# THE PARISH OF

# *Christ the King*

# MELTHAM

## DECEMBER 2018

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# PARISH COMMUNICATION

**VICAR OF PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

**REV JOHN DRACUP: email: revjohndracup@gmail.com / 07983 937132**

**PARISH OFFICE CONTACT – email: parishofchristtheking@gmail.com / 07933 596734**

Website: www.melthamparish.co.uk / Diocese website: www.leeds.anglican.org

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday– Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

FOR ALL URGENT ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL REV JOHN DRACUP

CLERGY in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING

Assistant Priest Rev. Dennis Shields 850074 / Assistant Priest Rev. Peter Rolls 340342
Assistant Priest Rev. John Radcliffe 348806 / Assistant Priest Rev. Judy Kenworthy 851158

**AUTHORISED READERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

Mandy Aspland 851789 Hester Deacon 657069
Nigel Priestley 852005 Chris Ryan 851528

**AUTHORISED PASTORAL MINISTERS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

Christine Bleasdale 305553 Christine Woods 852268

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**
Patrice Curtis 851498

**PARISH TREASURER**
Pam Murgatroyd 349857

**CHURCH OFFICIALS in the PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S**

**Churchwarden** Alistair Storey 851498 **Safeguarding Officer** Ann Halstead 316422
**Secretary** John Mitchell 850684 **Treasurer** Peter Blackburn 850128

**ST. JAMES'**

**Churchwarden** Jenny Mathers 850839 / Mike Still **Safeguarding Officer** Mike Still 854889
**Secretary** Alison Whiteley 319295 **Treasurer** Richard Walker 850214

**ST. MARY'S**

**Churchwardens** Kim Howe 852811 / Clive Pearson 844289
**Secretary** Monteena Shepherd 663318 **Treasurer** Peter Pearson 850488
**Safeguarding Officers** Vicky Ramsay

**CHRIST CHURCH**

**Churchwardens** Pat Radford 851480 / Irene Harrop 664163
**Secretary** Janet Rockett 851424 **Treasurer** Jenny Hill 850274
**Safeguarding Officer** Janet Rockett 851424

## A Letter from your Vicar

Celebration seems to be the key word to me at the moment. The Remembrance service was just over a week ago, and while it was a suitably respectful service, it is hard not to celebrate it as a real success. The Church was full, not only full but so full that even after standing room I'm told a few people went over to the Church hall because there simply wasn't enough room to get in. Of course it is great to see the Church so full but in this case it is particularly good to see so many of the people of Meltham coming out to remember those who payed such a high price for our freedom. Hopefully we can maintain some of this momentum in the coming years. It was also wonderful for me to see how well the parish and its Churches can rise to an occasion.

Rising to an occasion in celebration is of course exactly what our minds are turning to now because as you read this letter its December, "it's Christmas".

Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year, it's also the busiest, most hectic, most tiring, and in terms of the Church coming into contact with people across the parish, the most important too.

As we look forward to our many events and services it is essential that we remember what it is really all about. Presents, Santa Claus, and parties??? Or a baby in a manger? Actually, Christmas is about hope. Jesus, the baby in the manger, is no ordinary baby. God loved the world so much, God loved us so much, that He could not stand by and watch as we struggled through life on our own. So, He came down from heaven, taking the same form as us so that He could truly experience all the struggles that we do. Not so that He could say He did it better but so that He could offer us His help.

In Jesus, we have a God who is with us in all our struggles and celebrations. In Jesus we have hope because we never have to face life alone and because we can know that we are loved. I pray that we can share something of this truth with everyone this Christmas.

We wish you all a very

and a Happy New Year!

**PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JANUARY ISSUE IS MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER - THIS IS DUE TO HOLIDAYS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.**

**Anything submitted after this date will unfortunately not be included.**

**THANK YOU!**

# *Christmas Services in the Parish*

**Carols in the Park**

**Sunday 2nd December, 4.00pm at St James, Meltham Mills**

**~**

**Candle Lighters - Bereaved Parents Service**

**Sunday 9th December, 6.30pm at St Mary's, Wilshaw**

**~**

**Carol Service**

**Sunday 16th December, 6.00pm at St Mary's, Wilshaw /**

**Sunday 23rd December, 9.30am at St James, Meltham Mills**

**~**

**Nativity & Carols**

**Sunday 23rd December, 4.00pm at St Bartholomew's, Meltham**

**~**

**Crib Service**

**Christmas Eve, 4.00pm at St James, Meltham Mills**

**~**

**Midnight Communion**

**Christmas Eve, 11.30pm at St Bartholomew's, Meltham**

**~**

**We also have Christmas Day services in each of our churches,**

**further details can be found on our website**

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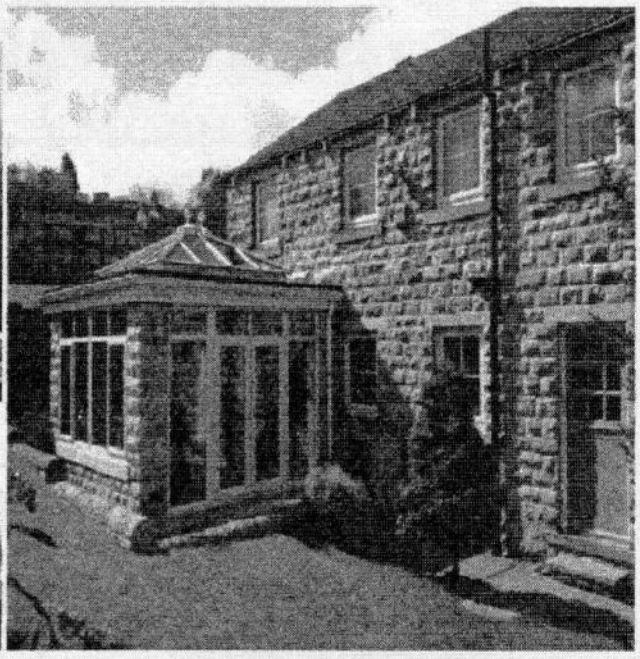

