season, or maybe it's because we've been working with clients to get their due benefits. Or it might well be that we're not in quite the crisis that we've been in for the last few years. Although Covid is still with us, it's not having quite the impact that it did have. Energy costs have plateaued, and as I write, the long-awaited Summer has finally arrived. The Welcome Centre has reported a drop in client numbers, so maybe things are stabilising a little.

However, it doesn't do to be over-optimistic or complacent, so we're continuing to reach out. During the long Summer schools break, so many kids won't be getting free school dinners, so we're piloting an initiative of weekly lunch packs available to pick up from the Centre. We talked to the three local schools about this, who all agreed that it would be a godsend to some families, so they've put word out by their message groups. We've never done anything like this before, so we'll just have to get it started, and try to hit the ground running.

On a lighter note it's a good idea to keep our profile up, so the shop and foodbank entered a team for Meltham Retro Weekend's charity It's a Knockout. I'd very much like to tell you that we did Crossroads proud by our efforts. Unfortunately I can't because we were a bit rubbish. Anyway, they say that it's not the winning – it's taking part that matters. We got drenched, we were all exhausted, and we had a whale of a time.

Bless...

Chris Sinclair



Cont....

...We have also provided space for a new youth Club in our basement. This is run by experienced Youth leaders and is attended by young people aged 12 upwards. This new venture is proving to be a great asset to the small youth provision in Meltham as it complements work happening with young people in the local high schools and detached youth work mainly on the Broadlands recreation ground.

Change Grow Live (CGL) are now actively involved with us providing support for people with addiction issues. This is a new venture for us and is proving helpful to people needing this support. The Advice services are all busy which confirms to us that what we are doing is important and very much needed in these difficult times.

Thanks as always to you all who continue to support us with your thought's, deeds and prayers.

Sue Prestley, Centre Manager

Bells. Part One

This is a new 3 part series about the history of Church bells.

Written by Bill Potter and Peter Murgatroyd.

As far as we know the earliest record of bells is from China about 5000 years ago. These early bells were made from clay.

Bells are noted in the Middle East/ Asia around 3000 years ago.

It is believed that the early 'saints' who came to Britain from the Roman Empire in the 4th century called attention to their presents by using a bell or similar sounding object.

Buildings to worship in (churches) were established and bells became an integral part of the 'call to prayer'.

As time moved on the bells became increasingly a method of organizing the daily routine for both monks in their monasteries and peasants in the fields.

Bells became an integral part of every day life for almost the whole population.

Bells are cast/made from copper and tin. This seems to give the best sound. Getting the blend (%) right has taken many centuries, not enough of one element and the bells can sound too 'tinny' or too much and they sound 'dull'.

Historically bells could and were sometimes cast in villages where they were needed (often in the church grounds) The local skilled craftsmen such as the 'potter' and 'blacksmith' etc and sometimes itinerant founders, would get together and pool their knowledge and resources to cast a single or sometimes two bells for their local community, but these were small affairs.

The most common way of making a bell mould was/is known as either 'lost wax' or 'investment casting'.

Basically the inner shape of the bell is/was moulded and then a wax model of the bell was crafted (usually bee's wax) into the finished shape, then this was covered in clay (or other materials). When the cast was dried out the wax was melted leaving a bell shape where the metal would be cast into.

This system has been in use for items such as fine jewelry since ancient Egyptian times and possibly before that. It creates the finest intricate moulds possible.

Now-a-days Bells (English) are made using the Core and Cope method where both parts are made from building up layers from brick through to loam to a final fine coat where inscriptions are 'pressed' in, it takes about a month to prepare a mould for casting.

Transport systems such as the railways made it more viable for bell foundries to become more centralized (in cities where the population was concentrated) to become more established.

Foundries date back many centuries, although most have now ceased to exist. In England 'Taylors' of Loughborough are the only substantial one left and St. Bart's bells were cast by them in 1835. These are the only bells in the Diocese, and perhaps in the country, which were cast while Taylor's were still at Oxford. They were hung in a wooden frame and were rung regularly every Sunday until 1879 when it was discovered that the frame needed extensive repairs, so they remained silent until 1886 during which time the chiming mechanism continued to play tunes and bell ringing methods.



Congratulations to Barry and John!

