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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

As you read this letter you will probably be expecting me to say something about how well Christmas has gone. Unfortunately, at the point of writing this, Christmas is still two weeks away and I must admit that January is a bit difficult to think about right now.

However, there is one thing that I already have on my mind for the new year. It is my intention to run a course called "Journeys". As this course uses a video it will be held in St James Church so that we can use their screen and I hope to begin it on Monday 28th January, running for 5 weeks 7:00-8:30pm.

Journeys was produced as an evangelistic course, but it works a little differently from some other courses. It aims to help people to find and explore good questions rather than telling them what they should believe. I believe that if we can find the right questions then we are a long way towards finding the right answers, and that with prayer we can trust God to deal with the rest.

Having been involved in running this course previously I have found that it has helped me to understand my own faith in a deeper and more personal way. It has also (and this is the main reason for running it this time) helped me to put my own faith into words and therefore, it has been important in helping me to learn how to tell other people about my faith.

I am very keen to encourage everyone to tell people about Jesus. I believe that this is the greatest gift we can ever give to anyone and that it is at the core of what God is calling us to do as Christians. But I understand that telling people about Jesus, sharing your faith, is not something that comes naturally to everyone in fact the very idea of evangelism is out right scary to most of us. So, I hope that creating a safe space for us to begin to talk about Jesus together will be a way that this course might help you as it has helped me.

Why come to Journeys?

To find out about Jesus.

To explore and deepen your own personal faith.

To begin to learn how to put your faith into words.

I really hope you will be able to come along and join in with Journeys, and I pray that you will get a great deal out of it.

Happy New Year!

God Bless

Revd John



Come and join us for lunch at Christ Church, Helme!

Saturday 12th January 2019

12.00 – 2.00pm

Tickets £8.00pp

We will be serving:

Pies, peas & pudding!

(Vegetarian option available on request)

Followed by

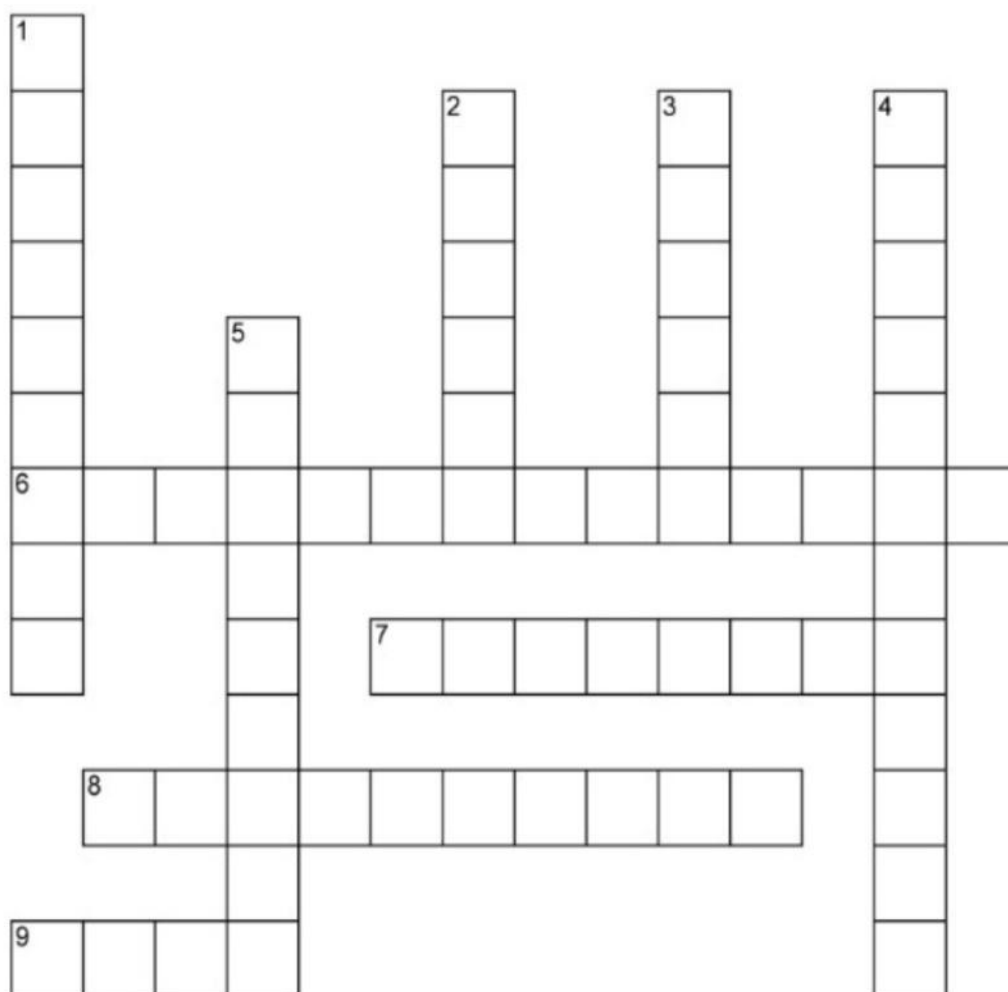
Tea & Coffee

For tickets or more information, please contact:

Irene Harrop – 664163 / Janet Rockett – 851424

Christian Church Calendar

Liturgical Year



ACROSS

- 6** Thursday before Easter; remembers the Last Supper
- 7** Celebrates the magi's visit to see the newborn Christ
- 8** Remembers the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus
- 9** Forty day period of fasting and prayer before Easter

DOWN

- 1** Celebrates the birth of Jesus
- 2** Four weeks before Christmas; time of preparing for the birth of Christ
- 3** Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead
- 4** The time between holidays
- 5** Remembers the coming of the Holy Spirit; Fifty days after Easter

Answers on Page 17

More puzzles can be found at www.churchhousepuzzles.com

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Cassie Barlow
on
01484 768346.

Testimony Time...

God honours children's faith... and teaches Dad a lesson.

This story goes back about 25 years, when we were a fairly broke young family. As a dad I loved sailing and still do. One year, I'd managed to scrape together enough money to hire a yacht to take our 3 eldest children, roughly aged 10, 8 and 6, sailing on the Norfolk Broads for 5 days.

By working hard and sailing all day, we hadn't the money to do anything else anyway, we had just enough time to sail down to Great Yarmouth. Then across Brayden water, a 5 mile long stretch that is the highlight of a Broads sailing holiday, before returning to the boatyard.

To do this you have to arrive at Great Yarmouth at low tide, then wait an hour or two for the tide to change and leave on a rising tide.

We were about 2 miles up stream approaching Great Yarmouth, when tacking the boat I got too close to the opposite bank and ran aground on a mud bank. As the tide is still falling with a bit a quick work, if you are lucky you have about 10 minutes to get the boat off. We unfortunately did not manage it, and were firmly stuck. Three very disappointed children were told "sorry we are stuck here for at least 5 hours, and this means we will not be able to cross Brayden water". My offer that we would settle down, get some sleep and then I would take them out in Great Yarmouth that night was a poor substitute.

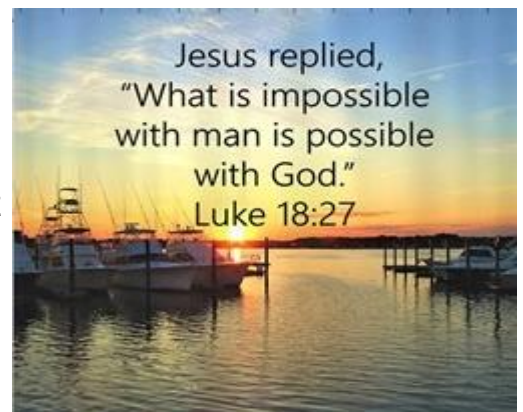
The eldest firmly said "God can rescue us, lets pray". I responded "Listen, I fully believe God has the power to turn the tide around now and lift us off the mud bank. But I don't think He is going to change the tide times all the way up the east coast of England to sort out my stupid mistake". But we prayed, although with no faith on my part. I then instructed the kids to settle down. No sooner had we done this when a loud booming voice shouting, "Do you need some help?" got us out of our sleeping bags. By now we had been aground at least half an hour and were pretty well stuck.

We got up and saw that outside of the boat was a full size, sea going, fishing boat. No commercial traffic usually uses this river, but on this occasion they were going up it to recover a historic boat for restoration. Another 15 minutes and we would have been high and dry.

Within minutes we had three strong ropes on our boat, and their powerful engines pulled us easily backwards into deeper water.

"There you are Dad I told you God could do it if we just asked!!" The rest sail across Brayden water was wonderful!

- Mike Still



WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US?!

St Bartholomew's Women's Fellowship

We meet on the last Tuesday in the month, excluding December, in St. Bartholomew's Church at 2.00pm in winter and 7.30pm in the summer.

The first part of the meeting is a short service based on Evening Prayer including two hymns, one of which is our Fellowship hymn. The service is usually led by one of our members. After the service we adjourn, either to the back of Church or go across the road to the Church Hall for the rest of the meeting, depending on the programme. This varies between a talk, a slide show, films, beetle drive or just a good natter lasting about 45 minutes, followed by tea and biscuits.

The atmosphere is relaxed and sociable. Our November meeting usually takes place at Meltham Golf Club, when we enjoy our Christmas lunch, before we get involved in the run-up to Christmas itself.

We do have outside visits and activities. We have been to the Moravian Community in Pudsey, The Bar Convent in York and celebrated our Anniversary by having afternoon tea at Bagden Hall. We do try to vary our activities and are always open to new ideas.

Our membership is not restricted to members of St. Bartholomew's congregation so if you would like to see what goes on, come along to our AGM on January 29th 2019 at 2.00pm in St. Bartholomew's and see what is on the programme for next year and hopefully join us.

- Pat Beastow, Chairman

St Bartholomew's Women's Fellowship

The January meeting of the Women's Fellowship will take place on Tuesday 29th January at 2.00pm, in the church. Followed by the Annual General Meeting.