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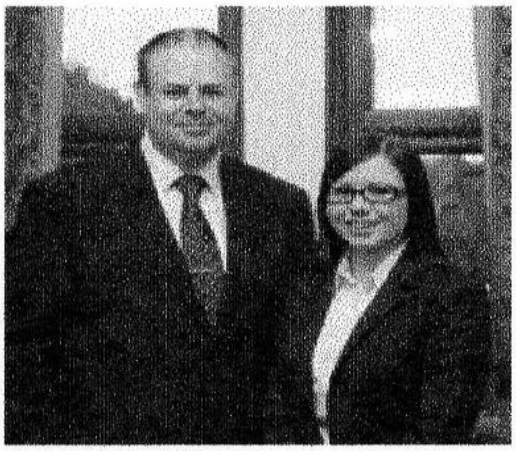

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on
**01484 768346.**

**Testimony Time…**

When I first felt that I was being called to ordination I had many promptings by God over quite a long period, although to begin with I did not know that this is what they were. It started with an Ordination Prayer Card, bought for a friend. When the time came to give it to her, I simply could not find it. After she was ordained and had moved away, I found the card – but far too late. From time to time after that, it kept re-appearing and it was quite a while before it suddenly realised that it might actually be meant for me!

When I told our vicar about my 'feeling called to ordination', he told me to take it seriously and gave me the phone number of the Diocesan Director of Ordination (DDO). I wrote it down on a piece of paper and popped it in my pocket. I was always writing down numbers on scraps of paper and then losing them – but not this time. This piece of paper kept re-appearing! I didn't want to ring it. There was a reluctance, a nervousness – but it would not go away until I'd made that call and booked an appointment. It took me some time but there, it was done and I could relax!

A few weeks later there was a phone call and my wife Jacqui said, "Dennis, there is a John Bishop on the phone for you." I was intrigued because I didn't know a John Bishop! We laughed afterwards, as it turned out to be Bishop John, calling to say that the DDO was away and she would re-arrange our appointment on her return in a couple of weeks' time.

When she didn't ring back, my resistance to ring her returned. But once more this would not go away until I'd made the call and re-scheduled the meeting. When we met, I told the DDO about the different promptings I'd had, that I believed were from God; and she discerned that I was 'immature in the faith' – which was probably correct. Nevertheless, I later felt it rather curious when meeting a number of 'mature' Christians who had experienced such 'God-incidences' (and those who had not) but wished for them in their lives now! Why was God now so silent?

Regarding my call to ordination, I can remember asking God one last time for a sign that it really was his will for me – although He'd answered several times before. It was at a Parish Communion in St Mary's Church many years ago – and I had arrived late! The church was full but there were 2 spaces at the back for me to quietly slip into. I moved on past both seats, with the flickering thought that someone else may need them. Walking on I found a single space off the nave, next to Jim and Mary Dearden. I immediately bowed my head and silently made that prayed to God. I was still on my knees when everyone rose for the first hymn – but I felt okay about that too. I was soon joining in and I forgot all about my prayer.

After the service, I moved out to allow Jim and Mary to exit ahead of me. At this, someone from the pew opposite came up to Jim and said, "Sorry, for my child coming out into the nave in the middle of the Communion." Jim then replied, "Oh, that's okay. It reminds me of my son who grabbed my hand and came down the nave with me towards the Bishop at my Ordination in 1967." As Jim said this, with his back-turned there, right in front of me, I immediately remembered my prayer – and the hairs on my neck started to tingle. I knew Jim was simply responding to this person cheerfully; but I also felt excited, warm and calm in the knowledge that at the same time, through Jim's words, God was speaking to me.

God helped me, as an immature Christian, in such ways during my journey towards ordination; but when I struggled with the question of choosing full or part-time ministry, He was strangely silent. I remember my application for ordination being tested by Bishop Stephen. The first question he asked me was why I was not applying for full-time ministry. Of all the questions to choose, it was the one I wasn't sure about myself! By the time the Bishop had finished exploring this question, he was unsure too and concluded that we should, 'settle on leaving things as they were', i.e. part-time.

Looking back, I can now see that that things probably turned out for the best and were blessed by God. No one knows why God is sometimes silent but it doesn't mean He is no longer working (Zechariah 4:6). Maybe He gives us much feeding and support during our immaturity – like any parent to a child – but then having prepared us, he gives us the chance to stand on our own faith. This does not mean we 'stand alone', for He is always with us, whether noisily or quietly. In fact, aren't we told in Scripture that He is with us in many ways, not just in the dramatic storms of life but also in the 'still small voice of calm' or a 'whisper' (1 Kings 19:11-13). No one knows the totality of God. But we (you and I) may have faith that He is beside us – inside-out and outside-in – loving and protecting us always.

With much love, Dennis x

***St Bartholomew's Women's Fellowship***

There will be no meeting in December but the next meeting will be the AGM, which will take place on Tuesday 29th January 2019 at 7.30pm.

New members are always welcome.

# *Classic Christmas Cracker Jokes*

Why does Santa have three gardens? - So he can ''Ho Ho Ho!'

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? - He got 25 days!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at knitting? -
They always drop their needles!

