

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2024



£1

**Meltham Parish
Magazine**

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**Do what you can, for who you can, with what
you have, and where you are.**

- Anon

VICAR OF THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING

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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 the Autumn edition of the Parish Magazine. As I wait for the vicar to write his letter, I am preparing for an adventure to London, (no kids allowed)! As I am now a member of the Association for Church Editors, and on my way to the annual meeting. So hopefully I'll have lots of ideas on how to keep this magazine running smoothly,

However in the mean time I hope you enjoy this edition, there's articles on intriguing things (back cover) Part 2 of Church bells (pg 25) and Elizabeth takes over the reigns from Jenny on going greener (pg 9).

It is you who makes this magazine as interesting as possible, so please do keep sending in any articles or ideas for future editions. They are all welcome and I'm thankful to you all how contributed to this edition. Please continue to send them in.

The deadline of the December / January magazine will be:

Monday 18th November 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

Hester Deacon 657069



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Letter from your Vicar

(continued over three page)

Over the last few years our Churches have been through some changes, some of these have been sensible reactions to things like covid and the sudden increase in costs relating to fuel bills. Many of the things we have done have helped to bring us together and have been broadly good, but it seems sensible that we should look to move forward with a clear plan. This has led to many discussions about what the future might look like, and it was suggested by our Archdeacon that we should look at our history “how we got to where we are” and our current situation “where we are now” to help us to think about where we are going. So, here’s a brief synopsis of what we have been looking at and what in truth could be a rather long book (several have been written).

In 1651 St Bartholomew’s was built as a chapel of ease within the ancient Parish of Almondbury. This chapel was built by the community of Meltham and for the benefit community of Meltham. It seems significant that it stands on the crossroads at the natural centre of our parish, However, considering the disparate nature of communities like Meltham at this time I have been caused to wonder which came first, the chapel or the centre? Jeffery’s map of 1771 (the oldest I’ve seen) shows only one road leading out of Meltham. That road led to Almondbury via Honley allowing people to remain within the old parish throughout. This suggests that St Bartholomew’s was built at the end of the road (perhaps literally and metaphorically) and that the crossroads formed around it.

In 1651 Meltham would have been an isolated place on the very edge of Yorkshire. England had been torn apart by civil war, the king replaced by Cromwell, bishops by puritanism; and Meltham made a curious choice, they smuggled a bishop in to consecrate their new chapel. This is often considered to be an example of “Meltham doing things their own way” but I think it also shows the deep desire of an isolated community to remain connected with the outside world.

In 1845 our community got its second Church. St James was built at Meltham Mills by Charles Brook for the benefit of his mill workers. The Church was part of a larger scheme that included a school and a co-op and represented an early form of the philanthropic idea of the model village.

This was a time when communities like Meltham were growing rapidly due to the mills of the industrial revolution. Within a generation we had our third and fourth Churches. Each followed family tragedy with Christ Church Helme being built by Charles Brooke honouring his youngest son Charles John, and St Mary’s Wilshaw being built by Joseph Hirst honouring his daughter Mary. The location and purpose of these two Churches have interesting stories that include heavenly guidance (rainbows) and nighttime grave robbing. However, it seems clear that the main motivations were community and the same kind of benevolence that motivated the building of St James. Christ Church was built for the “poor unfortunate people” of the hamlet of Elm where there was little industry but sufficient population to build a

(Continues from previous)

school. St Mary's for the benefit of those working in Joseph Hirst mill and as such the building itself includes a school room.

During the second half of the 20th century our community lost much of its mill industry and alongside this the Churches lost their wealthy benefactors. Today our community looks very different to those of the past. Far from being isolated many people who live in Meltham work in Manchester, Leeds, or Sheffield rather than local mills. In truth the changes of the last few years are a continuation of changes that have been ongoing for several decades as many efforts have been made to help our Churches to remain sustainable. In 1976 St James and St Mary's began to share a vicar, in 1989 they merged into one parish along with St Bartholomew's, and in 2001 Christ Church joined. It seems to me that this completes the set, that is the one community of 1651 being one community again 350 years later.

As our PCC continues to think about what the future may look like for the Churches of our community, we will be meeting with our archdeacon on the 6th October to try and develop some of our thoughts, and will continue to think and pray about this question, please pray for them as they look for the best way forward.