Barry Gregory MBE married to Sue and John Halstead married to Anne, were both given the Kings Coronation Medal along with other members of Woodhead Mountain Rescue. So far Barry has given 60 years and John 46 years; Barry is a founder member and was awarded his MBE in the 2008 New Year's honours for his voluntary work within mountain rescue, as well as his Kings Coronation Medal he was given a gift from the team for his long service.

The team were presented, by the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, with the Kings Award for Voluntary Service which is the equivalent to an MBE. It was a great honour for them all to receive these awards especially as the team celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year.



Barry Gregory



John Halstead

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References and quotes available



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

Update from Bell House Care Home

In June we had a service about the trinity. The residents remembered the happy times they had spent dancing with family and friends. We then considered the trinity as a dance of love where the Trinity is an eternal dance of the Father, Son, and Spirit sharing mutual love, honour, happiness, joy, and respect, and living an eternal relationship of self-giving.

We pictured the trinity as a circle dance in which members join hands and slowly begin to spin about the room, each person maintaining their own identity, but becoming inseparably part of the dance that is taking place. The residents were excited when they realised that they could join in with this eternal dance, along with other Christians across time and the world. We had a lovely time together and hopefully some were encouraged to accept the invitation of the Triune God and step out onto the dance floor.



In July, our service focussed on finding rest in God, thinking about quality rest where the body is quiet, and the mind can connect with the Spirit, so that attention can be given to our inner lives. We were reminded that God cares for us throughout our whole life with the bible reading from Isaiah; 'I will be your God throughout your lifetime until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.' We shared prayers and listened to Taize music, helping us to quiet our minds and spend time with God.

Jacqueline France



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings - A gift of God in Creation & a means of His grace

Dominic Sutton & Kelsie Chilvers, Joseph Rogers & Sarah Elizabeth Hill,
Paul Braodway & Lucy Foreman, Christopher Pogson & Stacey Mtchell.

Baptisms - *We welcome you into the Lord's family*

Bertie Norman Hewitt, Dominic Jacob Sparks, Florence Millen, Jessica Walker,
Sophia Lily Hepworth, Vanessa Rodgers, Joanna Mahoney, Ben Wadsworth

Funerals - May they rest in peace

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



OASIS Quiet Days - A date for your diary.

We are pleased to announce that the second of our newly resurrected OASIS Quiet Days will take place,
Thursday 3rd October.

For those who are unfamiliar with OASIS Days they are a gift for everyone to press their 'pause' button and share in a time of rest and refreshment, a time of reflection, a time to be with God.

The day is held at St James' Meltham Mills. Coffee is served from 9.45- 10.15am.
The Quiet Day then begins in the church promptly at 10.30am.

There is a theme for the day to guide our thoughts and we begin with a short Act of Worship using carefully selected music, readings and prayers.

Some people may choose to spend their Quiet Time reading, writing, reflecting, drawing, going for walk? The time is yours to spend as you wish. Everyone is free to stay for as long as they are able. We know how busy life can be!

Bring a packed lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship from 12.00 – 1.00pm. After lunch we return to the church for a time of prayer followed by a simple service of Holy Communion in the Celtic tradition, led by our friend Rev Martyn Crompton.

We are always finished before 3.00pm

For more information, the OASIS Team: Jenny M, Daphne, Hester, Christine W and Christine R.



Parish Communion 30th June

What a special "celebration" service this was as all four churches joined together at St Bartholomew's Church. What a joy it was to share with Jo, Vanessa and Jessica, as they were baptised (full immersion) by Rev John Dracup. We welcomed them into the Christian family, along with Ben who was baptised during the Wednesday morning service on 26th June. In addition to this wonderful celebration we were delighted to share with them and also Isaac, Rebekah & Nathan as they took communion for the first time. Our thanks go to the music group, to Simon on the organ and St Bartholomew's Church Choir for a feast of music, to Ruth for operating the PowerPoint and to Sarah for reading the lessons. Rev John gave the talk and was celebrant, assisted by Alister and Nigel. Thanks to those who provided refreshments and all who came along to share worship together in the presence of our wonderful God. What a joy it was.

