

# Meltham Parish Magazine



£1

(JUNE &) JULY 2025

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



## Photos from around the Parish

On the 8th May Meltham celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

There was a street party and a BBC news crew came to join the party and interviewed some guests. Richard Styan was the guest of honour at 101 years old.



## Easter Events



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**“Prayer is the breath of faith.  
Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church.”**  
– C H Spurgeon

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

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



## A note from the editor ...

Hello!

Ok, Ok I know I missed June... Sorry!

## 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.

...but life in the vicarage has been very busy and I have tried my best, that's all I can say. (pg 13)

Summer has arrived in the Parish as you can see from the front cover! There has been lots going on especially with Teams 4 U (pgs 8-9)

Theres a BIG event happening on 3rd Aug so don't go on holiday just yet or you may have some disappointed Teddies! (see centre and back pages)

Finally let Denis put a smile on your face on Pg 21 he needs some encouragement!

Thank you for those who continue to support me and the magazine by sending submissions in. The deadline of the Aug / Sept magazine will be:

**Monday 21st July 2025**

Please send submissions via email to:

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

or

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

God Bless,  
Fiona.

**GROWING**  
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## 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

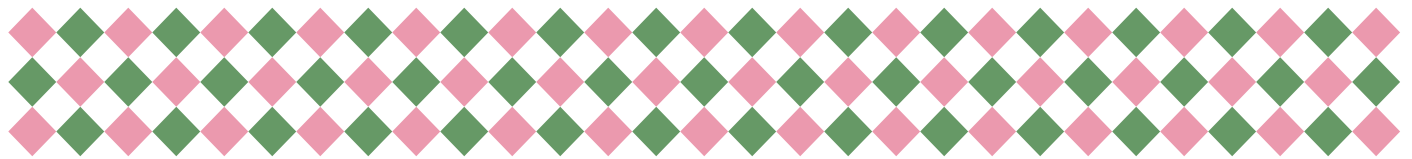


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## **Letter from your Vicar**

June and July are always an interesting time to try and write a letter like this. For so much of the year there is a seasonal theme to work from or a Church festival to comment on. Now with Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter behind us and Pentecost soon to follow we begin the period that the Church refers to as “Ordinary Time”. This ordinary time goes on for quite a while and will include our summer holidays, harvest festivals, and Remembrance Sunday.

I have therefore found myself reflecting on the idea of ordinary time. I think it is both a gift and a challenge. If everything in our lives always had to be something special, a sort of perpetual Christmas day, then I suppose the special would no longer be special and we might all become quite exhausted rather quickly. Back when I was a farmer, we called this idea “seasons” and in between ploughing, planting, and harvesting we tried to take a break, to slow down for a little while and catch up with some of the other jobs that needed to be done. I have thought for many years that in our modern world of production lines, emails, fast food, and 7 day a week shopping this idea of seasons doesn’t seem to be very popular anymore.

But this year I have found myself wondering what ordinary time might have felt like to the very first Christians, the first time it came around. There’s not much written about the ordinary in the book of Acts but we do get some suggestions of things like the need to establish deacons and some council meetings to discuss various things. In Chapter one we have the Ascension, in chapter two comes Pentecost and the Church starts to grow, but one of the most ordinary things you might read is in chapter three.

Peter and John went to pray. That is, they headed off to the Temple for afternoon prayers held every day at three o’clock, a very ordinary thing to do. On the way they met a man described as being lame from birth who was begging near the Temple gates. Nothing out of the ordinary here but, Peter and John were not ordinary people, they were followers of Jesus, Christians. So, their response to this ordinary situation was not the ordinary one of giving a small amount of money or pretending they hadn’t noticed him. They prayed for him “in the name of Jesus, stand up and walk” and in that moment something of the kingdom of God broke through into the ordinary.

As Christians we live in the world, but we belong to God’s kingdom. What makes a moment ordinary or special is how we respond to it. Will we be moved by compassion or will we turn a blind eye? Will we pray and dare to let the kingdom of God break into the ordinary through us?