God bless,
Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)



Helme Ladies Report

We in Helme Ladies are still waiting for the summer that doesn't seem to want to come. So on our latest walk on 16th July, we were surprised with fine weather after the overnight rain. We were walking up to Meltham reservoir on the track hoping there would not be much mud. On reaching the reservoir we spent some time watching the ducks and the fish jumping, also there was a Grey Heron sat on the fence. We returned to Meltham Mills the same way as the other path was wet and muddy. We were having lunch at the Jacob's Well which I can recommend. Our meals had been booked in advance, so we didn't have long to wait and enjoyed a relaxed lunch.

Yippee, summer is here at last, what a long wait we have had, it's now the 30th July. Our walk this week was to Beaumont Park, we didn't need to take coats and umbrellas just the three suns (sunhat, sunglasses and sun cream). We all met at the bandstand after seeing lots of children playing in the adventure playground, then off we went along the main path. The park was looking lovely and well kept

(continued)

which I think is still looked after by volunteers. Along the way we came to the trunk of a dead tree which had been carved with animals, birds and flowers, what a lovely way to preserve the main trunk. We wandered up and down, round about and up steps back to the band stand admiring the views over to Castle Hill and Lockwood Viaduct. Then it was time for lunch at the Wills O'Nats which was very good.

Our last walk of the summer was on August 13th and the weather was still holding up. This time we were walking around Blackmoorfoot reservoir. After walking on the path next to the water we crossed the embankment and then along the catchwater to the road. We clambered over the stile and turned right along the road for a short way then right over another stile on a public footpath back to the reservoir. We then went on paths back to our cars and drove all the way to Meltham Leisure Centre where lunch was awaiting us. It was pie and peas, but not just any old pie, it was steak pie. What a lovely way to end our walks.

It's Bank Holiday weekend so it is Helme Ladies coffee morning, the people who come to the coffee mornings are not the ones that go away for the weekend. They are the older people who love to meet up with their friends and have a really good natter. The coffee mornings are now back up to their pre-Covid numbers and the takings reflect this. We had a cake stall groaning under the amount of food and a well-stocked tombola stall. It was a very busy morning but the team pulled together to get all the work done. The money raised will go into our charity fund.

On Tuesday 27th August we held an afternoon tea at Helme Church which was attended by the ladies and friends. We had well practiced caterers to provide the food, so all we had to do was set up the tables and chairs. The start time was 2pm and soon everyone was seated and plates of food handed out. You got 2 sandwiches, scone with jam and clotted cream and an iced bun with tea or coffee. A very successful afternoon.

On Tuesday 10th September we were going on a very big adventure (well for us it was), a day out at Cannon Hall. None of the ladies were expected to drive, we were being driven. I thought it would be easy to find a suitable small bus and driver, I was wrong. My son helped me by going 'on line', I don't do computers, and had a quote of £400, much too much so I thought the adventure was over before it had started. Then a breakthrough, a 16 seat taxi would be £200 so it was back to taking names for the trip. The taxi was filled but you cannot book the weather. Tuesday morning it was raining, still at it when we left Meltham at 10.00am. When we arrived at Cannon Hall the rain had gone and the sun was making an appearance – great. We spent our day eating, drinking, shopping, walking and having a really good time.

Upcoming Events

22 nd October	Talk by Ann Littlewood, more about 'Storthes Hall'
5 th November	Auction
19 th November	Flower Arranging Competition
3 rd December	Christmas Lunch at the Beaumont Arms



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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

Thank you Jenny!

A huge thank you on behalf of us all to Jenny Mathers who has served our parish as our environment champion over many years. Her words of wisdom and encouragement in this magazine with tips on how to live differently have been greatly appreciated by many.

However, Jenny will still stay involved in helping us move towards becoming an eco-church. On 11th September our PCC approved unanimously an Environmental Policy. I, will serve as our environment champion working with a small team currently consisting of Jenny Mathers and Jacqueline France, but hopefully this team will grow over time.

There is much we can do both in each of our churches, across our parish as well as in our individual lives as we respond to the need to care for the planet we live on. This month however, I would like to just reflect on why this is important to us as Christians.

