

# Meltham Parish Magazine

£1



DECEMBER & JANUARY 2025

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

## **Treat Fest - Halloween evening.**

Lots of fun and games were had by all who came to the Church hall as we shared the Light of Christ.

(photo credit Nigel Priestly)



## **Meltham Remembers**

What a special Act of Remembrance it was when the Meltham community came together, outside St Bartholomew's Church on Sunday 10th November. Meltham and Meltham Mills Band led the parade from the Carlisle car park and accompanied the singing of the National anthem during the Act of Remembrance. Rev John Dracup led the service and gave a short address. Our thanks go to those who made it possible for the service to be relayed both outside and in the church. The Mayor of Meltham David Haigh and Rev John read the names on the Role of Honour and this was followed by 2 minutes silence and the National anthem. Representatives of various community groups laid poppy wreaths at the war memorial. The weather was amazing - fine and dry and a crowd of almost 400 people took part in the service including many ex service men and women. Our thanks go to the band, to our police support officers and to those who provided a welcome cuppa in the church hall following the service.

There was a wonderful display of hundreds of poppies in the church yard which were 'planted' by volunteers and made by Margret Thorley from the previous years wreaths. The act of remembrance ended with a rainbow over the church!



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**An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly.**

– Gene Perret

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

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**ST. JAMES'**

**Churchwarden** Alison Whiteley 319295

**ST. MARY'S**

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**CHRIST CHURCH**

**Churchwarden** Vacant

**All magazine enquiries.**

**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 ...

Happy Christmas!

Welcome to the Christmas and New Year edition of the Parish Magazine. If you are reading this for the first time then here's a very warm welcome to you! The magazine is published 6 times a year and has lots of information of the events and news across the parish.

Its time to snuggle up get a warm drink and enjoy reading about the exciting news from the Crossroads (pg12/13). The news from the Helme Ladies (pg 9) and of course all the events and services that's happening over Christmas in the four churches in the centre pages (pg 16-17)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition, either by photo, poem, article or update. Its your magazine so please do continue to do so.

The deadline of the February /March magazine will be:

**Monday 20th January 2025**

Please send submissions via email to:

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

or

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

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a great New Year.  
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

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: 'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!' So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house, he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: 'Why don't they follow me?!' Then he realised: 'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.' Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

Throughout history people have asked the question "how can God become a human baby?" In this story the man didn't have the ability to become a goose, but if he were God, he would have had the power to do as he would choose. This story addresses the greater question "why would God choose to do so?" For God to choose Christmas he would have to care deeply for us, the only explanation for his choice is love; That God loves you and me so much that he would choose to become one of us so that he might help us and show us his love for us.

This Christmas let's celebrate again this amazing truth, that we have a God who truly loves us.

God bless,  
Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)



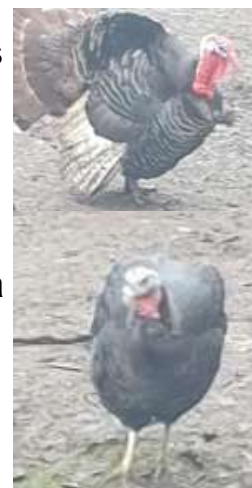
## A heartening Christmas tale, (if you happen to be a turkey...)

A few years ago, I struggled with the perennial male problem of getting a Christmas present for a partner who has everything. A sable coat, another tiara ? About a week to go, and still no idea – the upcoming day loomed like a cloud on the horizon. However, I still had to work, and was driving a Royal Mail van on a snowy Cartworth Moor above Holmfirth – not exactly a place which bristled with inspiring gift ideas. Then a lightbulb moment occurred... The smallholding I was delivering to had a side hustle of rearing Christmas turkeys, so I asked the question: “Have they all gone yet”? The answer was: “No, we’ve just got the one left”... I’ll explain that although we’d been vegetarians for many years, my partner was an avid bird-keeper, with a small flock of laying hens and domestic ducks, so this fortunate bird wasn’t destined for the table. I paid up, and the female Bronze turkey went in the back of the van for the rest of the day’s shift. Once back in Meltham, it was billeted for the week at an obliging friend’s house until Xmas morning, when it was reclaimed and presented. My partner was chuffed it, and it was settled into a bijou shed at the bottom of the garden. Christmas number one survived !