Rev Judy Kenworthy

Please see inside back cover for pictures

Parish Services for August & September

4th August

St James', 'Family Sunday' service, Meltham Mills 9:30am
St Mary's, Wilshaw 11:15am

11th August

St Bartholomew's, Meltham 9:30am
Christ Church, Helme 11:15am

18th August

St James', Meltham Mills 9:30am
St Mary's, Wilshaw 11:15am

25th August

St Bartholomew's, Meltham 9:30am
Christ Church, Helme 11:15am

**Services from September will resume as usual at all four churches.
(these are at the above times but every week)**

Please Note:

- 'Family Sunday' services are for of ALL ages having fun together.
- There is also a midweek traditional 'said' service from the Book of Common Prayer at St Bart's starting at 10.30am every Wednesday.
- 10th Sept is 'Civic Sunday' there will only be 1 service at St Bart's at 10.30am with a short Holy Communion said service at 9.30am
- The next Parish Communion is on Sunday 29th September at Helme @ 10.30

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.

Holmfirth Art Week @ Wilshaw

As part of Holmfirth Art Week two art groups from Netherthong and Wooldale, known as " Friends through Art" held an exhibition of their pictures and artwork at St Mary's Church, Wilshaw. This took place from Wednesday 10th - Saturday 13th July and over 70 exhibits were displayed in the porch and the Sunday school. 20% of all pictures sold was donated to Kirkwood Hospice and Macmillan - the Art Week charities. Proceeds from the sale of refreshments and the mystery bag stall raised money for St Mary's roof repair fund. Our thanks go to all the artists, stewards, helpers, those those who provided such beautiful cakes and all who came along to support this event. There was also another fringe exhibition at Wilshaw Village hall when Wilshaw Art Collective displayed watercolours, textiles, collage, drawings and photographs. Upstairs there was an exhibition which featured local artist Simon Wood. What a feast of talent and beauty we have all enjoyed - well done.



Tel. 01484 859229 E: secretary@hdfhs.org.uk W: www.hdfhs.org.uk

Facebook: huddersfieldfamilyhistory

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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 10th Sept- Songs of Praise
Tues 24th Sept- Holy Communion.

Helme Hall - 1:30pm for 2pm start

Friday 27th Sept
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 :
June & July Winners

274 £50	Mrs. C. Mitchell	542 £100	Mrs. R. Murray-Webster
350 £10	Mr. J. Bradley	203 £10	Mr. S. Blackburn
166 £10	Mrs. B. Beaumont	276 £10	Mrs. P. Holmes
433 £10	Mr. J. Halstead	841 £10	Mr. J. Harrison
175 £10	Mrs. B. Mozley	128 £10	Mr, B. Moriarty
		856 £10	Vacant Number

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:

04/08/2024	Vacant		08/09/2024	Vacant
11/08/2024	Mrs Val Poole		15/09/2024	F Whitaker
18/08/2024	Mrs V White		22/09/2024	Vacant
25/08/2024	Mr & Mrs J Brierley		29/09/2024	Glover Family
01/09/2024	Mr & Mrs J Halsted		06/10/2024	Mr & Mrs M Farrell

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.

3rd Aug - Pie Ladies

7th Sept - Hospice

10th Aug - Stage Co.

14th Sept - St Mary's Church

17th Aug - Badger Society

21st Sept - Meltham Memories

24th Aug - Helme Ladies

28th Sept - RNLI

31st Aug - Honley School Borneo Expedition

5th October - G & S Society



DIMPS

by Ville

**11 Station Street
Meltham, Holmfirth
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tel. 01484 850960**

Just For Fun By Denis A

Things you will need for the week ahead: Suncream, Noah's Ark, Thermal Coat, Umbrella, Cooling Fan, Snow Shovel, (Optional), and most important antidepressants. If you want to go where there is plenty of warm sunshine, I would suggest Iceland, such is our pattern of weather nowadays.

Reminiscing - Another year has passed, and I'm a little older, Last summer felt warmer, now winter seems much colder. I used to go to parties, dances and lunches. Now I stay at home, preferring snacks to brunches. I used to go out dining and couldn't get my fill. Now I ask for 'takeaways', then come home & take a pill. I used to travel to places sometimes near and sometimes far, now I get restless driving to town and back in my car. That my friends is how my life is, and now my tale is told. So, all of you , enjoy each day and live it up, before like me you get too old. - P.S Not supposed to be a literary work of art like those of Pam M's , but if it 'rings a bell', then you too are an 'old codger' like me.

Don't get mad at lazy people. They didn't do anything.

I think too many people spend money they haven't earned to buy things they don't need or want, just to impress people they don't particularly like.

I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart and Bach when they've never even seen one of their paintings!

God Bless one and all, Denis A.