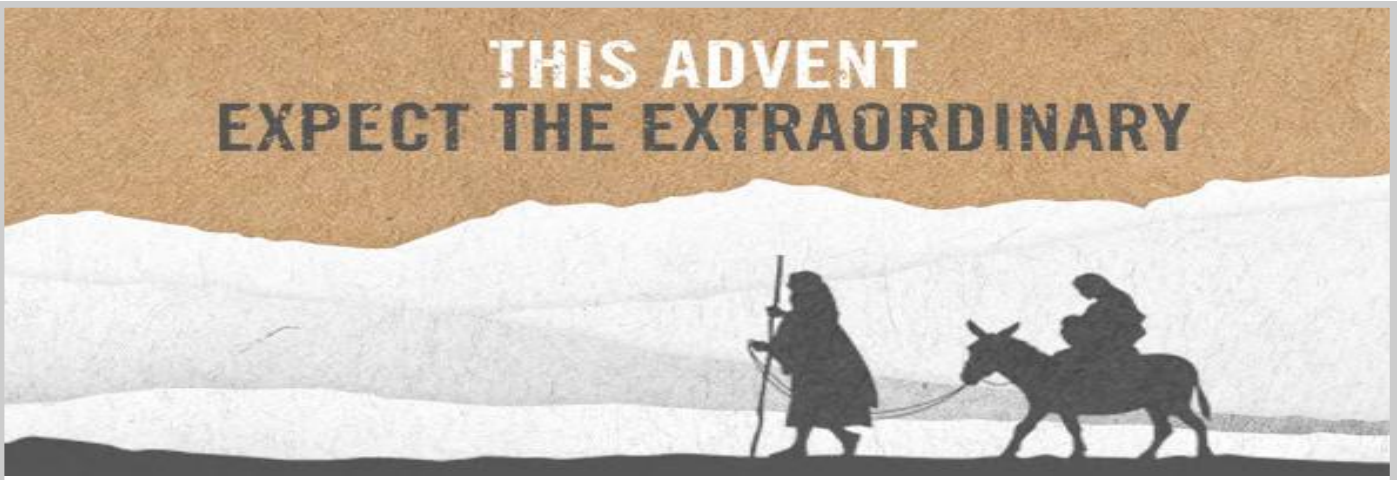
Why did the turkey join the band? - Because he had drumsticks!

How does good King Wenceslas like his pizza? - Deep pan, crisp and even!

What did Adam say to his wife the day before Christmas? -
It's Christmas, Eve!

What athlete is the warmest in winter? - A long jumper!

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent Calendars? - Because their days are numbered!




**The 'REAL ADVENT' Calendar - by TEARFUND**

This advent why not use the precious days before Christmas to prepare your heart and mind?

Every day, in the run up to Christmas, Tearfund will send you a short video, prayer or inspiring reflection. Their hope is that each message helps you to reflect and be uplifted during this special time, encouraging you and stirring you as we celebrate together the joyous season of Jesus' birth.

To sign up to receive these daily messages, visit the Tearfund website by searching 'Christmas with Tearfund' and enter your email address.

**MELTHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER - ADVENT DISCUSSION GROUP**

Led by Rev. Nancy Ndoho

We will meet in the lounge of the Methodist Church on Wednesday's

5th, 12th & 19th December.

10.45am - 12.00pm (approximately)

For further information please call Nancy - 01484 975778

**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**

St Mary's will this year be joining in on the reverse advent calendar scheme.

For the month of December, each day you add an item into a box / bag and then just before Christmas, donate the contents to a local food bank.

We would like to invite you all to join in and do something different this advent.

**WORK CARRIED OUT ALL YEAR**

Lawns cut, border maintenance, including planting,
Hedges trimmed, trees / shrubs pruned, fencing (Autumn / Winter), patios, wood chipping, weed killing.
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Thank you - Andrew

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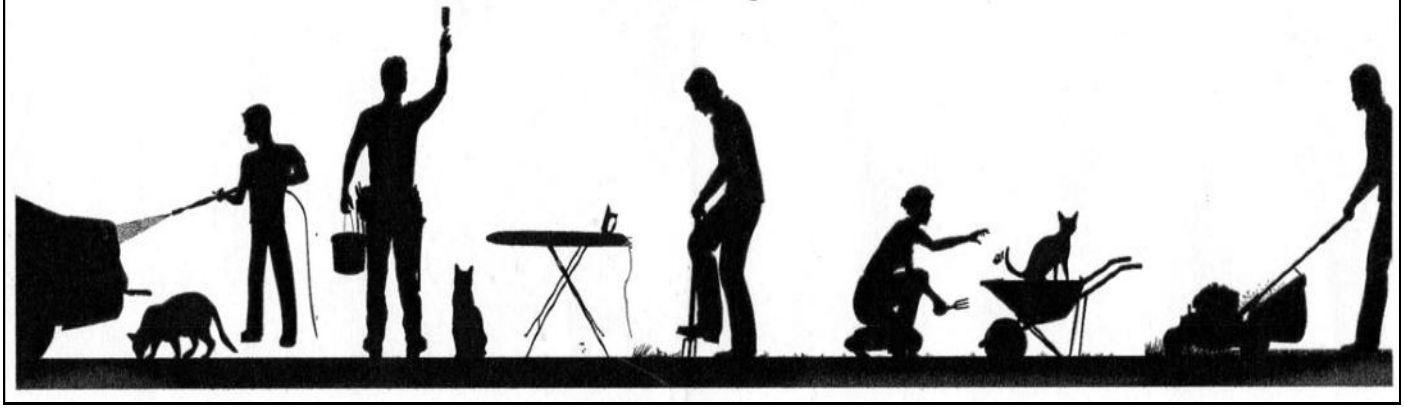


Dear Reader,

If you, or anyone you know, will be alone on Christmas Day, or who won't be having a dinner for any reason, then please contact us as soon as possible. We warmly invite anyone who would like to join us at Meltham Parish Church Hall for lunch on Christmas Day.

Catering will be by Helen & Kristi (who used to have the Foxhole, but have now moved on) and will include a two course meal, served by members of their staff and volunteers, and will be completely free of charge.

Please call and let us know if you wish to attend, as we need to know numbers for catering.

DON'T BE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS!

For more information or to book your place, please call Pam Murgatroyd - 01484 349857 / 07761 393502 or call in and speak to Chris Smith at The Crossroads Centre.