The tea lady is Catherine Moulson.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Christmas Fayre!

Thank you to everyone for their support of the "Crisis" coffee morning!

Once again a fantastic team made up of church members past and present, Operation Christmas Child volunteers and supportive friends contributed to the success. It really is a team effort.

There was a good atmosphere with familiar and new faces visiting the event and helping us to raise £3,540 for the charity.

Funds were also raised for OCC and the Welcome Centre.

- Richard & Alison



A WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Do you know what a white elephant is?

It's a gift that is no use at all,
It might just be put in the attic,
Or worse still, be left in the hall.

It is given with best intentions,
By someone who's not given thought
To what is required by the recipient,
So something quite useless they bought.

So if you've received a white elephant,
Something you can't use at all,
Bring it along after Christmas
To our stall at the Parish Church Hall.

We'll be there on the 5th of January,
Setting up our white elephant stall,
So bring us your unwanted presents
To raise cash for the Parish Church Hall.

***JOIN US AT THE CHURCH HALL ON SATURDAY 5th JANUARY,
FOR THE FIRST COFFEE MORNING OF 2019
IN AID OF MELTHAM PARISH CHURCH HALL.***

***BRING ALL YOUR UNWANTED GIFTS FOR US TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
NEW WINDOWS IN THE CHURCH HALL... TO KEEP THE DRAUGHTS
OUT AND THE HEAT IN.!***



*If you need a lift to bring it in, give Pam a call on
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Thank you!

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Thank you - Andrew



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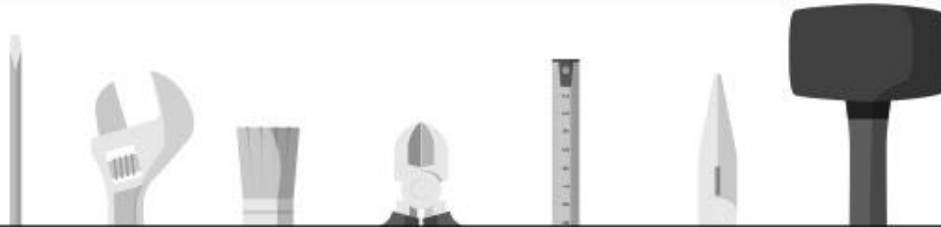
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When the alarm clock sounded that morning, I knew we were in for a busy day, mainly because we don't often set the alarm to go off since we retired. This time I knew it was for 'switch-on day', the day when Meltham would be lit up for the Christmas period.

It commenced with the St Bartholomew's Christmas Fayre in the Church Hall, with 7 stalls and refreshments being served all day. The Honley Male Voice Choir came at 11.30am to entertain us with their Christmas selection and the hall stayed full until the singers left and the raffle was drawn. We only had occasional visits by stragglers after this and by 3.45pm everyone was making their way over to church to prepare to sing carols.

By 4.50pm a crowd had gathered outside St Barts ready for the lights to be switched on and the Rev John Dracup and the Mayor, Cllr David Haigh joined forces with the winners of the Christmas Poster Competition, Erin Hooth & Isabella Ghoorbin from Meltham Moor Junior School, to prepare for the countdown. A little after 5pm, the plunger was pressed, the lights came on, a rocket went up and the church bells rang out followed by an amazing display of fireworks. Several, including myself, mopped their eyes, it was such an emotional experience and the best switch-on I had ever seen. Thank you to members of the Meltham Business Association who organised this year's Christmas Lights event and to all the volunteers who helped in putting up the lights or in any other way to make this such a great experience.

The crowds dispersed off home for tea, but I had not finished there, I had booked a DJ to come along to the church hall for a Family Fun Night starting at 7pm and although there were only about 30 of us there, we had a great night and Wayne the DJ did a magnificent job of keeping the kids going and getting the mums and dads to join in. Everyone had a great time and wanted to know when we would be doing it again!! We finished at 10pm and I am sure that the kids will have slept well after all the energy they had used up.

We arrived home at about 11pm and my feet throbbed so much but although I was really tired, I could not go straight to bed so I sat with a cuppa and watched 'Strictly' recorded from earlier while I counted the takings from the day in the hall.

We had a great day, with the takings topping £600, a fun night with some lovely families, but the highlight for me was definitely the 'Switch-On' and in the words of Craig Revell Horwood from Strictly, A M A Z I N G !!!!!!!

Thank you to the Church ladies for the daytime, Honley MVC, the MBA for the switch-on, the Bellringers for the climax and DJ Wayne Goddard for a great night.

- Pam Murgatroyd

ST MARY'S REPORT

Rev John Dracup was celebrant at a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 18th November. He spoke about how God is eternal and that whatever happens to us, as long as we put our faith in Jesus, all will be well. Jacqueline France offered our prayers and assisted with the chalice. Elizabeth Pearson was organist, John Andrews read the lessons and Peter Pearson was sidesperson. Coffee was served after the service.