God bless,  
Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)

## **Review of Meltham Shoe Box Team 2024**

This was our 20<sup>th</sup> year of caring for gift filled shoeboxes and dispatching them to needy children in Eastern Europe and some years ago the African Continent,

The loyalty and dedication to this cause of our wonderful volunteers is an amazing thing to be celebrated.

In 2004 we started by supporting Operation Christmas Child via Samaritans Purse but of later years we switched to supporting the Teams 4u charity.

Our Friday morning workshop started in 2024 on the 10 May and is very special. We have many friends who have joined over the years and who continue to support. We welcome young folk from 'Ability Options' most Fridays and the Christmas cards written by them and Sheena, have brought many smiles to the children who open a gift filled shoe box and find a Christmas card on top of the gifts.

We have lost some much loved loyal and active volunteers and they will always be remembered.

Nancy, Graham, Dorothy and Margaret.

In 2024 we began a project creating boxes for the 12+ Boys. We have bought most of the fillers for these boxes to ensure that they fit the bill of older children. We have had amazing support from Colin and Anne Marie Lund from CDS Leisure in Manchester who have donated lots of football items for the boxes. Our volunteers packed almost 200 shoeboxes for the boys in 2024. The galleries in this church groan with the donations we receive to use as fillers for the boxes we process in November. The gallery above the main door was full in 2024 with empty gift wrapped shoeboxes supplied to us by David Turner from Bradford. Over the years David has donated 1000's of covered boxes plus a variety of fillers. Thank you David. His boxes have started to arrive for 2025 already!

Mandy, Glyn and James our friends from TayTrans, warehouse our filled cartons until the transport from T4u arrives early December. We start filling their warehouse from May each year. They help transport heavy, filled cartons, down to their business, bring up stored empty flat packs and make great contributions to the appeal. It is always a great privilege to be asked to meet groups, churches, schools etc and tell them about what happens in Meltham and how they can become involved. The numbers of schools and churches we receive boxes from reduced significantly following the Covid 19 epidemic, but we were delighted in 2024 to work with new schools and meet their children. Caroline, Rena and myself are very happy to receive an invitation to give a presentation.

Our fundraising for MSBT majors on Teddy Tombola's, regularly we take £350 which helps to fund the transport costs of boxes that reach our warehouse without a financial donation. We have a lot of fun helping with these events, giving our orphaned bears and toys new homes with delighted children.



On Saturday 15 May 2024 we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday with an afternoon tea. A great occasion. This was a joint celebration with our friends from Community Cards who meet on a Friday morning . It was their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Our warehouse, to receive gift filled shoeboxes, opened here at St. James on Monday 4 November. We are grateful to the church family here at St. James who allow it to be our shoebox home. We take over in November!

In the week prior to opening the warehouse, our transport team, headed by Terry Jepson, began collecting in gift filled boxes. They travel all over West Yorkshire, a small team , who would like to increase the number of drivers who give their time and vehicles to collect in the boxes. Terry does a great job of contacting our donors and arranging pickups. He has , over the years, built up many contacts in schools and churches and he has been called upon to give impromptu talks on arrival at schools and churches. Pick ups do not only happen in November. There are pickups of supplies, cartons, Davids boxes, football memorabilia all sorts of things that are picked up throughout the year. As part of Terrys team Paul, Opi, Bill, Peter and Martin are often called upon to drive or help. Thank you Team!!

You will hear from Martin Warriner about our Meltham Shoe box finances, I would just like to express our thanks for his diligence, good humour and fantastic support to the cause.

Similarly our T4u local Finance officer will give her report. Christine has been with the shoebox appeal here in Meltham for all of the 20 years. Thanks do not seem adequate but they are warmly given.

Thank you ALL, for giving thousands of needy children something however transient, something to make them smile!!!