# National Candle Lighting

For any-one who has lost a child

## St Mary's, Wilshaw

Wilshaw Road (B6107) HD9 4DZ

Dear Friend

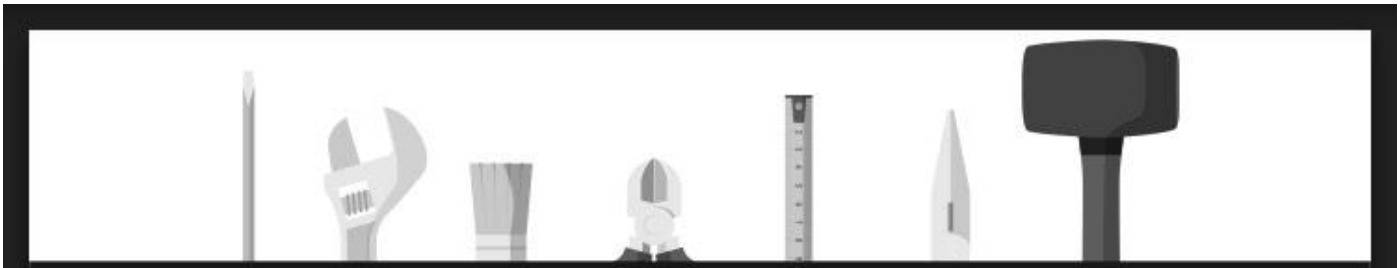
You are invited to

a Service of Remembering and Sharing.

For parents who have suffered the loss of a child of any age and from any cause. Siblings, grandparents, family and friends are also welcome.

On: Sunday, December 9th, 2018 at:6.30pm

Contact Jacqueline on 01484 663867 for further details



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**Thank you to everyone who came to our Remembrance Day Service and helped to honour those who have died for our country.**

**It was wonderful to see and hear approximately 400 people attend and remember those who gave their lives for our today.**

**We pray for the soldiers who are still fighting today, and pray protection and peace overt them.**

## UNITED REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

It was 100 years to the day since the armistice was signed, bringing WW1 to an end. So at 11.00am on the 11th day, of the 11th month, a packed church observed a 2 minute silence as we remembered on those who had died in this terrible conflict. The service took place at St Bartholomew's Church and was led by Rev John Dracup. Prior to the service parade, marshalled by Peter Foden, and led by by Meltham & Meltham Mills Band took place, arriving at the church at 10.45am. Rev John Dracup and Rev John Radcliffe, received the flags and wreaths at the beginning of the service and Rev John Radcliffe gave the talk. Cllr Terry Lyons read the lessons, Simon Ball was the organist and St Bartholomew's choir were in good voice. Meltham & Meltham Mills Band accompanied some of the hymns and led the singing of the National Anthem.

As well as members of all 7 church communities, there were representatives of the scouts and guides, various community groups, Meltham Town Council and the Royal British Legion at the service.

Rev John Dracup and Rev Judy Kenworthy read out the names on the War Memorials and Rev Nancy Ndoho led the prayers and led the Act of Commitment. Following the service the wreaths were laid at the War Memorial before the parade returned to Carlile Street car park for dismissal. Refreshments were served in the Church Hall after the service.

## ST MARY'S REPORT

We also held a Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church, 2pm, to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.

Rev Judy led the service and it was good to welcome members of the Royal British Legion and also Mr Alwyn Dewhirst who spoke about members of his own family involved in the World War. Judith Moore and John Andrews read the lessons and Elizabeth played the organ. John Fox was the standard bearer and Peter Foden laid the poppy wreath on the memorial during the Act of Remembrance.

Many people brought pictures of their relatives who were involved in WW1 and these were laid on a display table on the front of the church. The music group played "Make me a channel of your peace", as this took place and Jacqueline offered prayers.

St Mary's choir and musicians are now rehearsing for some special services in December, especially the Candle Lighting Service for anyone who has lost a child on Sunday 9th December, 6.30pm and for our Carol service, 16th December at 6.00pm.

You are all most welcome to join us and may we take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas as we remember, once more, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## GOOSE PIMPLES AND MOIST EYES

It all arose from a chance remark 2 to 3 years ago by Peter Murgatroyd to Andrew Johnson, almost a throw away line,"Andrew The Centenary of WW1 is not far away and you write and produce plays, why not do one based on the Meltham soldiers who lost their lives?" The result was that Andrew did just that.

He had the book written by local man Michael Nolan titled "In Search of a Memory" subtitled " The Meltham Memorial to the Dead of the First World War." With the help of this gem of a book he produced the play "Trench Ghost" featuring some of the names, families and occupations of the local lads who lost their lives in this most horrific war. The play was performed in The Parish Church Hall to good audiences on 4 evenings over the period 7th-10th November, by the Meltham Stage Players. Authentic uniforms and period dress for both the soldiers and their loved ones, shell fire and fog was created to give the play added atmosphere. The play followed the lives of 3 or 4 families with flash backs then and now and "the ghosts" of their departed sons.

Friends encouraged friends to join up, not many wanted to miss out on the big adventure. Many enrolled with that jingoistic approach and then told their wives or mothers what they had done, reassuring them that they fully expected to be back by Christmas. Young wives with toddlers were left to cope and at various times as this amazing play developed, the dreaded telegram was received.
The regime of army and trench life with orders being relayed to the men in the front line to advance, hold or pull back was well portrayed. Lads peering over the trench sand bags and ready for combat was all part of the play, which also introduced an exchange of greetings, soldier to soldier with the enemy on Christmas Day. (Never ever repeated on subsequent Christmas Days) The play included lines from some of the well known war poems read by the narrator, which blended well into the play. The tedium and camaraderie of army life was well acted as was the need to follow orders. If you grumble do this with your buddies. Few people would leave the performances without feeling the goose pimples or moist eyes. Handkerchiefs were useful.
A thoroughly professional enjoyable play performed by amateurs. Credit to all involved, players, back stage and front of house. A play that was well received and talked about in glowing terms. If you missed it you were unfortunate. It warrants a rerun at some appropriate time in the future.
Please let the MSP know how much you enjoyed it.

P.S Michael Nolan's book may still be available ISBN978-0-9930059-0-9 or contact him direct. I'm sure he won't mind.

Thanks for the pleasure
John and Celia Mitchell

---

### In Palestine

In Palestine, on Holy Night,
a shining light, a wonderous sign,
for God divine, made yours and mine,
by humble birth, and life on earth,
in Palestine.