First, I would like to suggest that we are simply tenants on this planet we don't simply own it. Being and living as a tenant feels very different to owning it. Currently I own my house but for many years I lived in property that went with my job. It feels very different. However much we might feel that the world is ours and we can do with it what we like, the Bible suggests otherwise. In multiple places the Bible declares that the world actually belongs to God. He is both creator and sustainer of the whole world.

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; 2 for he founded it on the seas, and established it on the waters.

Psalm 50:10 for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine.

As Christians our worship and our lives should reflect our love of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. In the New Testament we discover it places Jesus, as being the one for whom and by whom the world was made.

John 1 : 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Colossians 1:16: 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

For me this suggests that caring for creation is not an optional concern for some of us but rather it is an integral part of our love and worship of Jesus.

Elizabeth Snowden

CROSSROADS CENTRE



Many of our members noticed that the Crossroads Shop opened over 28 years ago by Meltham Churches Together, had closed its doors and there were barricades erected in front of the main entrance at the end of July. Some were concerned that this was a permanent arrangement and that our beloved shop would be no more. Nothing could be further from the truth as we were excited that the long awaited outdoor refurbishment was eventually going ahead after much negotiation and a long wait for the Certificate of Compliance acknowledging that we were replacing like for like and that there would no garish frontage with flashing neon signs!

Our contractors were notified that the relevant permissions had been granted and immediately set to work with the construction of our new windows, doors and cladding. Advantage was taken of the shop closure for our landlord to rectify a damp problem in the sorting area requiring rebuilding and tanking out a wall followed by plastering. Redecoration took place in addition to that carried out during our Christmas closure with more to follow once the plaster has completely dried out.

The shop closed for business after the Saturday morning shift on July 29th and within one and three quarter hours the stock had been packed away, much of it transported to our cellar and the old carpet taken away and taken to the tip.

Not being people to rest on our laurels; a jumble sale was arranged in our church hall raising a grand total of £377 on Saturday 10th August. Teamwork saw all the stock in our cellar brought up into the hall and laid out in a few short hours ready for the rummage to begin. Only three car loads were left after a very busy morning with volunteers giving up their time to advise our customers on their purchases.

From Tuesday 13th August onwards it was a race to get the shop ready for reopening. It quickly became apparent that there was only room for a small number volunteers including trustees, to work, as our contractors ran over the expected time of completion due to time consuming replacement of the cladding. They were very accommodating however and we were able to do some decorating, working around the carpet fitter, joiners, plasterers and the electrician. Eventually cleaning could begin with a couple of volunteers planning on hiding Sellotape dispensers after the monotonous and seemingly endless task of removing the results of years of sticky marks left on many display units.

Sunday saw a frantic sorting and pricing of the stock which was kept back for reopening, still with us falling over each other as cleaning and putting display units back in place was still taking place. At 5.45pm on Sunday 18th August we finally believed that the reopening could take place as planned on Monday 19th August at 9.30am. However one important job remained and the intrepid window dressing team arrived before 8am to adorn the



Crossroads Food Bank



During the holiday season, things slow down considerably for us, so it turned out to be a good time to develop a new scheme. In termtime, kids get a wholesome dinner at school, which is free for many. However, when it gets to the summer break, this drops off, and “Summer Hunger” is a present-day issue. This has prompted us to launch a new initiative to provide weekly lunch packs for parents or carers turning up at the Crossroads Centre. Any parent dropping in to the Foodbank was given a pack with a loaf, butter, ham/cheese/chicken, cereal bars, crisps, yoghurts and fresh fruit. The three local Junior and Infant schools were delighted to help, and publicised it on their social media mums’ network, and got the word out.

For the six-week break, we gave out over a hundred such packs, so we think it’s been worthwhile. The other benefit is that it’s enabled us to reach out further, and we’ve had mums coming in who wouldn’t otherwise have done so. Some people are reticent of accepting help, so I’ve been touched to hear how warm and welcoming our volunteers have been with our new clients.