On Sunday 25th November a Service of the Word was held at St Mary's. Rev Judy Kenworthy led the service as we celebrated the feast day of Christ the King. Elizabeth read the first lesson and played the organ, and Jacqueline read the Gospel and led the intercessions. Rev Judy gave the talk as we explored the question "Who is our King and what is His kingdom like?"

The following Sunday was Advent Sunday and Rev John led a service of Holy Communion at 11.15am. The first candle on the Advent wreath was lit as we remembered the patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Elizabeth was organist, Kim Howe led the prayers and assisted at the altar and Shirley Langrick read the lessons. Following the service the choir held a rehearsal for the carol service. Members also attended Carols in the Park that afternoon, down at the Robert Ashton Park, Meltham.

Sunday 9th December was another busy day with a service of Morning Worship led by Rev Judy. The second candle was lit on the Advent wreath and the theme of the service was "God's Messenger".

In the evening St Mary's hosted and led a service of remembering and sharing for anyone who has lost a child as part of the National Candle Lighting Day. This was led by Jacqueline France and those attending were able to light a candle in memory of their loved one and to find comfort in the readings and the music.

We hope you have had a happy and blessed Christmas and that 2019 will be a good one for you all.

CAROLS IN THE PARK

On Sunday 2nd December well over 300 people gathered in the Robert Ashton Park, Meltham for our annual Carols in the Park. Although it was a bit damp, it went really well and our thanks go to all who provided the sound system, mince pies, mulled wine and to the stewards who offered a warm welcome, helped us to park and kept us safe. Meltham and Meltham Mills Band played, members of all seven churches made up a choir, led by Simon Ball, and children from the local schools offered readings and songs. The narrator was Richard Whiteley and Rev Peter Rolls, and representatives of Meltham Town Council and Meltham Churches Together also read lessons. Meltham Community Choir, conducted by Cllr Kate Buchanan sang for us and Rev John Dracup gave a prayer and the blessing. The event was well attended and was a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities across the parish as we celebrate, once more, the birth of Jesus.

BELL HOUSE

Residents at Bell House enjoyed a Carol service on Wednesday 5th December. Rev Judy Kenworthy led this and took for a theme "Count Down to Christmas". Patrice Storey read the lessons as we heard about the birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds and the wise men. Rev Judy offered prayers, a nativity scene was built up as the service progressed and we sang four of our favourite carols.

A huge thank you to all involved for making Rev John Dracup's vision of a Nativity in the Centre of Meltham a reality.

Simon, Lee, and Craig worked tirelessly to create this superb "Stable" and its residents under the South wall of St. Bartholomew's Church. A special thank you to Neal Bros, Meltham Mills, particularly David, Harry & Alison, for providing the materials required to build it. Thanks, too, go to Verity, John and Gail for their loan of accessories.

It looks amazing as you come up Station Street, particularly after dark.

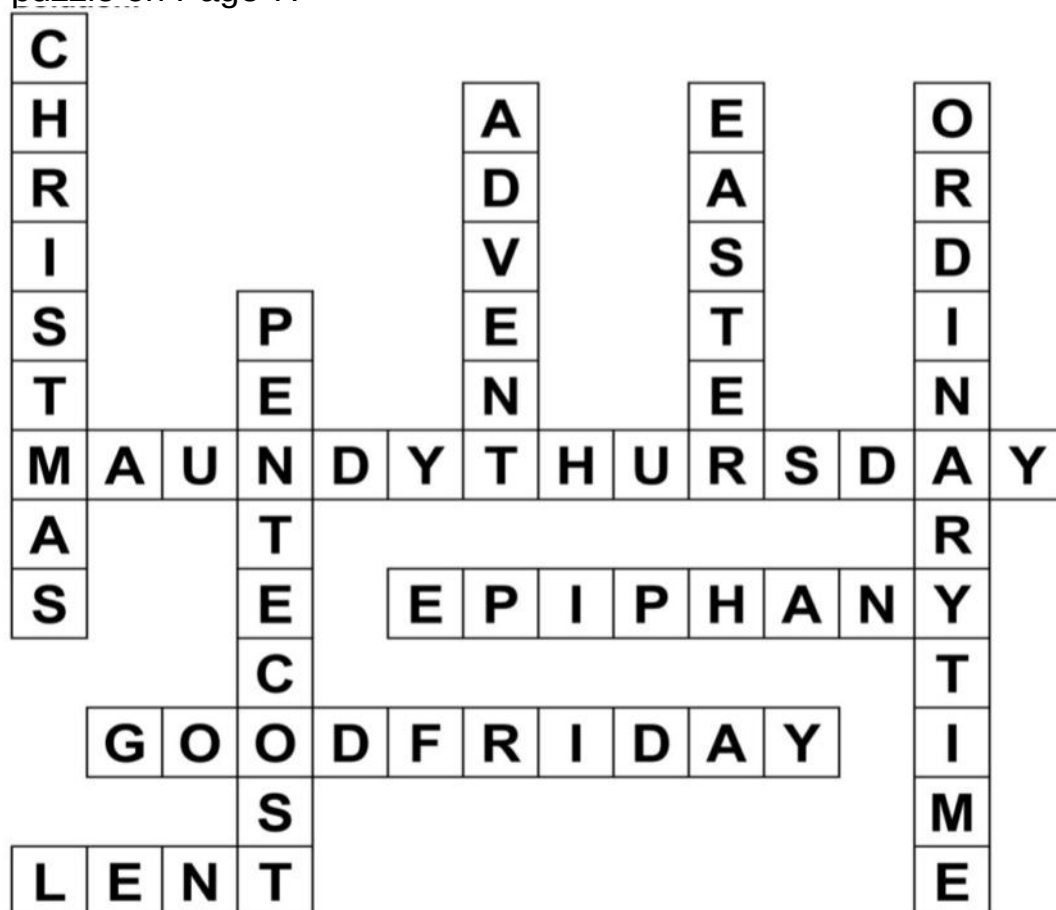
Blood, sweat, mud and prayers went into this construction, but it was all worthwhile.