### Christmas

When the holly bears it's berries,
and Winter comes, and snow;
So Christmas bring fulfillment ,
of God's promise long ago.

- poems by Jack Yates

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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

Max David Hill

## Funerals - May they rest in peace

Michael Wilton

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)

Marriages and Baptisms, to be arranged : Ring **(01484) 850050** or email: parishofchristtheking@gmail.com


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## Helme Hall

have their Christmas Service
On Thursday
20th December, 2.00pm
in the Church

All are welcome

## Greenacres

**Songs of Praise**
Tuesday 11th December
At 1.30pm
(Carol Service)

**All are welcome**

(There will be no Holy Communion service this month due to Christmas)

## Bell House

have their Holy Communion service on
Wednesday 5th December
at 10.30am
In the Lounge

All are welcome

## Daily Prayers in the Parish:

Monday's 9.30am -
Christ Church, Helme

Tuesday's 9.30am - St Mary's

Wednesday's 10.00am -
MCT
Prayer at St Bartholomew's

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## Growth & Development Evening

This months meeting will be on
**Wednesday 5th December**
7.30pm - 9.00pm
at **THE VICARAGE.**

Everyone is welcome!

Church Growth

# HELME LADIES

Our speaker on the 9th October was John Mitchell, whose talk was titled 'Double Identity'.

John spoke about people who took on the identity of others, especially in wartime to confuse spies and informers in order to protect important people. He also told us he has an identical twin brother and how they could trick people with their identity who didn't know the difference. One case, for example, was when his brother asked him to take his date out, well you can understand that relationship didn't last, John's personality was different to his brothers and therefore not successful.

They also had identical twin girl cousins in the family, so it was very eye catching when the four of them were together. They went through cubs and scouts together and they dressed alike because they liked the same things. In later life they could meet up and find they were dressed alike even though they hadn't spoken to each other beforehand. I find that so weird and think there must be something supernatural between them. However, it could also work against them when someone would speak to them as if they were the other, and you don't know who they are and they had to explain to them that you have a twin brother.

It was an enjoyable and extremely amusing evening, John is a great speaker who can definitely keep you entertained.

October 23rd was the date of our annual auction, it is a fun way to raise some cash for our charities. The table was filled with goodies and we awaited our double act, as no auction can proceed without them. I mean of course Margaret and Dorothy, the famous duo. Dorothy is very good at modelling as well as being hilarious. This year we had a fascinator, evening bags and jewellery, among other objects. Whilst you are laughing, and before you know it, Margaret extracts your cash wielding a rolling pin as a gavel. This year we had some food in the shape of chicken and mushroom pies, and Christmas Puddings, made by one of the ladies, these went under the rolling pin and were snapped up quickly. There were also some books on sale, so after all the totting up we added £55 to our charity cash. We ended the evening with our usual tea and biscuits and all remarked what a wonderful time we had had.

It was with great anticipation that Helme Ladies met on 6th November. The day of the battle was upon us, the challenge was to be the winner of the Barbara Quarmby Memorial Cup. Contenders took up their positions, all at the ready, tools and equipment in place to fight it out in that great (soon to be Olympic) sport of flower arranging.

The battle commenced, the look of concentration on the ladies faces as flowers, leaves and bits of conifer flew in all directions. Scissors snipped, candles were produced and queries of 'would you like some of my conifer or a flower'. Soon the arrangements took shape and I had the awful task of deciding who was the winner.

While tea and coffee was sipped and biscuits crunched, I prowled around the arrangements trying to pick out one that was above the rest. I decided upon Joan's arrangement, not because it was better than the others (they were all excellent), but I liked it best. Joan was presented with the cup and I just hope I don't have to leave town over my decision!

Well done to all - Hazel

*Come,*

*rejoice and be merry!*

*Join us for some festive fun, singing all your favourite carols.*

*7.30pm*

*onwards*

**Meltham Churches Together**
**'Praying with and for our community'**

In December we will be praying Wednesday's, 10.00 - 10.30am:

**5th - St Mary's**
**12th - Quaker**
**19th - Christ Church**

**All welcome!**
Please note ALL services are held in St Bartholomew's Church

## 200 Club

**NOVEMBER winners were:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **608** | **£50** | **Mr J Bamforth** |
| **743** | **£10** | **Mrs H Brearly** |
| **561** | **£10** | **Mr B Gregory** |
| **712** | **£10** | **Mr D Earnshaw** |
| **544** | **£10** | **Mrs R Murray-Webster** |

There are still several vacancies in the 200 Club. If you would like to become a member& support the Church Hall, please contact D. Earnshaw, C. Moulson or M. Farrell

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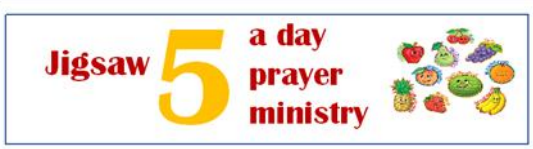


Praise God for answered prayer!

We at Jigsaw would like to thank you all for your prayers, which are bringing God's power and helping to build up so many lives. For updates and to see how our prayers are being answered, please visit jigsawkidsministries.org

We would also like to share our 5 a Day Prayers for the Month:

- YALE is our 'young adult life empowerment ministry,' please pray for Ver a very needy child whose family were homeless and recently found a small house for. YALE ministry is trying to help him find a job but finding it a difficult as he has no experience or qualifications to offer and is illiterate, but his family are in desperate need for money to eat and for housing etc. Please pray God will open a door for Ver.
- Please pray for the Madella family who have had to 'pawn/sell' their house due to debt and are now homeless, that God will help Jigsaw to find a place for them to live and help support and build up their lives physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.
- Please pray for Yvon from our ladies sewing ministry she has been three weeks with a fever and her family are struggling to find enough money to eat, please pray for healing and a quick recovery for Yvon.
- Please pray for Jestoni who has epilepsy he had a severe and serous epileptic attack in a Jigsaw kids club which was dangerous for him and which scared the staff and left them not knowing how to help. We are now looking ways how to help Jestoni further, please pray for ways forward and safety for Jestoni. Please also pray for; Christian, Miguel, Jolyan, Calvin, Christina and Mary Ann who are all very sick. Thank you.
- Please pray for Jigsaw as they plan for this Christmases 20+ Christmas parties where we share a hot meal, games and the GOOD NEWS of the birth of Jesus the saviour with over 1500 children and young people. Please pray for the planning and practicalities that we can find space in each community to carry out all the parties and that we will have the funds and resources that we need.