Judith Powell



## **FOR SALE**

If you are interested in either of these 2 items, please could you get in contact with Joyce Moody or Ruth Murrey-Webster (details for Ruth in front of mag)

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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**

A few years ago, I had the privilege to visit the Anglican dioceses of Mount Kenya. It was at a time when their rains had failed for several years in succession. Whilst there I saw elephants in what would normally be deep wide rivers but were now dry dusty riverbeds; the elephants were digging to try and get water particularly for their young. But it was not simply animals that were struggling for lack of water it was also people. Children could be seen begging not for food or money but for water.

June is the month in which we celebrate the arrival of summer, when we have the longest day and the shortest night. This year however, we have had a spring with weeks of hot sunny dry weather, until we reached the last week of May. The Environment Agency has acknowledged that this Spring has been the driest for some 69 years. The Environment Agency has also declared a drought in Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire, and Cumbria and Lancashire. Whilst our water authority has not been given that status it is understood that Yorkshire Water has been planning for drought since early May.

In the United Kingdom we are amongst the worlds fortunate for we have access to clean water, fed by pipes to all of our homes. Water that we may well take for granted. However, with a changing climate and weather patterns we may also need to rethink how we use our water. For example, one thing that I have begun doing is when I’m running the hot tap and waiting for it to get hot, I’ve run the water into containers and saving the water for watering my garden and plants.

Perhaps take time one day each week for the next few weeks to make a note of each time you use water not simply for your cup of tea or coffee but also all the other uses of water from flushing your toilet to washing the car.

The Five Marks of Mission of the church of England are.

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers.

To respond to human need by loving service.

To seek to transform unjust structures of society

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Perhaps you could take time out each week to reflect on your use of water and to pray about how we as individuals but also as part of our parish here in Meltham , could work together to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Rev Elizabeth Snowden



# CROSSROADS CENTRE



*'THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it'*

*Psalm 118:24*

This verse encourages us to find joy and celebration in the present moment, recognising that each day is a gift from God.



On the 14<sup>th</sup> November the members of the Crossroads Project heard that they had been awarded the Kings award for Voluntary Service, the equivalent of a MBE and the highest award that volunteers can receive.

So celebrate we did! On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April we were presented with a certificate and a crystal created exclusively for winners of the award

It was our opportunity to thank over 100 volunteers who work within the project and to those who had the original vision and worked tirelessly to make it the success it is today. Guests included the Mayor of Meltham Cllr David Haigh and his wife, the Mayor of Huddersfield Cllr. Nosheen Dad, town Councillors and members of Kirklees Third sector leaders who had supported the application.

In my speech as Chair of the trustees I was able to thank the many people who were involved with the project past and present and use my favourite quote 'Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless'.

Thanks were expressed to those who had got the hall ready for the occasion and helped plan the event and to the Ukrainian Club who had made us a marvellous cake. And of course to all who had attended this great celebration.

Catherine Moulson and Pat Radford were presented with flowers for their extreme long service (almost 30 years) and Jean and Clinton Burhouse were our guests.

A buffet provided by RachAls kitchen brought to a close a truly memorable event

Sue Priestley



## Our Jack!

When I last wrote an update on Jack back in 2023 I started with the words, *"There are not many in the Parish (& beyond) who, when they see Jack, or his name is mentioned, don't have a smile on their face!"*. Two years on and how true this continues to be. However Jack has sent us on a whirlwind adventure since my last update and Jack has made a lot of people very worried and ask about how he is getting on.



For those who don't know, Jack is our youngest and at two days old his blood sugars had dropped dramatically low and he ended up in hospital in a hypoglycaemic coma. It's safe to say this was one of the low points in our lives and I will never forget the look of absolute relief on the face of the consultant when Jack made the tiniest of tiniest of movement on the 3rd attempt of getting a reaction from him. Jack was diagnosed with a hypoglycaemic brain injury. We were told the worst... But Jack (and God) wasn't listening he had other ideas!