THANK YOU!

- Gwynneth



Answers to puzzle on Page 7:



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms - We welcome you into the Lord's family

Bessie Farrell

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

Ben Glover & Sarah Goddard

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Ian Hepworth

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)

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Helme Hall

have their service of
Holy Communion
On Thursday
24th January, 2.00pm
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All are welcome

Greenacres

Songs of Praise
Tuesday 8th January
At 1.30pm

Holy Communion
22nd January
at 1.30pm

All are welcome

Bell House

have their Holy Communion
service on
Wednesday 2nd January
at 10.30am
In the Lounge

All are welcome



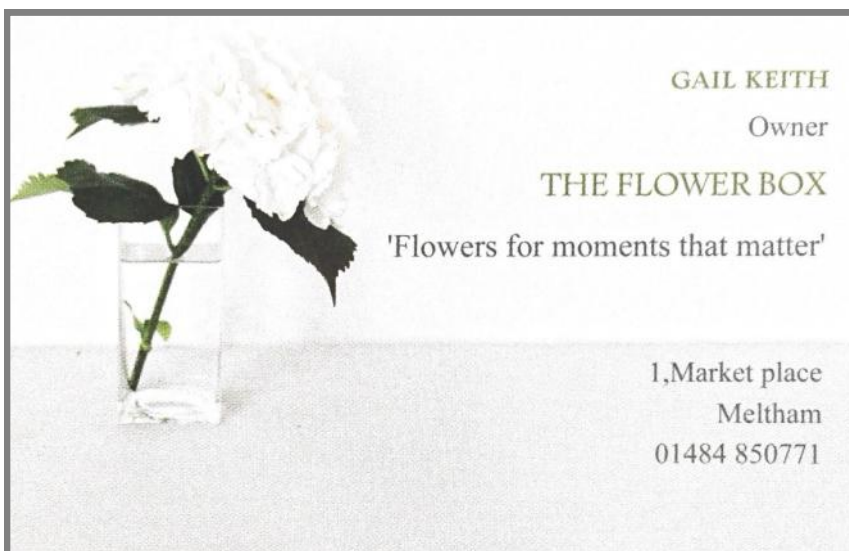
Daily Prayers in the Parish:

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

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7.30pm - 9.00pm

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Everyone is welcome!



HELME LADIES

Helme Ladies annual trip away this year was to the 'Christmas Spectacular' at Thursford. This destination is not always easy to find, coach companies don't advertise much, as it is so popular some people book year on year. We eventually got booked with Hansons for the weekend of 17th / 18th November.

We left Huddersfield on Saturday morning and soon left the murky weather behind, by the time we stopped for coffee in Chesterfield the sun was shining. It was then on to our hotel in Kings Lynn for an early dinner before boarding the coach once again to get to the venue at Thursford.

Personally, I have not been before, but I could see as soon as we arrived why it was called a spectacular. All the trees were lit with coloured lights, it was truly magical. The show itself was magical too, dancers, singers and musicians in a non-stop three-hour experience. When it was over it was back to the coach where sherry and mince pies were waiting before the drive back to our hotel.

Sunday morning, we left Kings Lynn at 9.30am to visit the Sandringham Christmas Craft Market. It was a glorious sunny morning as we mooched around the stalls (I have never seen so many Gin Palaces). We left at around 12 Noon then called at Barnby Moor for a late lunch before arriving back in Huddersfield. We all agreed that we had had a great weekend.

Our next meeting in Helme church was Tuesday 20th November to discuss the carol service and lunch. We needed volunteers for the readings in the service, for the collection, for waiting on the tables during lunch and for selling the raffle tickets. Anyone who was left were put on duty helping in the kitchen and even better, having their hands in the sink doing the washing up (guess where I'll be). We finished the evening with the usual tea and biscuits but didn't hang around long as there was no heating in the church.

Christmas has begun now that Helme Ladies have had their carol service and lunch. Tuesday 4th December dawned bright and sunny for a change, which made it better for our guests to get to church. Our service of carols and readings was led by the new vicar Rev. John Dracup and the organ was played beautifully by Jean Collison.