For seven more Christmases, she flourished. Eventually, all the birds had to go, so they were all rehomed on a Royd Edge smallholding where they had fields to roam in. I’d sometimes see her while out walking, and something lovely happened. At the ripe old age of eight or nine, she became an item with a big stag turkey – a real-life late flowering love. She’s not around anymore, but I don’t think she had a bad life by turkey standards.

Have a Merry Christmas

Chris Sinclair



### **Honley Male Voice Choir, Huddersfield Town Hall, 7th Dec, 3:00pm**

Honley Male Voice Choir proudly presents their annual, 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!

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. An event not to be missed!





## Helme Ladies Report

After our Summer of adventures, we are now back in the Church Hall for our meetings, so on September 24<sup>th</sup> we were having a talk. It was by Gerry Beaumont titled "My Experience of the Olympics". Gerry explained that he had been chosen, because of his charity and voluntary work, to carry the Olympic torch in the relay through Huddersfield. He took over the torch in Trinity Street and had enough gas to keep it burning for 9 minutes. But the person he should have passed it on to had rung in sick, so he had to do the next section as well. The gas just lasted long enough. The relay runners got to keep their torches, and he brought it along to show us, it was very heavy. I remember going to Trinity Street to watch the relay with my family, it was a very happy crowd.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> we were at the Beaumont Arms for our last supper!! Our last coffee and cake really. We met at 10.30am and had to choose which cake we were having from the varied selection on offer, carrot cake, coffee and walnut, flapjack, rocky road, mars bar cake and caramel shortbread. Oh what to choose, I had a really scrumptious carrot cake with coffee, or you could have had tea. The volume of chat went down as we all tucked in, then went up again as we all finished eating. When it was time to leave I thanked David (Publican) and Jane (chef) for putting up with us all the numerous times we had been and also thanks for the superb food and hospitality. They are leaving at the end of the month so who knows what will happen at the Beaumont Arms after that.

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October we had a talk by Anne Littlewood about more history and tales about Storthes Hall. She had given us a talk last year, but this year we got to hear more about the origins of the hall and how it became a 'Lunatic Asylum' as it was called in those days in the early 1900's. For some it was a place of sanctuary, while others didn't know where they were but they were looked after. Some men worked in the garden or on the farm and women worked in the laundry or kitchen and they were paid a small wage for this. Storthes Hall was self sufficient and they were proud of it. It changed a lot when the NHS came into being, and not for the better. Anne started her Nurses training there and worked her way up to become a Sister, so she obviously liked working there. She has done a lot of research about the hospital and her talk was very interesting accompanied by some old photographs. She doesn't charge a fee for her talk but would like a donation to 'Yorkshire Air Ambulance'.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> we held our annual auction, this is where you are supposed to buy something others have decided they no longer need. We had a huge array of items to bid for so you could buy stocking fillers for Christmas very cheaply. I must say it is also a lot of fun. Our auctioneer went through the items and we ended up with £42 for our charity fund.

### Upcoming Events

|               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 17th December | Christmas Party         |
| 14th January  | Quiz and New Year Party |
| 28th January  | AGM                     |
| 11th February | Bag Whist               |



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## **Meltham Parish and Care for the world we live in.**

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

The Environment Group held its first meeting in November. We began the meeting by prayerfully reflecting on Scripture and in particular what scripture says about Jesus, our Saviour and the whole of creation.

We did this by reflecting on a passage written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Colossae.