When Jack started year 2 in Meltham CofE school, we knew as parents and teachers, it would be his last year there. Although he has been made very much a part of school life and is liked by so many students and staff, he is unable to keep up with the pace of mainstream school. Therefore in September he will start a new chapter at Fairfield School, a school who cater for children with complex needs like Jack. After a recent visit there we know as parents he will be very happy. During his visit Jack seemed happy and ready to explore the school, he was welcomed and immediately made to feel a part of the school. In fact we are not sure if the lack of seizure activity during the visit was actually by design or coincidence.

As I said Jack earlier Jack has made lots of people very worried recently. Jack has deteriorated significantly as his seizure activity has increased despite numerous medications that have either helped or made him worse. We are trying lots of different ideas and we keep hoping and praying that the 'next one' will be the one that helps to make some kind of improvement. Recently Jack has been registered Severely Sight Impaired. Although this sounds disappointing, this actually helps to get Jack the support he needs to continue to get around and start to be as independent as he can.



We still have a long road ahead no doubt full of more twists and turns, but we know that God is with us, travelling along side us. The fact we were able to get him a school place for this September in such a relatively short space of time is testament to that. Yet again I echo the words I wrote last time, *"Regardless of all of this, and the difficulties faced, deep down my family and I know, that God is Good! He always has been and always will be, a good God."*

Fiona Dracup

## *Hair Design*



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**References and quotes available**



**Telephone: 844307**  
**Mobile: 07789161232**

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



## **Update from Bell House Care Home**

In May the Bell House residents thought about friendships, with a few thoughts from the Bible:

Proverbs; 17:17 A friend loves you all the time, but a brother was born to help in times of trouble, 27:5-6 Open criticism is better than hidden love. You can trust what your friend says, even when it hurts. But your enemies want to hurt you, even when they act nice, 27:9 Perfume and incense make you feel good, and so does good advice from a friend.

Remembering our school friends, we considered what makes a good friend, even ones who live far away. We also considered how God is a good friend, by always being with us; being faithful to his promises; by forgiving, loving, and guiding us.

Then we thought about how we can be a good friend to God, by loving him and loving one another! Our love, to God and those around us, shows we are friends with God, that we trust and will follow God's guidance no matter what.

Jaqueline France

## **Christian Aid Coffee Morning**

May 10th was the date of our Christian Aid Coffee morning this year instead of Easter Saturday, as it has been for many years.

We had a lot of help this year with a wonderful cake stall. So many people to thank, especially the Meltham Churches Together group who put the word around. The sum of £536.00 was sent to the charity. This shows what we all can achieve when we all pull together.



Thank you one and all, Janet Rockett.

## **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

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

Jordan and Abbie-Anne Pedelty

Baptisms - we welcome you into the Lord's family

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Dorothy Bourn Enid Gibson Elaine Durkin Eileen Needham Adrian Lawton  
Baby Dudley Smith Doreen Lunn Betty Mozley Barbara Ramsden

Anyone wishing to have their loved ones names included in the book of Remembrance at St Bartholomew's (there is a small fee of £5 for church expenses) please contact: Jean Collison : Telephone 851816  
Or email: parishofchristtheking@gmail.com

## **Teddy Bears Picnic**

**Sunday, 3rd August** at St James' for a special All Age Worship with a Teddy Bears Picnic!

We are thrilled to announce that the star attraction will be a Zip Wiring Teddy from the Church tower. We will be publicising this widely as part of our outreach to children and young families.

Schedule:

- 10 am - All Age Worship service
- 11 am - Making harnesses for Teddies and family games time
- 12 ish - Family picnic time (families bring their own picnics, we provide hot drinks), games, and Zip Wiring Teddies

We hope this will be a successful and joyful event that will serve as an entry event that enables more people to move along their faith journey. We need as many people as possible to be involved in numerous roles to ensure success, especially as some of us will be on holiday.

Please let Mike Still know if you can help. We are stepping out in faith on this so please support the event in prayer.



## **Important Announcement - Church Hall**

Some of you will be aware that the main hall is having an upgrade. Unfortunately, we have encountered a problem with the plan for the ceiling.