Thank you all! God's love from everyone at Jigsaw

## MELTHAM LIBRARY

## VOL_NTEERS - We need 'U'

We are looking for volunteers, aged 16+, any amount of time, no experience required, training provided.

If you're interested, please call in the Library for more information.

Situated in the Carlile Institute.

Support this great community service - Use it or lose it!

## Remembrance at Christmas

by Pam Murgatroyd

Now Poppy Day's over,
but we won't forget,
For that's what Remembrance means.
The men who we lost in pointless wars
And most were not out of their teens.

Now with Christmas approaching with so much haste,
The shops are so full of delights.
We visit each village near our home town,
Comparing the trees and the lights.

We try to decide on what gifts to buy
For friends and for family as well.
Something that they don't already possess,
A secret for no one to tell.

But that's not what Christmas is really about,
It's not about presents and such.
It was a birth over two thousand years ago
Of a baby, who all hearts would touch.

He was born on that very first Christmas Day,
Like a miracle we'd never seen,
And we don't forget what He does for us,
Because that's what Remembrance means.

A few from Denis A…

Just saying - My ability to remember all the words and songs in all the G&S parts I played by far exceed my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen!

You should always remind yourself that when you talk to your missus that this conversation will be recorded for training and quality purposes.

I went into W.H.Smiths and asked the assistant “Do you have a book called ‘Husband - Master of the House’?” The sales assistant replied, “Yes sir, Fiction and Comics are on the 1st Floor”.

And just a little request - Would the person who took my stepladder yesterday please bring it back... or further steps will be taken!

People may forget what you said, what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

To All, wishing you a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas!

**Coffee Morning & Christmas Fayre**

Saturday 1st December, 9.30am - 4.00pm in the Church Hall

Stalls include Tombola, Preserves, Crafts, Cards and Paintings.

Refreshments will be served day - Mince Pies & Mulled Wine available.

Also a visit from Honley Male Voice Choir and from 12.00pm Laurel & Hardy, plus other old movies, will be shown.

~

At 4.00pm there will be Carols in St Bartholomew's Church and then the Christmas Lights are to be switched on at 4.45pm, followed by a Family Fun Night in the Church Hall at 7.00pm

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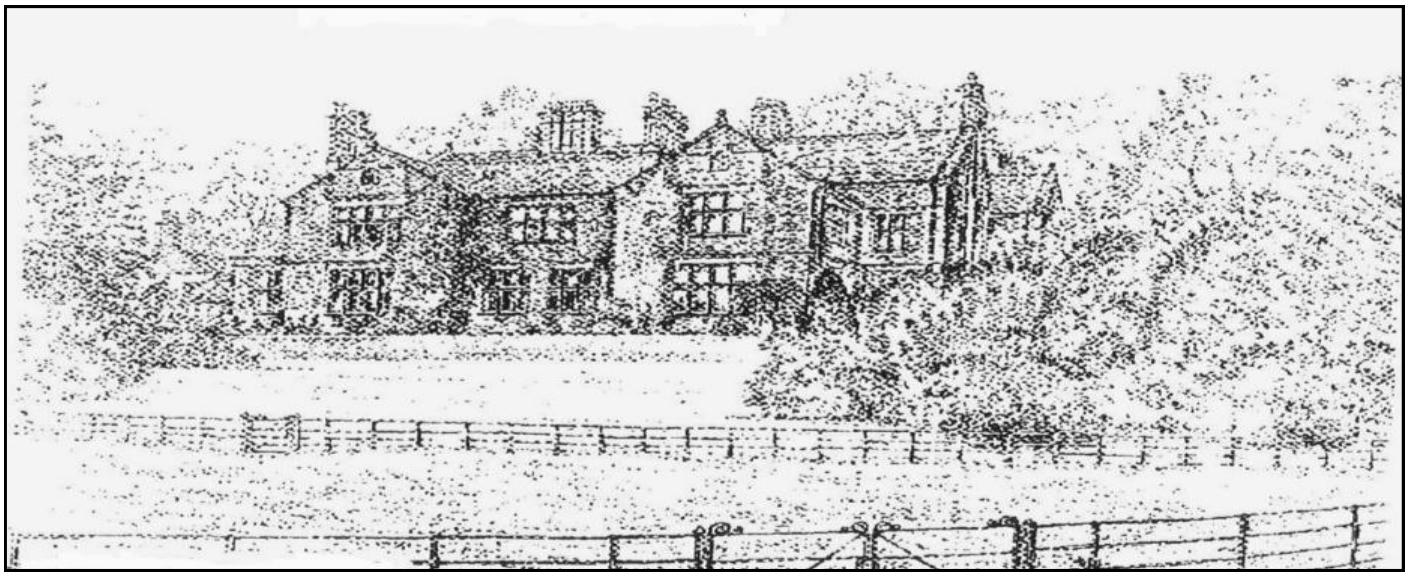
# HELME HALL CARE HOME



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# *Singing for Health*

Come and join us Thursday's 1.30 - 3.00pm

Starting **Thursday 10th January 2019** at **The Carlile Institute, Huddersfield Road, HD9 4AE** in the Jubilee Room (upstairs via the lift)

We aim to: sing songs new and old, improve our health, meet new people, have a tea break, provide a supportive environment.

Everyone is welcome - we would also be grateful for any volunteers who would like to come along.