### **Colossians 1:15-20 ( NIV )**

**15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

The passage focuses on Jesus Gods’ son. We began by thinking about advent as we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth into this world. We reminded ourselves of a passage we often read in advent and at Christmas from John’s gospel chapter 1 where Jesus is described as Gods living Word through whom all things were created. This passage from Colossians reminds us of this passage. Jesus action before the world was established in enabling all creation to take place.

Paul in this passage does not stop there however, for he describes the role Jesus plays in sustaining the whole of creation. As we chatted, we then turned our attention to Jesus’ death on the cross. We discussed how we often think about the death of Jesus in relation to our forgiveness and personal salvation. This passage from Colossians widens this understanding of salvation to the whole created order. The enormity of this is amazing as Jesus’ death and resurrection bring about the reconciliation of all things, the renewal of all things. People on this planet matter but according to this so do the mountains and the seas, the plants and the whole the breadth of all the creatures who are part of this earth.

We agreed that this passage is significant for us in helping us to begin to understand the extent of Jesus role in creation, bringing it into being but also in sustaining it day to day and year to year. Finally, for us to begin to grasp that in his death Jesus was also reconciling all creation.

As we move forward to consider care for the environment and the world around us, this was a key moment for us to begin to understand the extent of Gods love and care in and through Jesus.

Elizabeth Snowden

# CROSSROADS CENTRE



Another busy couple of months at the Crossroads Centre.

At the end of October the Crossroads supported the churches in Meltham with lanterns for the Light up the Pleasure Grounds organised by the Walkers are Welcome group and Friends of the Pleasure grounds. The Craft and Create group ably supported by Jackie Brook made lanterns out of milk bottles with views from Yorkshire including Mill chimneys and terrace houses, lighthouses and funfairs. Members coloured the designs in, which Jackie had prepared earlier and they were stunning. The theme was 'Jesus the light of the world' as they shone brightly in the darkness



## **Kings Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS)**

As many of you will now know on 14<sup>th</sup> November we were notified that the volunteers for the Crossroads Project had been awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award that can be bestowed on such a group.

Sue Priestley was quoted as saying 'I would like to pay tribute to the many volunteers who have worked in the Crossroads Shop, Centre and Foodbank over nearly 30 years. As Jean Burhouse commented ' It has been a group effort from the very beginning' and this is reflected in the award which celebrates the outstanding work of local volunteer groups across the UK

There will be a presentation where we will receive an award made of Crystal and a certificate from Ed Anderson the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire. Two lucky winners whose names will be drawn out of a hat will attend a Royal Garden Party, all expenses paid, in May or June next year.

We were delighted to hear that Uniform Exchange and the Outlookers (a service for those with a Visual impairment) also received the award and which we are proud to support.

## **Christmas on a budget**

Held in the Methodist Church Hall this annual event is very popular and people start queuing early to get the bargains. This enables their families to spend less and buy more to enjoy a fun packed Christmas.

The event raised £1,565 and there will be opportunities to get Christmas gifts right up till Christmas in the Crossroads Shop.

Sue Priestley



## Crossroads Food Bank



Since the early summer, the numbers of food parcels we've distributed have been below previous years, and that's absolutely fine. Chris, our debt adviser, has been working closely with some of our long-term clients, and getting them the help and benefits they need. This is right and proper – the state has deeper pockets than us. During the schools' summer break, we provided lunch packs for parents of children who normally qualify for free school meals, and it was a success in that we reached people who haven't engaged with us before. Therefore, we did the same during half-term, and we'll be doing something similar at the end of year holiday, probably combining it with the packs of Xmas treats that we've always done. It's important, as struggling mums have enough to contend with at Christmas.

Meanwhile, our volunteers were delighted to hear that Crossroads received the King's Award for Voluntary Service. It's well earned by the whole Crossroads Project, and we're proud to have played a part in it.

We all wish you a Merry Christmas, and no doubt there'll still be a pressing need for us in the New Year

God bless, Chris Sinclair.