This means we are now having a brand-new ceiling fitted rather than just the lights & panels being replaced.

This results in the main hall regrettably being closed from 13.00hrs on Thursday July 17th till Monday 28th July as well as week commencing August 4th for decorating.

We are sorry we have had to make these decisions and hope you appreciate we have not taken these decisions lightly but they are necessary to ensure we have a refurbished main hall to serve the community for many years to come.

## Weekly Parish Services for July

There will be a weekly Sunday church service at 10am & 11:15am at the following churches:

**29th June Parish Communion, St Bart's 10:30**

These services will be as follows for **July**:

<b>6th July</b>	St James' (HC) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am
13th	St Bartholomew's 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am
20th	St James' (HC) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am
27th	St Bartholomew's 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am
<b>3rd Aug</b>	St James' (SoW) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (HC) 11.15am

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

Please keep an eye out or follow us on the Church facebook page: '@MelthamParish' or go to the Parish website: [www.melthamparish.co.uk](http://www.melthamparish.co.uk) for updates on services and events.

### Please Note:

- The first Sunday In the month (10.00am) will be a Family Sunday service where people of ALL ages can join in the fun.
- **Sunday 29th June** is a Parish Communion at St Bart's Church at 10:30 with a Bring and Share Faith lunch afterwards in the Church Hall across the road. Please make sure any food is dropped off **before** the service begins. Our CMS missionary partners, Rosie and Stu Bayford, will be sharing their story. All welcome.

## Parish Communion

What a lovely time we had on Sunday 23rd March when the whole parish came together for a service of Holy Communion followed by lunch. Rev John led the service and gave the talk reminding us that although we may have different opinions we can talk to one another and find agreement, united in knowing that Jesus is the truth, the way and the life and that God's way is the best. Simon Ball was organist and along with St Bartholomew's choir led the singing, Jean Collison read the lessons and Alistair Storey assisted with the chalice. The service was well attended and it was good to share worship together and to stay together for a beautiful buffet lunch and a good catch up with one another. Thanks go to all who helped in any way but special thanks to those who prepared lunch and provided some amazing cakes. Looking forward to the next one.





**Huddersfield & District**  
Family History Society

The Root Cellar,  
33A Greens End Road, Meltham,  
Holmfirth, HD9 5NW

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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Just want to say a big Thank You  
to all who have sent flowers cards  
and good wishes.

Most of all Thank You for all your  
prayers. They have been an-  
swered at the moment but please  
keep them coming. I've still a way  
to go yet.

Love and big thanks  
Sue Gregory.

## **200 CLUB : April & May Winners**

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890 £10 Vacant Number  
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515 £10 Mrs. J. Rockett  
448 £10 Mrs. B. Jennings  
664 £10 Vacant Number  
839 £10 Mr. D. Earnshaw  
377 £10 Mrs. P. Redfearn

### **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:

01/06/2025 Mr & Mrs C Atkinson

07/07/2025 Miss B Hirst

08/06/2025 W Fellowship

14/07/2025 Mr & Mrs S Ball

15/06/2025 Mr & Mrs M Jennings

21/07/2025 Mrs J Belch

22/06/2025 Mr & Mrs D Glover

28/07/2025 Available

29/06/2025 Mr & Mrs A Ball

04/08/2025 Available

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 June** - Meltham Wildlife

**5th July** - Make Meltham Sparkle

**14th June** - Hospice

**12th July** - Gilbert & Sullivan

**21st June** - Flower Club

**19th July** - Closed for Refurb

**28th June** - Crossroads

**26th July** - Closed for Refurb

**2nd Aug** - St Bart's Church



# DIMPS

*by Ville*

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HD9 5NX  
tel. 01484 850960



## **Just For Fun** By Denis A

One with a difference - You have to read it out loud

Where does this cat live?  
That cat is mine  
This is how I know its my cat  
I have to feed the cat,  
And to keep the cat safe  
I fitted an alarm to its collar.  
Only an idiot would keep this cat  
The cat's busy chasing birds all day  
Done that for a long time,  
The cat's forty now - How old?  
Months, not minutes that is

Now go back and read the third word only in each line from the beginning. It may refer to me, what do you think? Does it mean that I have to give up writing stupid dotes for the magazine?