When you are writing the service, you can choose all your own favourite carols like Joy to the World and Tenderly Sleeping (which is a must in Meltham) and not to forget Silent Night. The readings were well read by the ladies and the whole service went very well.

Lunch was next which consisted of vegetable soup, ham or pork sandwiches, fruit crumble with cream or custard and followed by tea and coffee. The food was provided by the world famous Helme Pie Ladies which was excellent and there were no complaints from anyone. We finished the day by drawing the raffle which had many prizes, and all went home wishing each other a very Merry Christmas.



ROBIN HOOD - THE PANTOMIME

The Stage Company, Meltham, are proud to present Robin Hood, the pantomime by Chris Lane and Simon Dunn.

Come and join us for the excitement as brave Robin Hood, and Beautiful Maid Marion, pit their wits against the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham and his cronies.

Show times:

Wednesday 6th - Friday 8th February, 7.15pm

Saturday 9th February, 1.15pm and 6.30pm

At Meltham Church Hall

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Meltham Churches

Together

'Praying with and for our community'

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

2nd - Baptist

9th - St Bartholomew's

16th - Methodist

23rd - St James'

30th - Catholic

All welcome!

Please note ALL services are
held in St Bartholomew's
Church

200 Club

DECEMBER winners were:

646	£200	Mrs S. Farrell
008	£10	Mrs G. Taylor
698	£10	Mrs S. Ashton
227	£10	Mrs B. Furniss
467	£10	Mr A. Mitchell
697	£10	Mrs S. Ashton

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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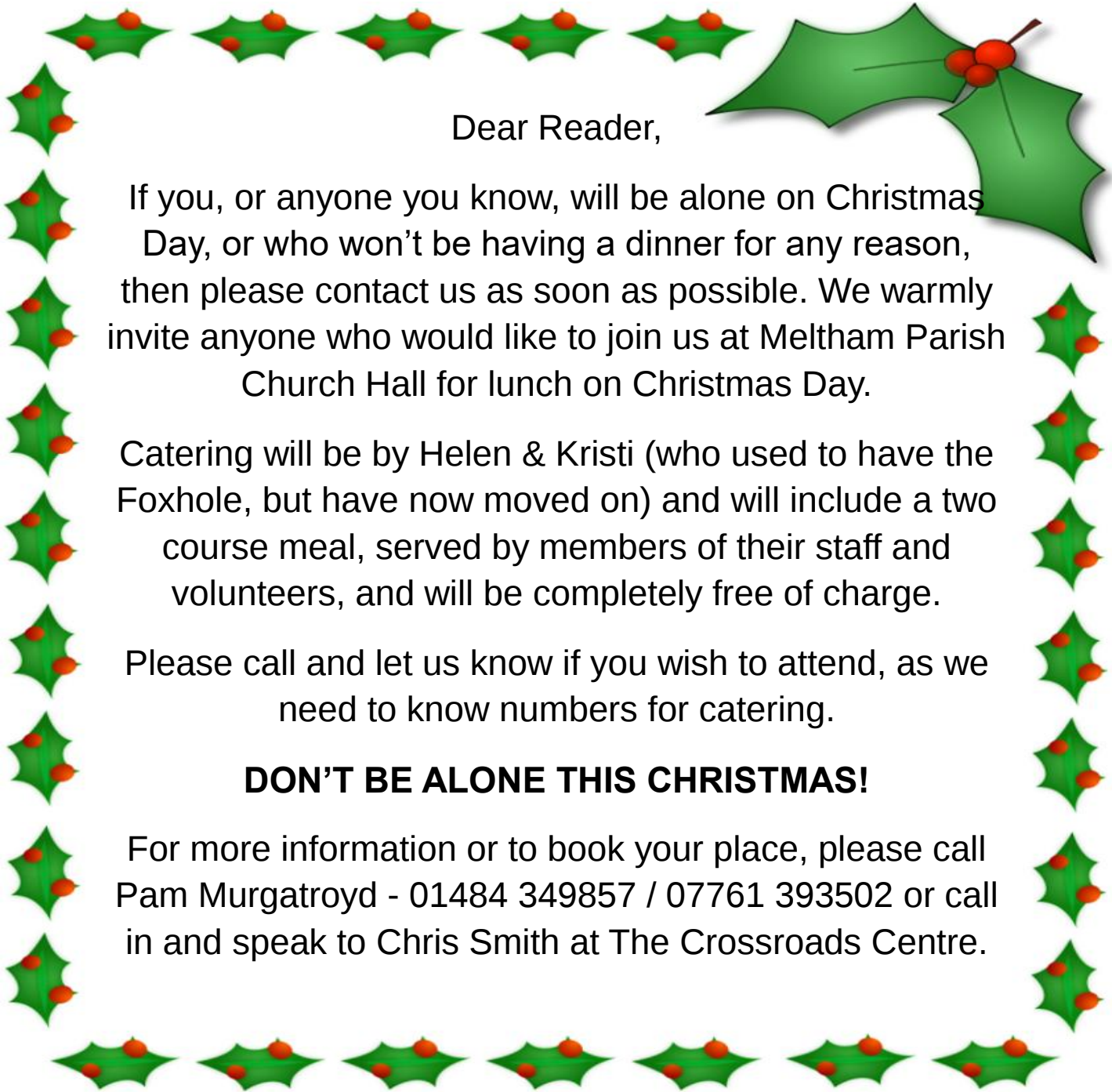
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Dear Reader,

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.