## Reverse Advent Calendar

For many years St Mary's Church, Wilshaw, do a reverse advent calendar. Instead of receiving treats every day through advent, they give an item in support for the Meltham foodbank. After 24 days the donations are given.

Join in and give it a try! Have a go during December and include non Christmas related items for a January drop off to clients.

Stuck for ideas? - Give these a try.



**Eggs**

**Crisps, Ketchup/Mayo**

**Sugar, Soup, Jam/Marmalade,**

**Long Life Milk, Tinned Meat, Tinned Tuna,**

**Savoury Biscuits, Shower Gel etc, Sauce for Rice/Pasta ,**

**Instant Coffee/Tea bags, Tinned veg, Custard/Jelly, Breakfast Cereal**

**Tinned Spaghetti**

**Stuffing/Gravy**

When done, you can put it into the red bins at the Coop in Meltham & Netherton.

## *Hair Design*



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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

In the October service the residents at the Bell House care home celebrated Harvest, a time to be thankful. We gave thanks to God for all that the earth provides and for the beauty of creation. As we looked across the fields at Wilshaw, we were reminded that there is something brighter, more wonderful, glorious, and bigger than all the things we hold on to and worry about. This helped us to remember that we need to take time to consider things of beauty, allowing us to bask in the glory of God, which takes our worries from our minds. Harvest is the perfect time to consider the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. And so, at Bell House, we raised our singing voices in joyful praise to God, who commands us to consider, to stop and rest in the glory of our world, from which we respond with thankfulness and love. Amen.

Jaqueline France

## OASIS

The OASIS team were heartened by the lovely comments we heard and read concerning the two Quiet Days we arranged. The first was in May and the second at beginning of October. Here are some of them:

'The day had a very special feel to it'; 'a wonderful peaceful day'; 'the display was beautiful'; 'the music was spot on'; 'the times of silence were much appreciated'; 'what a beautiful service of quiet prayer and Holy Communion'; 'I hope we can do more services like this in the future'; 'thank you for such a thoughtful day'.

Hopefully these '5 star' reviews may inspire others to join us when we hold our next Oasis Quiet Day in the New Year on **THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**. The day is very relaxed, the times of silence are not daunting. Our aim is to give everyone a chance to rest, restore and refresh - a chance to just 'press pause' for a while.

We are very pleased to welcome Rev Elizabeth Snowden to lead our service of Holy Communion in the afternoon. Coffee will be available from 10.00am. Please bring a packed lunch if you wish. The team wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a New Year full of Blessings.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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

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

Funerals - May they rest in peace

June Wilson, Berenice Baxter.

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

# Forest Church Christingle

Join us at Christ Church, Helme, for our forest church Christingle!



An interactive event that has all the elements of a traditional Christingle but also using our senses to engage with God and the world around us.

We will gather in the church for a Christmas carol to get us in the mood! Then outside to follow a trail that will enable us to connect with God whilst building our Christingles. We'll finish off by lighting our Christingles in church and a warming hot chocolate drink!

**It's going to be so much fun!! But don't forget to wrap up, wear some boots or wellies, bring a torch and maybe bring an umbrella!!**



**Saturday 23rd December @ 4pm**

**Christ Church, Helme**



## Weekly Parish Services for the New Year

As last year, due to heating costs, up until Easter there will be a Sunday church service at 9.30am & 11:15am weekly:

5th Jan - St James, 9:30am, St Mary's, Wilshaw 11:15am

12th Jan - St Bartholomew's 9:30am, St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am

19th\* Jan - Joint Covenant Service, Meltham Methodist Church 10:30am

26th\* Jan - Joint Parish Communion, St James' 10:30am

(\*Only this service will be available on these dates)

For February Services please follow **@MelthamParish** for updates or go to the parish website: **[www.melthamparish.co.uk](http://www.melthamparish.co.uk)**



## Weekly Parish Services for December

You are welcome to join the many weekly services, these are:

St Bartholomew's, Meltham 9:30am

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

**Wednesdays:** St Bartholomew's BCP (traditional said service) 10:30am

Please keep an eye out or follow us on the Church facebook page:

'@MelthamParish' for updates on services and events.