SMALL BUT CLEARLY HEARD, By Pam Murgatroyd

I helped at the Quilter's Coffee,
I took the money on the door,
Because they were short of
helpers,
And Me and Enid made two more.

They also held a raffle,
Which we sold the tickets for,
Most people only bought one,
Making two fifty for raffle and door.

Raffle time is eleven thirty,
The time's set by people's
choice, Someone draws a
ticket
Then shouts it out with a really loud
voice.

Now Fiona's, the wife of the
Vicar, In stature she is quite
small,
She looks so serene and
calming,
With not a loud voice at all.

But when it got to eleven
thirty,
Raffle tickets we had to pick,
Fiona banged on a nearby table
And the people went quiet real quick.

She then shouted out all the numbers,
And the winners took their choice,
Who would have thought that little
Fiona,
Could have such a really loud voice?

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St Mary's Report

What a variety of services and events we have enjoyed over the last couple of months in our little village. We have shared four services of Holy Communion and enjoyed "Wild Church" to mark World Environment Day. Jacqueline led this and after a short time of worship in church we went outside to plant some wild flower seeds and played a game of "Nature Bingo". It really made us think about our beautiful world and our generous God.

There were two weeks when we didn't have a service - one to allow us to attend the Parish Communion on 30th June and the following week as so many people were away on holiday. That week we joined the lovely folk at Christ Church for their service and they made us really welcome.

Themes for the services have included The Holy Trinity, God's Family, Jesus Stills the Storm and Grace. On 16th June it was a joy to welcome Bertie to St Mary's on the occasion of his baptism. Rev John took the service and it was a happy time a tion songs and prayers. His godparents were Steven Mountford and Millie Georgi-Finch and Finley and Lucas helped to light the "Jesus" candle. It was good to support Bertie, his parents Scott and Sarah and his family and friends. We have also hosted a fringe event for Holmfirth Art Exhibition and would like to pass on our best wishes to Lucy and Paul on their marriage on Saturday 13th July. We hope all of you have a good rest over the next few weeks and that our children and teachers enjoy their school holidays.



A Message from Rev Maureen Reed

We were in Meltham for nine years and made many friends both in and out of the church. I would like them to know of our recent news.

John has been very recently diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia. He is beyond the early stages in what they call the moderate stage. It is certainly not what we wanted at the beginning of our joint retirement.

We ask for the prayers of the church that we will be given strength to face whatever the future might be and patience with each other as we adapt to this new, challenging life that we have.

Love Maureen x

Helme Ladies Report

We have now started our summer of expeditions; the first one was to Uppermill Garden Centre. When we all arrived, we went into the café for coffee, then decided what we were going to do. Some stayed and looked around the Garden Centre before buying their plants and others decided on a walk down the canal towpath. It was warm and sunny (weather we have not had much of this year) as we walked down the path watching the ducks swimming about. We reached Uppermill then walked back towards the Garden Centre along the road, looking in the shops and thinking 'why can't Huddersfield have some of these independent shops?' Back at the Garden Centre we had lunch, sat outside, then looked at the plants. You can't go to a Garden Centre and not buy plants!

Next was our first walk, starting in Netherton and walking through the woods from near Hinchliffes Farm Shop to the Hill Top part of Netherton. It was lovely under the trees and surprisingly the ground was dry after all that rain we have had. Rain had been forecast but we were on our way back to Hinchliffes before it started. Some of our ladies had stayed at Hinchliffes for coffee so we collected them and went to our lunch venue at the Sands House.

It is now the 18th June only 3 days away from the longest day, and still no sign of summer. We were going up Castle Hill and hoping for a dry day at least. For once we were not disappointed, we met at the pull in on Lumb Lane and set off walking down the road. We turned left along the stoney track around the base of the hill, then left again to gain the summit. It was worth the climb for the outstanding views we had of the surrounding area. It is said that on a clear day you can see forever, well it was almost true. To the west it was of course West Nab, to the east it would be Wooley Edge, to the North the windmills on Cold Edge and to the South our lunch venue, the Golden Cock at Farnley Tyas. We spent ages just taking in the views and picking out landmarks we knew, we had to get back down the hill, the steep steps were out of the question (they were taped off as dangerous) so we came down the road. Then off to the pub for lunch which was excellent. Was summer starting after all?