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JESUS vs. SANTA



Santa lives at the North Pole...

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney
uninvited...

**JESUS stands at your door and knocks,
and then enters your heart when invited.**

You have to wait in line to see Santa...

**JESUS is as close as the mention of His
name.**

Santa lets you sit on his lap...

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can
say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your
name?"

**JESUS knew our name before we were
born. Not only does He know our name,
He knows our address too. He knows
our history and future and He even
knows how many hairs are on our heads.**

Santa has a belly like a bowl
full of jelly...

JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"...

**JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me
for I care for you."**

Santa's little helpers make toys...

**JESUS makes new life, mends wounded
hearts, repairs broken homes and builds
mansions.**

Santa may make you chuckle but...

**JESUS gives you joy that is your
strength.**

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...

**JESUS became our gift and died on a
tree...the cross.**

We need to put Christ back in

CHRISTmas!

Jesus is still the reason for the season.

*"For God so loved the world, that He
gave His only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in Him should not
perish, but have everlasting life"*

(John 3:16).

New Year - New Services at St James'

The DCC at St James' have decided to reinstate a Morning Service every Sunday of the month.

The proposed pattern of worship will be:

First Sunday of the month - 9.30am: Service of the Word. This will be a **Family Service**, suitable for all ages. This will initially be lead by our Vicar, John.

Second Sunday - 9.30am: Holy Communion

- **5.00pm:** beginning with a shared tea at 4.30pm, our regular **5 Alive Service**.

Third Sunday - 9.30am: Service of the Word, which will be a **Service of Reflection** (formerly called Meditation) lead by Rev Peter & Christine Rolls.

Fourth Sunday - 9.30am: Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday: We shall join the whole Parish for a **Parish Communion**.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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LAY TRAINING

Leading a Nurture Group

Do you feel God may be calling you to lead a nurture group at church (e.g Small group, Home group, Bible study group, Alpha) but don't know where to start?

If so, this course may be for you.

We'll be looking at the how-to's on leading nurture groups, including how to plan, how to get going, and dealing with the challenges of leadership.

Sessions include:

- What does a leader look like?
- Why, what, where, when, who?
- Practicalities of nurture groups
- What helps us grow as Christians?
- Group dynamics - managing challenging personalities

The course runs over four sessions, the first of which is to be held at St James Church, Meltham Mills. Saturday 2nd February, 10.00am - 4.00pm.

For more information please visit www.learning.leeds.anglican.org/events or speak to Mandy Aspland

A Poor Person's Prayer

by Jack Yates

Grant us Lord today,
Enough but not wealth,
A measure of health,
Food for our table ,
Work for those able,
Relief for those not,
A chance to be heard,
Belief in the word.
The grace to forgive,
to live and let live.
And last but not least,
A place at your feast.
Amen



I saw an advert for an "Iron Man Competition" for over 60's to be held at the Carlile Institute.

Having the name "Armstrong", and being over 60 (84 actually) I felt honour bound to enter and uphold the family name.

On the day of the competition, I arrived at the venue and on entering the room I found six men holding Morphy Richards steam irons, standing behind an ironing board and a pile of washing in a laundry basket, waiting to be ironed!

I felt such an idiot... the only time I flexed my muscles was when I lifted the iron to begin ironing!

Wishing all our readers a Happy, Peaceful & Rewarding New Year!

- Denis A

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S - JANUARY 2019 ROTA

DATE	ALTAR FLOWERS	SIDESPERSONS	COFFEE
6th	Mr & Mrs Stafford	Mrs M Thorley Mrs J Hilton	Mrs B Jennings Mrs V Armitage
13th	Mrs M Hardy	Mr & Mrs J Mitchell	Mrs M Thorley Mr Ben Wadsworth
20th	The Schofield Family	Mrs B Jennings Mrs F Whitacker	Mrs C Moulson Mrs M Ball
27th	Mr & Mrs A Ball	Mrs C Ward Mrs E Radcliffe	Mrs E Radcliffe Mrs J Gilleard
3rd February	Mr & Mrs B Gregory	Mrs P Murgatroyd Mrs C Woodroffe	Mrs C Ward Mrs J Collison

We are looking for more volunteers to help on the flower rota. If you are interested in helping then please speak to Celia Mitchell for more details. Thank you

ST MARY'S - JANUARY 2019 ROTA

Date	Service	Readings	Prayers
6th	11.15am HC		
13th	MCT Covenant Service at The Methodist Church – 10.30am		
20th	11.15am HC		
27th	11.15am S of W		