Contact Kate Buchanan: katebuchanan57@gmail.com / tel 07780 548689

Singing for Health is a new group led by Kate Buchanan who is a dementia friend and leads Meltham Community Choir. It is for anyone who needs a bit of a lift and some positive input in their life. It's been proven that singing can improve health both physically and mentally. You might be going through a difficult time, experiencing poor health or living with or supporting someone with dementia. A voluntary of contribution of £2 is suggested.

## OASIS

**A Quiet Day for Advent**

Thursday 13th December at St James' Church, Meltham Mills

Tea & Coffee served from 10.00am. The day will end at 3.00pm

Please bring your own packed lunch… hot drinks will be available

The day will include some music, some words, some images, all chosen with care to encourage us to pause, pray and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, but mostly there will be Peace.

There is no obligation to stay all day.

Just 'Come and See'.

For more information please contact Jenny Mathers - 01484 859830

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S - DECEMBER 2018 ROTA

| DATE | ALTAR FLOWERS | SIDESPERSONS | COFFEE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2nd | Advent Flowers | Mrs M Thorley<br>Mrs J Hilton | Mrs C Moulson<br>Mrs M Ball |
| 9th | Advent Flowers | Mrs M Hardy<br>Mrs E Crabtree | Mrs C Mitchell<br>Mrs V Poole |
| 16th | Advent Flowers | Mr J Mitchell<br>Mrs C Mitchell | Mrs M Thorley<br>Mr B Wordsworth |
| 23rd | Christmas Flowers | Mrs B Jennings<br>Mrs F Whittacker | Mrs C Ward<br>Mrs J Collison |
| 24th (11.30pm) | Christmas Flowers | Mr A Ball<br>Mrs M Ball | —- |
| 25th | Christmas Flowers | Mr R Styan<br>Mrs P Maffin | —- |
| 30th | Christmas Flowers | Mrs P Murgatroyd<br>Mrs C Woodroffe | Mrs E Radcliffe<br>Mrs J Gilleard |

## ST MARY'S - DECEMBER 2018 ROTA

| Date | Service | Readings | Prayers |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2nd | 11.15am | John | Jacqueline |
| 9th | 11.15am | Shirley | Kim |
| | 6.30pm<br>Bereaved Parents Service | N/A | N/A |
| 16th | 11.15am | John | Jacqueline |
| | 6.00pm<br>Carol Service | N/A | N/A |
| 23rd | 11.15am | John | Jacqueline |
| 25th | 11.15am | John | Kim |
| 30th | PARISH COMMUNION - ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, 9.30AM | | |

## ST JAMES' ROTA - DECEMBER 2018

| Date | Service | Preacher/ Leader | Sides-people | Reader | Coffee |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2nd | S of W 9.30am | J Dracup | A Whiteley S Glover | R Whiteley | A & R Whiteley |
| | CAROLS IN THE PARK - 4.00PM (ALL HANDS ON BOARD) | | | | |
| 9th | HC 9.30am | D Shields | | D Leach | |
| | 5Alive 5.00pm | | | Team | J & C Burhouse |
| 16th | S of W 9.30am | C Rolls | A Whiteley S Glover | A Whiteley | T & C Bleasdale |
| 23rd | HC 9.30am | J Dracup | S&N Preistley A Pearson | J Mathers | D Leach D Still |
| 24th | Crib Service 4.00pm | | J Burhouse M Lucas | | |
| 25th | HC 9.30am | P Rolls | J & C Burhouse | R Walker | N/A |
| 30th | PARISH COMMUNION - ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, 9.30AM | | | | |

## CHRIST CHURCH ROTA - DECEMBER 2018

| Date | Flowers | Intercessions | Side Person | Altar Server | Coffee | Reader |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2nd | Monica | Clergy | Kevin (Jenny) | Janet | Eileen & Sheila | Moyra |
| 9th | Cyril | Clergy | Kevin (Eileen) | Christine | Janet | Eileen |
| 16th | Pat | Clergy | Kevin | Jenny | Christine | Tracy |
| 23rd | Cyril | Clergy | Kevin (Janet) | Janet | Moyra | Pat |
| 25th 10.00am | Christmas Flowers | Clergy | Eileen | Janet | N/A | Janet |
| 30th | PARISH COMMUNION - ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, 9.30AM | | | | | |

## READINGS IN THE PARISH - DECEMBER 2018

| Date | 1st Reading | Gospel |
|---|---|---|
| 2nd | Jeremiah 33.14-16 | Luke 21.25-36 |
| 9th | Malachi 3.1-4 | Luke 3.1-6 |
| 16th | Zephaniah 3.14-end | Luke 3.7-18 |
| 23rd | Micah 5.2-5a | Luke 1.39-45 |
| 25th | Isaiah 9.2-7 | Luke 2.1-14 |

## SERVICES IN THE PARISH - DECEMBER 2018

| Date | St Bartholomew's | St James | Christ Church | St Mary's |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2nd | HC<br>9.30am | S of W<br>9.30am | HC<br>11.15am | S of W<br>11.15AM |
| 9th | HC<br>9.30am | HC / 5Alive<br>9.30am / 5.00pm | S of W<br>11.15am | HC / Candle Lighting<br>11.15am / 6.30pm |
| 16th | HC<br>9.30am | S of W / Med<br>9.30am | HC<br>11.15am | S of W / Carols<br>11.15am / 6.00pm |
| 23rd | Nativity & Carols<br>4.00pm | HC<br>9.30am | S of W<br>11.15am | HC<br>11.15am |
| 24th | Midnight Communion<br>11.30pm | Crib Service<br>4.00pm | — | — |
| 25th | HC<br>9.30am | HC<br>9.30am | HC<br>10.00am | HC<br>11.15am |
| 30th | PARISH COMMUNION - ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, 9.30AM | | | |

## Before the Paling of the Stars

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cock crow,
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world his hands had made,
Born a stranger.

Priest and king lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem;
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem;
Saint and angel, ox and ass,
Kept a watch together
Before the Christmas daybreak,
In the winter weather.

Jesus on his mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless lamb of God was he,
Shepherd of the fold:
Let us kneel with Mary maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With saint and angel, ox and ass,
To hail the King of Glory.