## Christmas Services in the Parish of Meltham Christ the King

**Saturday 30th** November, Christmas Market, Church Hall, at 10am - 3pm

**Sunday 1st** December, Carols in the park, at 4:00pm

Robert Ashton Memorial Park, (off Huddersfield Road/Meltham Mills Road)

**Saturday 14th** December, Carols in the pub, at 7:30pm

The Wagon and Horses.

**Sunday 15th** December, Carol service, at 6:00pm

St Mary's Church Wilshaw.



**Saturday 21st** December, Forest Church Christingle, at 4:00pm

Christ Church, Helme. - (Please dress warmly, you need your boots and a torch!)

**Sunday 22nd** December, Nativity service, at 4:00pm

St Bartholomew's Church, Meltham.

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup>** December, Crib service, at 4:00pm

St James Church, Meltham Mills.

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup>** December, Mid-night communion, at 11:30pm

St Bartholomew's Church.

### Christmas Day Services,

9:30am St James, Meltham Mills.

11:15am St Marys, Wilshaw.



### Christmas Jumper Sunday!

**We've all got 'em! Those fabulous, loud, cheesy Christmas jumpers. Wear yours to church on Sunday 22nd December!**





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**

A Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday 10th December

**Helme Hall - 1:30pm for 2pm start**

A Christmas Carol Service on Friday 13th December

**A popular service 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 : October & November Winners**

|     |     |                  |     |     |                      |
|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|
| 627 | £50 | Mrs. P. Radford  | 715 | £50 | Vacant Number        |
| 288 | £10 | Mrs. M. Wrathall | 686 | £10 | Mrs. V. Charlesworth |
| 398 | £10 | Mr. A. Dyson     | 464 | £10 | Mrs. M. Walker       |
| 324 | £10 | Ms. J. Hoyle     | 284 | £10 | Mr. S. Ball          |
| 159 | £10 | Mr. B. Moriarty  | 325 | £10 | Mrs. S. Sinclair     |
|     |     |                  | 514 | £10 | Mr. F. Kaye          |

### **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:

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| 01/12/2024 | Advent Sunday     |
| 08/12/2024 | Advent Sunday     |
| 15/12/2024 | Advent Sunday     |
| 22/12/2024 | Christmas Flowers |
| 12/01/2025 | Mr & Mrs A Ball   |



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.

**7th Dec** - Meltham Mills Band

**14th Dec** - Christ Church, Helme

**21st Dec** - Scouts & Guides

**4th Jan** - St Bart's Church

**11th Jan** - Held at Methodist

**18th Jan** - Hospice

**25th Jan** - Wilshaw Village Hall



**1st Feb** - Stage Co.

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## Just For Fun By Denis A

### Please Note:

All snowmen will now be referred to as 'snowpersons'

All Reindeer will be referred to as 'air freight specialists'

All elves will be referred to as 'Santa's vertically - challenged assistants'

For those of you who are placing Christmas lights or decorations in you garden, can you please avoid anything that has red or blue flashing lights together?

Everytime I drive around the corner I think it's the Police and I have a panic attack. I have to brake hard, throw my beer can out of the window, fasten my seat belt throw my mobile phone on the floor, turn my radio down, all while trying to drive.

It's just too much drama even for Christmas. Thank you for your understanding.

I didn't buy an advent calendar in 2023, so I just opened a cupboard door every day & ate what was inside the cupboard. P.s I soon found out that I don't have 25 cupboard doors.

According to my chocolate advent calendar, there are only two days left until Christmas!