There was some sad news from the Nestle factory today, A worker was crushed beneath a case of chocolate that fell 20ft off the storage racking. He called for help repeatedly, but every time he shouted out "The milky bars are on me", his workmates just cheered.

T.T.F.N. Denis A.



"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture - I've always worn a hoody."



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## **St Mary's Report**

Another busy but happy time up here at St Mary's Church.

On Mothering Sunday we had a Family Service which was all about "Bags of Love" and as the service progressed we opened six bags to discover what was inside them. We learnt a bit about the history of Mothering Sunday and about how our mum's and carers prepare for, nurture and comfort us. How they teach us and sometimes suffer for us just as Jesus' mother Mary did. Cards were given out for people to give to someone they care for and the music group played for some of the hymns. Jonah and Dylan helped Rev Judy to unpack the bags and to give out the posies of flowers at the end of the service. Elizabeth played the keyboard, lessons were read by Dorothy Jones and Dylan Dunn and prayers were led by Janet Rockett and Kim Howe. As well as sharing the service with visitors and our friends from Christ Church we were joined, on zoom by Sheryl all the way from Australia.

We have also shared three services of Holy Communion and three Services of the Word. It has been nice to have our clergy and Lay Readers sharing as well in the leading of our worship and we have had a good mix of sermons and styles. We received our new palm crosses on Palm Sunday and heard about the three groups who witnessed Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem - those who opposed Him, those who just followed the crowd and those who truly believed. On the Tuesday night in Holy Week Elizabeth and Peter led an Easter craft evening when we learnt about different crosses from around the world and had a go at making a miniature Easter garden, a God's eye cross and a decorated candle.

On Easter Day we welcomed friends old and new to a Holy Communion service when the new Paschal candle was blessed and we shared the bread and wine together. Jacqueline and Rev John led morning service on the last Sunday of April and it was wonderful to hear Elizabeth play on the new organ kindly donated by Marsden Methodist church which sadly is due to close.

There was no service at St Mary's on 18th May as we shared in a special service at Christ Church. We hope you are all enjoying this beautiful weather and looking forward to your holidays and perhaps a bit of a rest.





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BETTY PEEL

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JONATHAN QUARMBY

Name search winners: WALTER 6; WILFRED 4;  
THEO 8; ELLA 5; ISABELLE 7

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and THANKS

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MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL for funding the flags & bunting  
& to those Councillors who supported our event by helping out  
before, during & after the event.

MELTHAM FIRE STATION for helping to put up the flags &  
letting the scouts use their forecourt on the day.

MELTHAM CE SCHOOL for the use of their grounds.

ELMWOOD FAMILY PRACTICE for the use of their car park.

BRIDGE TAXIS for sponsoring one of our Scarecrow categories.

THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE SCARECROWS, THERE WERE 32!!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO SOUTH PENNINE FOR THE 933 BUS  
AND TO WAYNE BARRETT & MAYOR DAVID HAIGH FOR GIVING  
UP THEIR BANK HOLIDAY TO DRIVE THE BUS AND WIDEN  
OUR AUDIENCE.

Thank you to anybody who helped out on the day but a  
very special thank you to all of those who braved the cold  
and came out to support the event & make it such a  
huge success for Meltham.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR INFORMATION - 07761 393502  
E.mail - pammurg.mgt@gmail.com

## **Helme Ladies Report**

Since our last report we have had some varied and interesting meetings. At the end of March we took part in Chair Yoga. Who would believe you could take part in so many beneficial exercises on a chair!

The following meeting was entitled. "Easter Display" Members were asked to produce anything to do with Easter. We had some lovely flower displays, hats, gardens, biscuits and chocolate nests. No two were alike. The winners were Mavis and Rita so congratulations to them. On April 22nd we competed in 'Play your cards right' - no skill, just luck!