In July, we learned that one of our founding members, Jane Collins was standing down. She’s been with us for about a thousand years, and set us off on firm foundations with her thorough organisational skills. Jane is a busy lady – she’s been a leading light with the Mustard Seed Project, is a doting grandma, plays violin and organ (until recently with St. James’), has just acquired a dog, loves her garden, is in walking groups, and is a semi-professional ventriloquist (spot the lie among the truths...). We wish her all the best for her new life with slightly more leisure time !

As one goes, another returns... Lorna stood back two years ago with another baby, but is returning now. Lorna is unique among our volunteers in knowing how to turn a computer on, and she’s been missed. Also, Colin Weaver has agreed to take on Jane’s role as Volunteer Co-ordinator, so that’s a gap filled. As one door closes, another one opens, as they say...

God bless, Chris Sinclair.



displays with yellow and green items to reflect our Crossroads colours.

WE feel that the shop is now ready for the next 28 years of providing a valuable service to our community; selling quality goods at low prices to provide funding for whole charity; supporting the centre and the foodbank. The new doors and windows will be more energy efficient saving money spent on heating and also lighting with new LED lights. Security has also improved and a light and airy space created for our customers and staff to enjoy.

Crossroads and all those involved with the charity really appreciate the support we get from the churches and community, and we hope that the refurbishment has provided an even better and more enjoyable shopping experience for all

Best Wishes from , the Trustees and wonderful volunteers who keep the Crossroads project light shining.

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References and quotes available



Telephone: 844307
Mobile: 07789161232

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

Update from Bell House Care Home

During September the lovely residents at Bell House continued to develop their Holy Yoga. The focus was on the Psalm reading 55:6-8, 16 & 17:

I said, Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.

I would flee far away and stay in the desert;

I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm.

As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me.

Evening, morning and noon, I cry out in distress.

As we did our yoga movements we thought about where we would like to fly to, where our safe places are and anything that we would like to escape from. We learnt a yoga prayer position and considered how God always hears us, even when we are unable to communicate with Him. We finished with a message from God from Proverbs 3: 1-2:

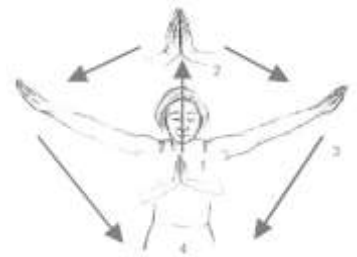
My child, do not forget my teaching,
Let your heart keep my principles,
Since they will increase your length of days,
Your years of life and your well-being.

Amen

Love to all, Jacqueline xx

Yoga prayer position:

breathe in and raise arms above head and breathe out as you lower arms to the side. Do this twice.



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*

Oliver Ernest Gledhill, Olive Beverley Sutton.

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Christine Ward

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

'Crisis' coffee morning

Saturday 23rd November

10.00 – 12.00

St. James' Church, Meltham Mills

Crisis

Stalls for this year include:

Crafts

Gift baskets

Sweets

Silent auction

Please support this event which raises money for the "Crisis" charity which helps the homeless throughout the year.

There will also be a stall selling Community Cards for the Welcome Centre and a stall raising funds for The Meltham Shoe Box Project

Meltham Civic Service

On Sunday 8th September Meltham Civic Service took place at St Bartholomew's Church. Meltham and Meltham Mills Band led a parade of Civic dignitaries, invited guests, representatives of community groups and scout and guide units. During the first hymn the scout, guide, cub and brownie flags were presented along with the British Legion standard. Rev John Dracup led the service and gave a talk about encouraging one another (using a parrot / or was it a duck) to illustrate his talk.

Councillor David Haigh, Town Mayor of Meltham spoke about the work of the council, we heard about the Community Quilt which was on display in the church and Scout and Guide leaders spoke about their work with young people. Rev Judy led the prayers and Deputy Mayor Jean Wrathall read the lesson. Music was supplied by Meltham Church choir, organist Simon Ball and Meltham and Meltham Mills Band. Following the blessing and the singing of the National anthem the flags were paraded out. Following the service people were invited to enjoy refreshments at the church hall.



Parish Services for October & November

You are welcome to join the many services in our parish.

The following weekly services are:

Sunday's

St Bartholomew's, Meltham	9:30am
St James', Meltham Mills	9:30am
St Mary's, Wilshaw	11:15am
Christ Church, Helme	11:15am

Wednesday's St Bartholomew's, BCP* 10:30am

Harvest Services will be on 6th Oct at St James' & Christ Church. Also 13th Oct at St Bart's and St Mary's. All Are welcome to attend any service.