I knew Christmas was approaching when the binmen started to say 'Good Morning'

Here's wishing you all a 'Happy and joyful Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year'. God Bless one and all, Denis A.



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

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## **St Mary's Report**

We hope you have enjoyed the beautiful Autumn weather and the glorious colours of the trees as nature winds down for a bit of a rest - unlike the good folk of Meltham and surrounding areas who gearing up for a very busy time.

Over the last couple of months St Mary's Church has offered a good mix of services the highlight being the Harvest Festival on October 13th. Rev John led this and reminded us that God created everything, that He continues to nurture it and that He gave us the job of caring for it. The music group accompanied some of the hymns and we enjoyed a quiz based on the word "Harvest" We were given a daffodil bulb to take home and nurture.

We have also shared a morning service based on All Saints and a Holy Communion service on Bible Sunday and would likely to thank all who lead our services, read lessons, provide the music and the power point and lead our prayers. We were also pleased to join the rest of the parish at Christchurch, Helme at the end of September and to share in the Service of Remembrance, outside St Bartholomew's on 10th November.

On Saturday 14th November we held a coffee morning in Meltham and were pleased to raise £350. Thankyou to all who supported this.

We sent a representative to the PCC Away Day at Hade Edge when we discussed our vision for the next few years with the Archdeacon Bill Brabiner and shared worship and a lovely buffet lunch.

We are now looking forward all the Christmas activities including Reverse Advent collection for the food bank and the Carol service on 15th December.

We hope you all have a Happy and peaceful Christmas but please don't forget that " JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON"



## **Parish Communion**

On Sunday 29th September the Parish came together to share a Communion service at Christ Church Helme. Rev John Dracup led the service and reminded us that salt is a very important commodity which improves flavour and is an amazing preservative. As Christians Jesus requires us to reach out to others, telling them that knowing Jesus improves and preserves life and keeps us safe.

We shared coffee, cake and fellowship after the service, it was a lovely opportunity for all four churches to get together and would like to thank those at Christ Church for their warm welcome and hospitality.



## **An update from Rosie and Stu Bayford, Brazil.**

Rosie and Stu Bayford are mission partners based in Olinda Brazil, they have a one year old daughter, Ottelie. I asked them about how Brazilians celebrate Christmas



Stu said “Religious and annual events are celebrated as big family occasions in Brazil. Christmas Eve (Véspera de Natal) is the main day of celebration at Christmas time. Families gather for a late dinner (Ceia de Natal) around 10 PM, often featuring a roast turkey as in the UK, but in the northeast you may also find a cod stew (bacalhoadada) or a fish stew (moqueca). After dinner, they exchange gifts and some will attend Midnight Mass (Missa do Galo). The region's strong Catholic influence means that there are often religious processions, particularly in the Old Town of Olinda. Christmas Day itself is more relaxed, usually spent with family and friends, eating leftovers from the previous night's feast.

New Year's Eve (Réveillon) is a major celebration in Brazil, with festivities lasting well into the early hours of the morning. Some Brazilians will wear certain colours on New Year's Eve as a wish for the year ahead: white for peace, yellow for wealth, and red for love. In the northeast, many people celebrate New Year's Eve on the beach. There are parties and fireworks displays, and live music performances too.

In the past we've had BBQs on Christmas Day and been to our local beach on New Year's Eve for the fireworks. It's quite an event with so many people packing the beaches full.

Stu and Rosie want to see people in poverty be nourished – physically and spiritually. Having served in Brazil for a few years, they've listened to the community's concerns and worked with a local church to develop a Community Market that redistributes surplus food from supermarkets to those who most need it. This project also cares for the planet by sending less food to landfill.

The church helps identify potential market members who pay a small amount to shop, so as to encourage saving and keep a sense of dignity. Market members are invited to be a part of the church and they know the church cares for them. They hope to start another Community Market soon in another struggling neighbourhood.