The answer to that question is that we had summer last week, so this week we were back to will we have a fine day or will it rain? Well, we had a fine day on 2nd July for our walk along the canal from Marsden to Slaithwaite. I think this is the best bit of the canal, for the views and the wildlife. There are plenty of flowers growing along the side of the canal and towpath, birds in the air and animals in the fields. I have seen Kingfishers along this stretch, usually just a flash of electric blue as they fly past. It was a wonderful easy walk as it is flat and mostly good underfoot, with just a few muddy patches which I don't think ever dry out. When we reached Slaithwaite lunch had been booked at the Vanilla Bean café which was very good.

Upcoming Events

13th August Walk Blackmoorfoot with lunch at Will's o Nats

24th August Coffee morning (Saturday)

27th August Afternoon Tea at Helme Church

10th September Trip to Cannon Hall Farm

24th September Talk by Garry Beaumont "My Olympic Experience"

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None of his training had prepared Gary for this...



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind

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Surprised by Joy, by Liz Ryan

Just before I left school I read C S Lewis's account of his relationship with his beloved wife. He had not expected to find love, but he did and described it as being "Surprised by joy."

There is much to be thankful for in my life.. And yes there is much joy. I think this phrase has lived on in my subconscious and every once in a while an event or person waves a flag bringing to mind those 3 words, which suddenly describe my day.

The Northern Lights brought surprising joy.

I was unaware that astronomers were fairly sure the Northern Lights would be visible that day and was surprised when grandson Wilf, already in his pyjamas appeared, to ask whether I would like to look at the photo a friend had sent. But seeing the lights is on my list of "The things I really want to do", so his lovely photo was not enough. It was good to feel so excited, to determinedly struggle out of bed, pull on a big sweater and a warm pair of joggers and, at 11.30 at night, go with Chris and Wilf to the top of Holme Moss, with my walking poles so that I could stand and potter under the illuminated moon. I was surprised, delighted and joyful. Joy is precious wild and free. it's not an entitlement but we are much more alive if there is joy around. Sometimes you have to work for it, and on other days it is an unsought blessing.

Recently I was one of 80 guests invited to join Christine and Judith at St James's for an afternoon tea party. It was quite an undertaking to cater for 80 of us in the church and preparations began a full year ago. Our two strong women had assembled a large team of willing assistants and from the attractive tables laden with china cups and saucers, to the tidy up and final wash up, the event ran as smoothly as a bullet train. We were celebrating 20 years of Christmas Shoe Boxes and listened with interest to the founder of Teams for You as he told his story. Judith and her gang, including of course Christine, have brightened the lives of thousands of children, much poorer than ours, by simply giving them a Christmas gift. Of course it's not simple. They have a routine and a network of volunteers who fill a box or may work all year or who attend on Fridays to check, organise and find contributions for the project.

In the same way our party was celebrating the tenth birthday of Community Cards in Meltham, which has a weekly session in church all year round. Christine and her nimble fingered friends make up-cycled cards which are sold to raise cash for the Welcome Centre in Huddersfield. The centre helps thousands of local men, women and children who for many different reasons cannot pay for all the things they need. The numbers using the food bank and other services have grown considerably as a result of rapid increases in the cost of living.

An army of people is needed and involved in both enterprises and to them I also say thank you. But none of this would happen without the leadership of Judith and Christine, who at a time when lots of us are winding down, still give hours and days working to express their faith in action. I know our church is not perfect but it is, here, in this church, that Judith and Christine, together with others in our community, provide a remarkable example of walking life's journey in faith.

I looked around the church at mainly happy people and was aware that someone had paid for each guest and I smiled. It takes a convincing strong person to persuade a Yorkshire chap he will pay and yet still be a guest. I thought of 1978 when Chris and I joined St James's Meltham Mills and began to get to know Christine and a year later Judith too. I have watched them for so many years wondering how they have the energy required. . £1,000 was raised at our celebration and-we had a super delicious afternoon tea with a special bonus of hearing the singing Songbirds. I felt proud of Judith and Christine and pleased to be part of this willing, learning church. At a time when it's easy to focus on all our national problems, here in an ordinary day, was a seed of joy.

Thank you Judith and Christine THANK YOU !



Parish Communion Baptism service
at St Bart's on Sunday 30th June.
See centre pages for more details.



Meltham Memories Retro weekend Parade.



Left: Mike Still enjoying the parade in his retro car.

Right: Tim and Kate Lee came to St James' to update us on the work of Jigsaw.