There will be a Memorial Service on **3rd November at 4pm** at St Bart's to remember those we have loved and lost.

10th November there will only be 1 service at St Bart's at 10.30am with a short Holy Communion said service at 9.30am

Please Note:

- 'Family Sunday' service is the first Sunday of the month at St James' and are for of ALL ages having fun together.
- *This is a midweek traditional 'said' service from the Book of Common Prayer at St Bart's starting at 10.30am every Wednesday.

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.



OASIS Quiet Day - Thursday 3rd October

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.

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

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



Tel. 01484 859229 E: secretary@hdfhs.org.uk W: 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 9th Oct - Songs of Praise
Tues 22nd Oct - Holy Communion.
Tues 12th Nov - Songs of Praise
Tues 26th Nov - Holy Communion

Helme Hall - 1:30pm for 2pm start

Friday 25th Oct & Friday 29th Nov
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 :
August & September Winners


553	£50	Mrs. M. Thorley	612	£50	Mr. P. Blackburn
498	£10	Mr. A. Johnson	033	£10	Vacant Number
772	£10	Vacant Number	785	£10	Vacant Number
030	£10	Vacant Number	395	£10	Mr. A. Dyson
254	£10	Vacant Number	446	£10	Mrs. B. Jennings
050	£10	Mr. C. Booth			

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:

06/10/2024	Mr & Mrs M Farrell		03/11/2024	Mr & Mrs J Halstead
13/10/2024	Mrs C Moulson		10/11/2024	Mr & Mrs J Mitchell
20/10/2024	Mr R Billington		17/11/2024	Mrs M Webster
27/10/2024	Mrs M Walker		24/11/2024	Vacant
			01/12/2024	Advent Sunday

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.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 5th October - G & S Society | 2nd November - W I |
| 12th Oct - Christian Aid. | 9th Nov - Probus |
| 19th Oct - Meltham Memories | 16th Nov - Christmas Bookshop |
| 26th Oct - Held at Methodist | |
| 23rd Nov - Christmas Tree Festival at Methodist & Crisis coffee morning at St James' | |
| 30th Nov - Christmas Market (No Coffee) | |



DIMPS

by Ville

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Just For Fun By Denis A

My way of thinking:

To 'drink responsibly' means, don't spill it.

Age 60 might be the new 40, and age 70 may be the new 50, but my age of 90 is still the age of 90 and lets your body know it.

I know the older I get, the earlier it gets late, and 'The other day' means that I could be referring to any time between yesterday and thirty years ago.

I can also remember the time when I was able to get up without making sound effects.

When I was younger and dropped something, I just picked it up. Now I'm 90 and when I drop something, I just stare at it for a few moments contemplating if I actually need it anymore.

If you were to ask me what I am doing today and I say "nothing". It really does not mean I am free, it means I am doing nothing. If someone were to ask me what I did over the weekend, I would just look at them and ask "Why?, what did you hear?"

I've just won a comb in a small competition I entered. Such is my luck seeing that I am almost bald. Such is life Denis A, so get on with it.

Enough is enough, God bless one and all. Denis A.



Awaken 2024

Over the August bank holiday a group of us headed down to the Lincolnshire show ground to join with a few thousand other Christians to grow our faith, join together worship and to be honest have a fantastic time together.

The majority of people camp on the showground, but you don't have to if camping is not your thing. There was morning worship and teaching in 'The Big Top' by guest speakers, while the children enjoyed a fun time together in their age appropriate groups. Both Nathan and Rebekah said how much they enjoyed this. There were a number of different seminars to choose from with specific themes running through the weekend. Then in the evening we enjoyed a celebration in the 'Big Top' again with different guest speakers. Afterwards there were options to enjoy like laser tag, roller disco, campfire worship or a creative space. But a few of us enjoyed sharing a drink together outside our tents.