Please pray for the Bayfords as they celebrate Christmas. Brazil can seem exotic - but they're a long way from their families in England. They've had a number of illnesses this year. Please pray for a period of good health for them all.

Nigel Priestly

*If you would like to know more or keep up with our mission partners, please copy and paste this link into your web browser:*

[churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/rosie-and-stu-bayford-brazil/](http://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/rosie-and-stu-bayford-brazil/)



## Bells. Part Three

This is the third part of a series about the history of Church bells, written by Bill Potter and Peter Murgatroyd. If you missed part one and two you can catch up in the previous editions, on the parish website: [melthamparish.co.uk](http://melthamparish.co.uk)

### **Bells come in all sorts of shapes and sizes.**

We all (probably) know the shape of a bell, the standard 'bell shape' that the bells in this tower and just about every other church tower has, but there is more than one shape in which 'bells' are made.

Throughout the world different cultures have slightly different (historic) bell shapes. Beyond this bells come in different guises:

If you look inside, at the workings of an old fashioned chiming clock you will find that there is one of two types of 'chimes. Firstly There are 'chime bars' which are bars of metal, most usually brass, of various length which gives them different notes, and; Alternatively, semi-hemispherical bells. There are bells that are basically half a 'sphere, looks like half an apple or orange, or perhaps the skin of such.. Again these are made in different sizes to make different notes.

These 'semi-hemispherical' bells fit snugly inside each other which saves space. (There were/are some that were made small enough to have them fit into a 'pocket watch' so that its could have an hour chime)

The 'clank' of cow bells is a very familiar sound in many Mediterranean countries as herds of goats freely wander the open lands, they are also commonly heard in mountainous regions such as Switzerland where cows wander around freely. Generally these are made from a piece of metal bent around and riveted together, then hung around the animal's neck so that the farmer or herder can locate their flocks or find single animals.

Tubular bells are very simply made from a tube of metal cut to specify lengths to create different notes, then hung on a frame and struck with a hammer. Although strictly speaking a cymbal is not a bell it's properties are much the same and sound is created in much the same way, so we could consider them as a flattened bell if we wished, and they come in all sizes from tiny ones attached to a dancers fingers and thumb to the big 'gongs' you may find in oriental ceremonies.

We are probably all familiar with Christmas cards that have depictions of sleighs on them, and we have (probably) all heard of sleigh bells, and their /jingle' sound is very probably familiar to most. These are fully hemispherical bells, much like a complete ball or sphere, but with a slot in the bottom and a piece of metal inside to rattle against the bell itself. These bells now-a-day are usually made of two pieces of pressed metal, joined together, but historically they would have been cast. You may also see these bells played in an orchestra or if you watch 'Morris Dancers' or the like.