Our first meeting in May, was a visit to Uppermill, primarily to the Garden Centre. The weather was beautiful so after buying plants we were able to eat outside and then some of the group walked by the canal then back through the village . It was a very enjoyable day out.

Our last meeting in May was Poetry Readings. Many humorous poems were read out, quite a few written by Pam Ayres but we do have a poet in our midst! Margaret Fenton has been writing poetry for a few years now and below is an extract of one of her poems.

Our next summer meetings will be local walks followed by lunch at various venues. We will be meeting at 10:30am (not 10am) .

Janet Rockett

### **My Favourite Place (extract) by Margaret Fenton**

I like to sit in my garden among the flowers and the trees  
To listen to the birdsong and the humming of the bees,  
The picture is always changing as the seasons come and go,  
From the warmth of the Summer sunshine to the cold white winter snow.

In Spring the birdbox is the draw, I listen to the twittering  
Of bluetits as they venture out and set their wings aluttering.  
Daffodills and tulips nod their heads in bright array  
The snowdrops and the crocus have already had their say.

The apple tree is in blossom, like a bride on her wedding day  
The wind turns it to confetti as I makes the branches sway  
The lilac tree is budding telling of the joys to come  
Just like the tree beside the fence the demure but snowy plum.

As I sit and dream in my garden, I think how lucky am I  
To be part of this beautiful picture,  
As the rest of the world rushes by.

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## FIONA - EDITOR, WIFE, MOTHER

I am a Mother, I am a Wife  
And there's really not much that I've not seen.  
But I've never done so many things at once  
As the Editor of this Magazine.

We send articles in by email or post,  
Then leave her to sort them all out,  
And sometimes these things might not be very clear  
And she wonders what they're all about.

Our magazine has never looked so good  
With the variety of news to display,  
But it's always set out so clearly, precise,  
Designed in her own special way.

But that is Fiona, the Editor,  
Not the most important role in her life,  
She is also the loving mother of three,  
More important, the Vicar's Wife.

So thank you, Fiona for caring,  
For all the hard work that you do  
To make our Magazine so good to read  
Because that is all down to you.

From Pam Murgatroyd  
(and I'm sure many more)  
Thank you. xx

## **Celebration Service at Christ Church, Helme**

On Sunday 18th May there was a special Holy Communion service at Christ Church, Helme. Rev John Dracup led our worship and was celebrant, assisted by Rev Dennis Shields. Janet Rockett and Jenny Hill read the lessons and Kim Howe offered prayers for the world. Elizabeth played the keyboard and Peter operated the PowerPoint.

Rev John spoke about how sometimes we have to make changes but God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us and Jesus has taught us to love one another. Rev John also offered prayers for the life of Christ Church over the last 167 years- for all who have worshipped there and passed on the Good News, all who have served as clergy, lay readers, church wardens and all who served on various committees or held office in any way. He also prayed for those who quietly served by arranging flowers, leading children's work and keeping the church clean and welcoming.

It was lovely to welcome friends old and new and fellowship continued over coffee and cake provided by the ladies of Christ Church. We sang Happy Birthday to Rev Dennis, who has help lead Christ Church, as he celebrated his 75th birthday. Photos taken of the service and some of those who regularly attended Christ Church are below. Although there will now no longer be a regular Sunday morning Service at the church. It will be continued to be used by Helme school and also for services of special events and festivals.





# Teddy Bears' Picnic

Sunday 3rd August  
10:00am at St James'  
(the church by the park)

Zip wire  
your Teddy  
from the  
church  
tower

## Schedule

**10:00am** - Family celebration  
**11:00am** - Teddy's and family  
games available plus zip wiring  
**12:00pm** - Picnic (bring your own)  
hot/cold drinks are provided  
Stay and relax play as long as  
you like

Bring  
your own  
picnic



Hey don't let your  
teddy miss out!