We all agreed we would be going again in 2025 so if you would like to too, talk to Rev John, Fiona or go to: www.awakenevent.uk



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St Mary's Report

On Sunday 21st July we enjoyed Breakfast Church which was led by Rev Judy. John Andrews read the Gospel which spoke about people reaching out to Jesus- just to touch Him so after a couple of hymns and some prayers we had a discussion about how Jesus touches our lives and how touch is such an important sense which connects us to one another, to God and to nature. We enjoyed Danish pastries and coffee as we shared these ideas.

The following week we shared a service of Holy Communion and we learnt about "Caring and Sharing" During August we just had 2 services at St Mary's when we welcomed a good number of our friends from Christ Church and we shared worship with them on the Two Sundays when we didn't have a service.

On 4th August we had a communion service and on 18th August we hosted a Baptism service for Oliver Ernest Gledhill. We welcomed his mum and dad Emily and Ross and his family and friends. Rev Judy took the service and baptized Oliver. Godparents were Lucy Wilde, Bethany Bryan and Zeyn Gledhill. Kim led the prayers and the theme of the talk was " Running the Race, keeping our eyes on Jesus and passing on the baton of faith"

On Sunday 1st September Lay Reader Jacqueline France led an Animal service. This was going to be held outside but due to damp and unpredictable weather it took place in the Sunday school instead. We welcomed two dogs Reuben and Skye and a cat Wolfie and they received a special blessing. The Music Group accompanied the hymns and our guest speaker, Jordan told us about "Doggie behaviour"



There was no service at St Mary's on 8th September to allow us to attend the Civic Service and the following Saturday we held a coffee morning at Meltham church hall. There was a good attendance and there was a raffle, tombola and cake stall. Our thanks go to all who helped in any way and to those who donated things for the stalls.

The following day Rev John led a Service of the Word. Shirley and Judith read the lessons, Elizabeth played keyboard and Peter operated the power point. The theme of the service was about "Taking up your cross and following Jesus". We enjoyed coffee and cake after singing "Happy birthday" for Shirley. We hope you all have had a good rest over the summer and have enjoyed the rare moments of sunshine.

Join the Festive Fun at Christmas with Honley!

Huddersfield Town Hall

7th December from 3:00pm

Honley Male Voice Choir proudly presents their annual, unmissable festive extravaganza, Christmas with Honley. Enjoy an afternoon filled with an exciting mix of entertaining Christmas music, featuring the renowned Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band, the delightful Lindley Junior School Choir, and the mighty Father Willis organ. Start your festive season in style with Christmas with Honley!

This year's concert promises to be a heartwarming celebration of the season, filled with joyous melodies. Honley Male Voice Choir, known for their rich harmonies, will be joined by Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band, whose brass arrangements are sure to uplift and inspire.

Adding to the magic, the talented young voices of Lindley Junior School Choir will perform festive songs, bringing a sense of youthful exuberance to the event. The mighty Father Willis organ, with its majestic tones, will provide a powerful and resonant backdrop, enriching the musical experience.

Whether you're a long-time fan of the choir or a first-time attendee, this afternoon of festive fun is the perfect way to usher in the holiday spirit. Sing along to your favourite Christmas songs and revel in the community atmosphere. Christmas with Honley is an event not to be missed!



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MAY TO JUNE - ANIMAL PLANET

Please put your names down in the library or contact:

Pam - 07761 393502 or pammurg.mgt@gmail.com

Bells. Part Two

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

If you missed part one you can catch up in the previous edition.

Written by Bill Potter and Peter Murgatroyd.

Tales about rings of bells having a 'silver' tone abound. This often came about as the 'patron' who was financing a peal of bells would visit the foundry where the bells would be cast to watch the progress of 'their' bells. Some 'patrons' would ask for a silver or sometimes gold coin to be included in the bell and would offer the said coin to the master founder to press into the mould, which he would do before the mould was closed for casting and the 'patron' would be convinced that his silver or gold coins had made a difference.

The truth however was somewhat different; The coin was pressed into the mould so that its shape would be indented into the mould, but the coin was retrieved and 'pocketed' by the founder as a little bonus. The shape of the coin would appear in the finished casting, thus pleasing the 'patron', but the value went to the founder, and in reality the silver content would have made no difference to the metal composition of the bell or its sound.