ST JAMES' ROTA - JANUARY 2019

Date	Service	Preacher/ Leader	Sides- people	Reader	Coffee
6th	9.30am S of W	J Dracup	Alison W & Sarah G	C Woods	Debbie L & Sue P
13th	MCT Covenant Service at The Methodist Church – 10.30am				
13th	5.00pm 5 Alive	Team			
20th	9.30am S of W / Med	P & C Rolls	J & C Burhouse	J Wrathall	J & C Burhouse
27th	9.30am HC	J Dracup	M Still & A Pearson	R Whiteley	D Still & C Bleasdale

CHRIST CHURCH ROTA - JANUARY 2019

Date	Flowers	Intercessions	Side Person	Altar Server	Coffee	Reader
6th	Cyril	Clergy	Kevin & Jenny H	Janet	Christine	Moyra
13th	MCT Covenant Service at The Methodist Church – 10.30am					
20th	Janet	Clergy	Kevin & Christine	Jenny B	Eileen & Sheila	Pat
27th	Vacant	Clergy	Kevin & Moyra	Janet	Christine	Jenny H

PLEASE NOTE If anyone would like to place flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one, please call either Eileen Hague on **851164** or Margaret Tunnacliffe on **850724** **Thank you**

READINGS IN THE PARISH - JANUARY 2019

Date	1st Reading	Gospel
6th	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
13th	Isaiah 43:1-7	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
20th	Isaiah 62:1-5	John 2:1-11
27th	1 Corinthians 12:12-31	Luke 4:14-21

SERVICES IN THE PARISH - JANUARY 2019

Date	St Bartholomew's	St James	Christ Church	St Mary's
6th	9.30am HC	9.30 S of W	11.15am S of W	11.15am HC
13th	9.00am HC	5.00pm 5 Alive	N/A	N/A
MCT Covenant Service at The Methodist Church – 10.30am				
20th	9.30am HC	9.30am S of W / Med	11.15am S of W	11.15am HC
27th	9.30am HC	9.30am HC	11.15am HC	11.15am S of W

For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS THAT I WISH I'D HAD

I think we can all remember presents we'd asked for but never got. Well my recollections are of Christmas presents I really wanted as a child, but never got. In fact the pillow case was a cornucopia of gifts, most of them what we'd asked for. I say we, because that's how it was with us. We had exactly the same gifts, no distinction even though my brother was 10 minutes older. Some presents we really desired at various stages of childhood, in our case were missing. Maybe Father Christmas was deaf. That's all it could be. It's a bit like the goal keeper. He will have made thousands of great saves but will always be remembered for the howlers he missed saving. I clearly remember decades on, the ones I wanted. The first book I really wanted was a Rupert Annual. He was a super star with his yellow striped trousers and red sweater and scarf; and he had such good friends. Alas he never appeared in the pillowcase. Maybe our address was not on his schedule

The next present I earnestly wanted was a particular football book. By this time I had personally confirmed that there was no Father Christmas by feigning sleep when mum and dad entered the bedroom and left the pillowcases at the foot of the beds. I heard them moving around and talking, dad following instructions as to the exact place to put them. Brother was sound asleep but I told him when he awoke.

The book I wanted was one like my pals had for birthdays. A football book with big pictures inside of famous footballers and lots of action shots. What did we get?, A book on the history of football. Interesting, but, who at 10 years old wants to read about Clubs called Corinthian Casuals, Wanderers and Royal Engineers.

Twenty to twenty five years ago, by chance I found the name of the book, a reprint and a compilation of Charles Buchan's Football Monthly, September 1951 to August 1971. I bought it and loved. My favourite footballer, full page inside, Tommy Lawton, plus all the stars of the 50's. Even as an adult it gave me pleasure reading it cover to cover.

The one we missed out on was having bikes, so we learned to ride by friends letting us have a go. In the hilly terrain of our part of the West Riding mum and dad considered it too dangerous. No matter how much we pleaded we couldn't budge them. Well, in life you don't always get what you want. It is one of life's lessons and we all get used to it.

Most of the things we asked for we received, a complete Hornby Train Set, which brought hours of enjoyment, dinky toys, books, football, punch ball and boxing gloves. (My ability with a football wasn't bad and the culmination of my career at 15 was to play at The Shay, home of Halifax Town, in a final of The Red Triangle League) Tommy Lawton's position was never under threat. I quickly threw the towel in at boxing, realising after a few punches with my brother that neither of us would become Bruce Woodcock.

Yearning for gifts recedes with age. However, now and again as you look round antique type shops your eyes alight on a toy, book or other item you had as a child. If there is something that is there that you missed out on, you get another chance and who could miss such an opportunity. Thank you Charles Buchan

John Mitchell

CHURCH HALL DIARY FOR JANUARY 2019

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

WEEKLY BOOKINGS:

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:

1st Tuesday	Women's Institute	7.30pm
2nd Wednesday	Flower Club	7.00pm
2nd Thursday	Over 60's Club	2.00pm
Last Tuesday	Women's Fellowship	7.30pm

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS - Doors open 9.30am

5th January	Church Hall
12th	(No Coffee Morning on this occasion)
19th	St Bartholomew's
26th	Alzheimer's Society
2nd February	Meltham Catholics

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

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Happy New Year to All!