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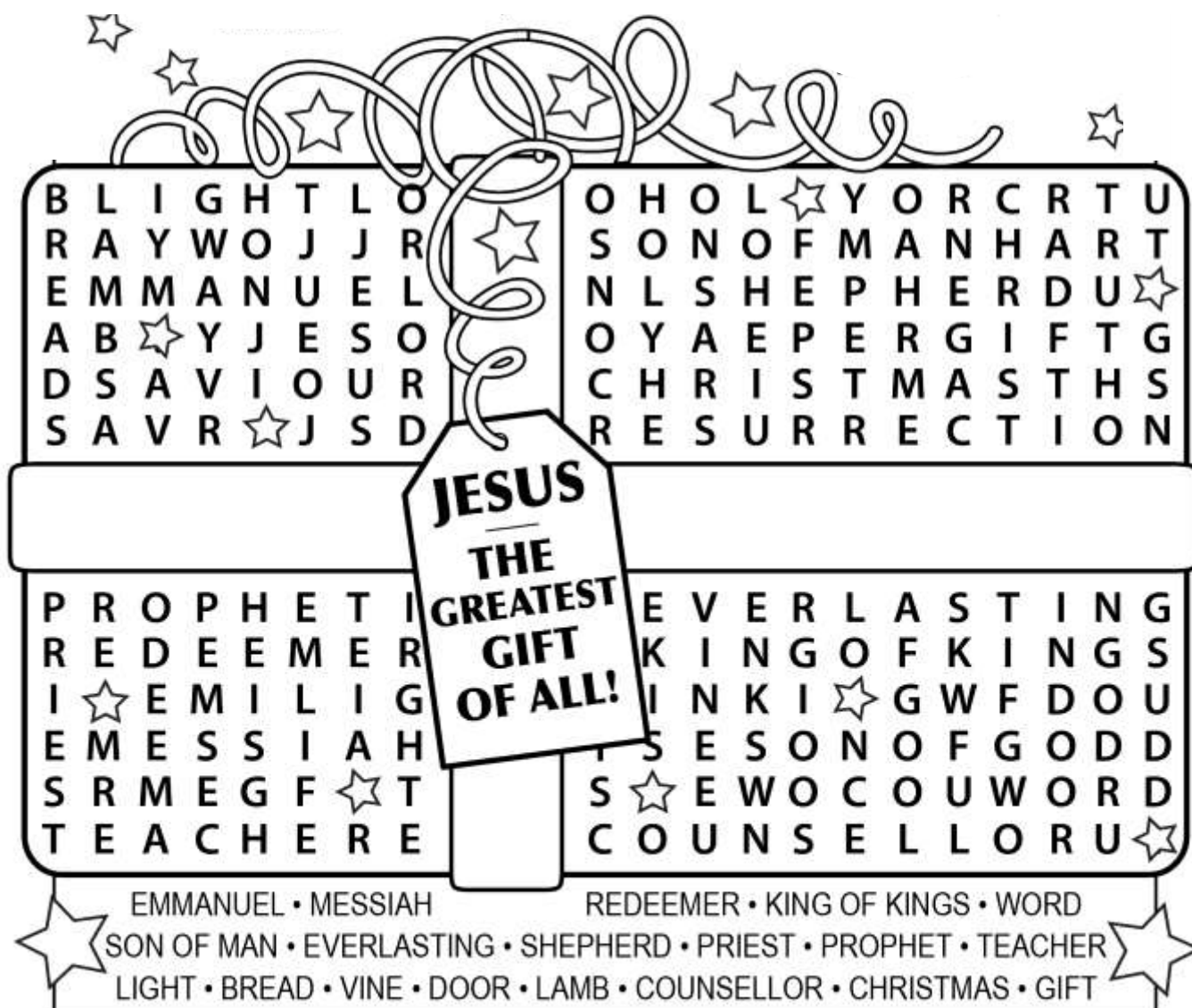


# CRISIS Coffee morning and Meltham Shoebox Team Update

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising for 'Crisis'. There are so many people who make it a success by donating goods, time and money. Despite the horrible weather, we are delighted to say that £5,000 has now been raised. The welcome Centre and T4U also benefited from the morning.

# Thank You

Thank you from all at Meltham Shoebox team to all the schools, churches, businesses, brownies, Guides and individuals who contributed in any way to this project. We have processed 3,217 shoeboxes this year, a higher number than last year. They will be going to children and young people in Ukraine.



# Forest Church Christingle



Join us at Christ Church, Helme  
for a forest church Christingle!

Saturday 21st December 4pm

An interactive event with all the  
elements of a traditional Christingle  
but also using our senses to engage  
with God and the world around us.

Meet inside church before stepping outside to follow  
the Christingle trail. We'll finish off by lighting our  
Christingles in church and a warming  
hot chocolate drink!

Don't forget to wrap up,  
wear some boots or wellies,  
maybe bring an umbrella  
and a torch!!



Happy Christmas and a  
joyful New Year!



*Jesus, the King on a manger throne*

From all the four  
churches of Meltham  
Parish, Christ the King.