-By Christina Georgina Rossetti

---

*Meltham & Meltham Mills Band*

*Christmas Concert*

Friday 14th December, 7.30pm

St Bartholomew's Church

Tickets £8.00

Available from The Flower Box, any member of the band,
by calling 01484 348571 or pay on entry at the door.

# CHURCH HALL DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

***Please note - ALL bookings for the Church Hall MUST be made with Beverley Hirst on 07518 920214 / bhirst530@btinternet.com***

## WEEKLY BOOKINGS: *EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Every Monday | G&S Rehearsal | 7.30pm |
| Every Tuesday | Pilates | 10.00am |
| | 'Good as Gold' with Pam Cox | 2.00pm |
| | Slimming World | 5.30 and 7.30pm |
| Every Wednesday | Zumba Gold | 10.00am |
| Every Friday | Baby Sensory | 10.00am |
| | G&S Rehearsal | 7.30pm |

## MONTHLY BOOKINGS: *EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Tuesday | Women's Institute | 7.30pm |
| 2nd Wednesday | Flower Club | 7.00pm |
| 1st & 3rd Thursdays | Cloverleaf Club | 1.00 - 3.00pm |
| 2nd Thursday | Over 60's Club | 2.00pm |
| Last Tuesday | Women's Fellowship | 7.30pm |

## SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS - Doors open 9.30am

| | |
|---|---|
| 8th December | Meltham Scouts |
| 15th | Meltham Catholics |
| 22nd | Church Hall |

## OTHER BOOKINGS:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st December | Christmas Market & Light Switch On | 10.00am - 4.00pm |
| 3rd | Crossroads Christmas Party | 6.30pm |
| 6th | Hospice Lunch | 10.30am |
| 9th | Lauren Faye Christmas Show | 10.00am |
| 12th | Flower Club Christmas Workshop | 7.15pm |
| 31st | New Year's Eve Party | 7.30pm |

DIMPS

*by Ville*

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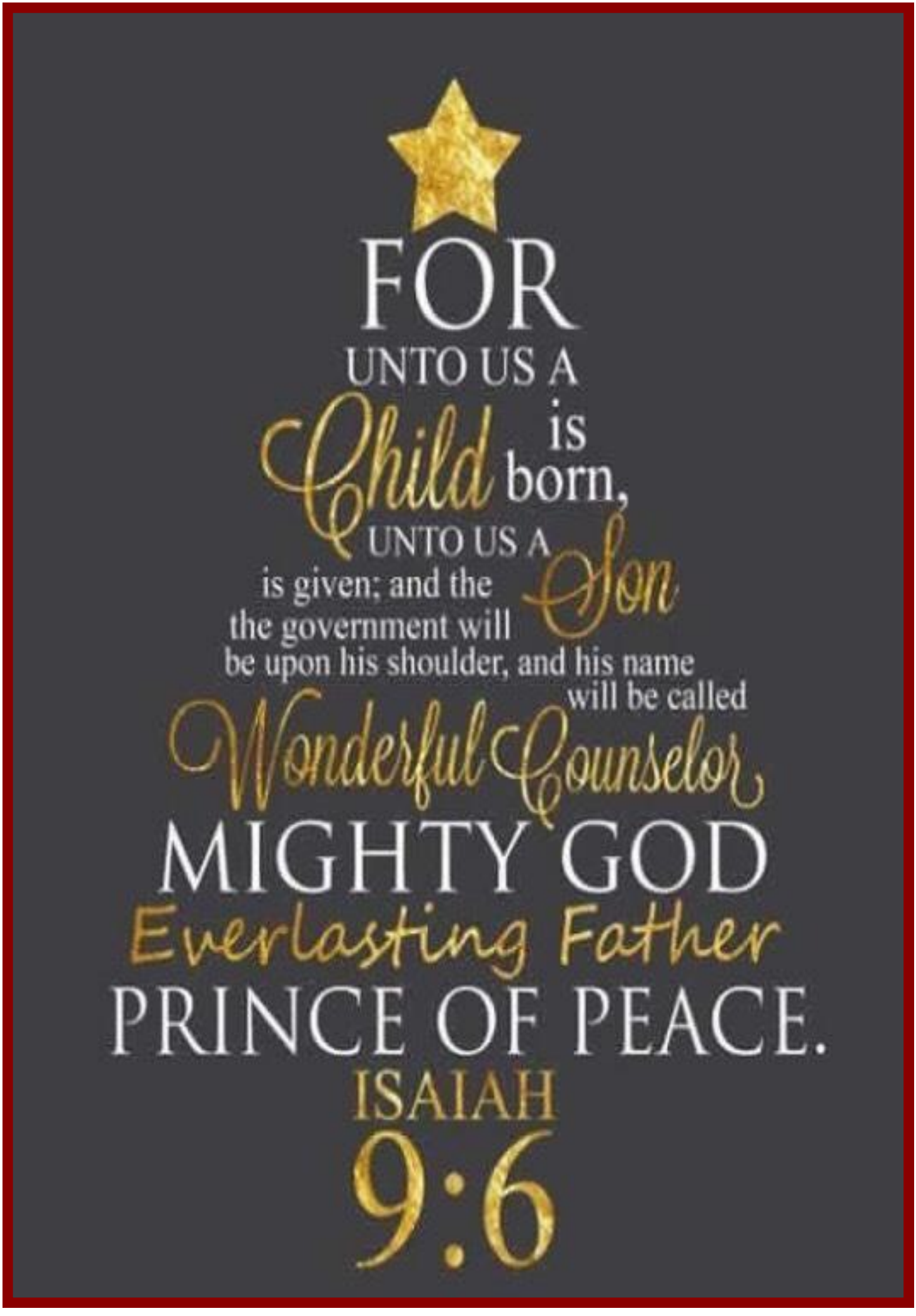
FOR
UNTO US A
Child is born,
UNTO US A
Son
is given; and the
the government will
be upon his shoulder, and his name
will be called
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MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE.
ISAIAH
9:6