The Seasons Of Our Lives

By Pam Murgatroyd

That's nearly another year over,
We've had Spring and Summer, now
Fall,
Not one of them pauses to take a breath,
Then it's Winter and that makes them
all.

That is just like our lives pass along,
Our seasons go by, oh so fast,
From childhood to teens with spring in
our steps,
If we could slow down it might last.

Our Summers are twenties to forties,
When the sun has burst into our lives,
With new life from our children as we
give birth
To fulfil us as husbands and wives.

Then Autumn arrives with a rush,
Otherwise known as the Fall,
When everything on our bodies has
dropped,
And we are not even as tall.

Then Winter arrives much too soon,
When we add on the zeroes too fast,
And this would be the bleakest season
of all,
If we couldn't remember the past.

As each season rolls by in a flash,
The four still only make up one year,
Just pray lots of those add up to your
life
And you can do all that you hold dear.

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I've always collected intriguing but random things...

I attended a recent auction to bid for some Arts and Crafts Movement pottery, and saw this gorgeous set of six Victorian stained glass panels. They weren't the target but I fell in love them, and they're amazing ! Recently, I fashioned black plywood frames to clamp and display them in the light. They tell the stories of early English Saints, each comprises an illustration and narrative about them, and were possibly rare glimpses of beauty and connection for many churchgoers of the time. When you acquire something out of the ordinary, it may inspire you to find out more, so I got digging...

They feature St. Theodore, St. Chad, St. Ninian, St. Oswald and St. Aidan and the Venerable Bede (not actually a saint, but I suppose being "Venerable" means you make the cut). The odd one out features the somewhat gruesome Massacre of the Monks of Bangor-Is-y-Coed by King Ethelfrid in AD 613, and gruesome it is. The account I read about it states that St. Augustine was charged by the Pope of the time to bring Christianity in Britain closer to Rome and the Papacy. It all went swimmingly until he focussed on the Welsh. They'd practised their own kind of Christianity quite happily from time immemorial, and saw no reason to change things. St. Augustine begged to differ, and cajoled Ethelfrid into teaching over a thousand monks a lesson. Not what you'd consider very saintly, but hey ho.

Some of the aforementioned saints hailed from the Kingdom of Northumbria, which isn't the Northumbria we know now, but was basically the entire north of England plus Scotland as far north as Edinburgh and west to Stranraer. St. Ninian features in one of the panels, and is shown building (or rather watching others build) the first stone church at Whithorn in Scotland having converted the southern Picts to Christianity. St. Theodore from Tarsus (became Archbishop of Canterbury) is in another, sending St. Chad on his mission as Bishop of Mercia. A fourth panel shows St. Oswald, King of Northumbria translating the words of St. Aidan to followers. Oswald seemed to be an all round good man. One tale recalls how Oswald and his men were enjoying a hearty dinner, and heard rumblings from the assembled and hungry hoi-polloi outside. He then ordered that the platter of "dainties" be taken out and distributed amongst them, even ordering that the silver platter be cut up and shared out all round.

As Northumbrian king he promoted Christianity, and sent for a Bishop from Ireland to spread the word. Unfortunately, this particular bishop was a bit rigorous and austere for the locals, and was sent packing. Along with the St. Augustine issue, you could be forgiven for thinking that this country doesn't take kindly to external interference. St. Aidan was of a different nature – he connected... He walked about rather than rode on horseback, spread the gospel and hobnobbed with the lower orders, slaves, children *et al.* *An issue was him only speaking Irish, which the locals couldn't understand, so Oswald travelled with him and played interpreter.* St. Aidan of Lindisfarne is credited with the conversion of Northumbria to Christianity. Another tableau shows St. Oswald's relics being taken through the county while escaping from the Danes

The last one is of the Venerable Bede relaying the message to his scribes on Ascension(sic) Day AD735 while he's dying. Bede wasn't only venerable, he was a record keeper and writer. Much of what we know about the Dark Ages comes from him, but it was all a long time ago and accounts differ. (cont....)

It's been a journey reading up on all this, but it's amazing how this powerful and poignant imagery spreads the message – it's about how they shared true beauty with those otherwise disenfranchised, to be enjoyed once a week, on Sundays.

Chris Sinclair.



Picnic in the Park 31st Aug
Robert Ashton Park.





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