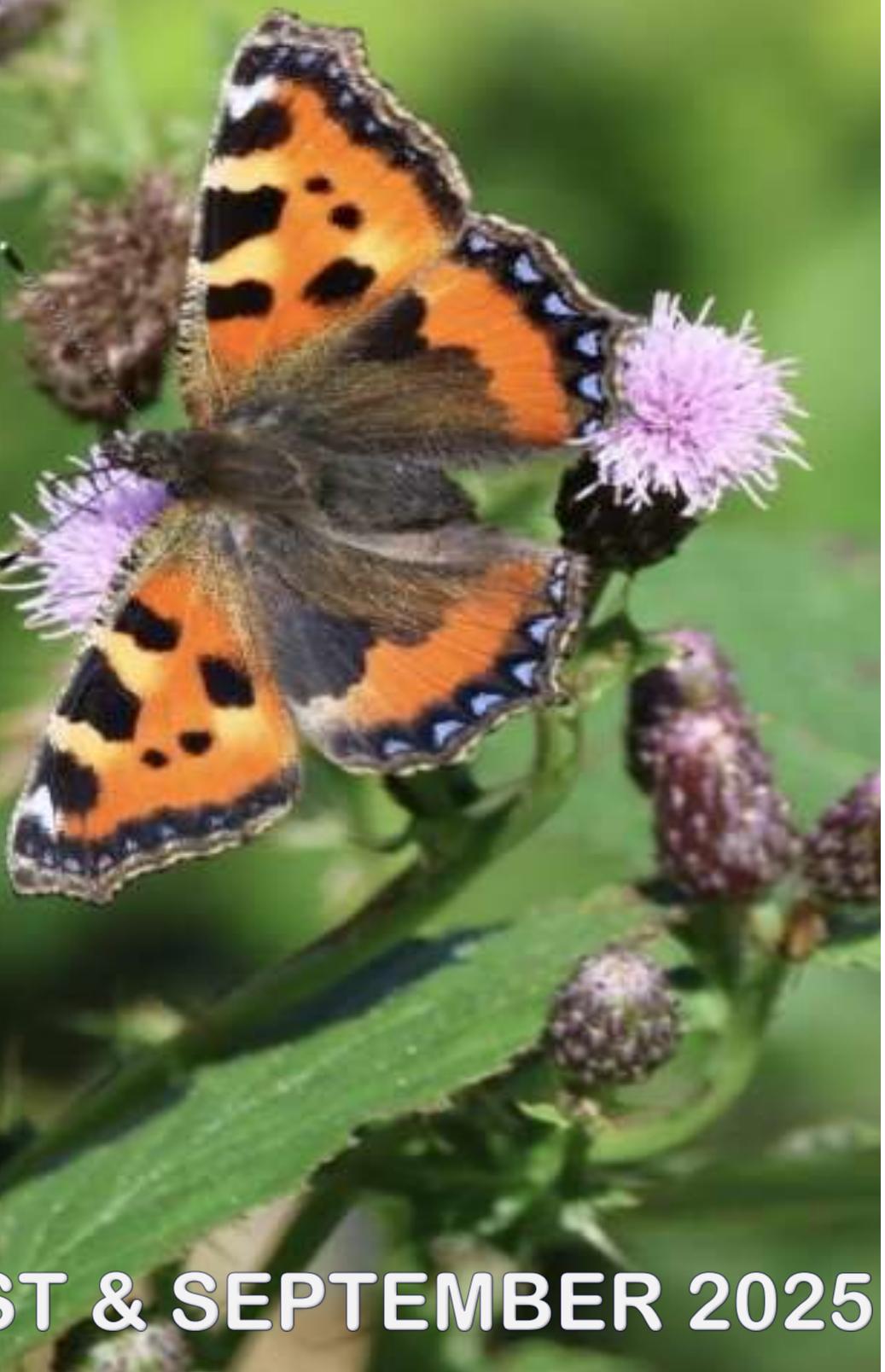


Meltham Parish Magazine



£1

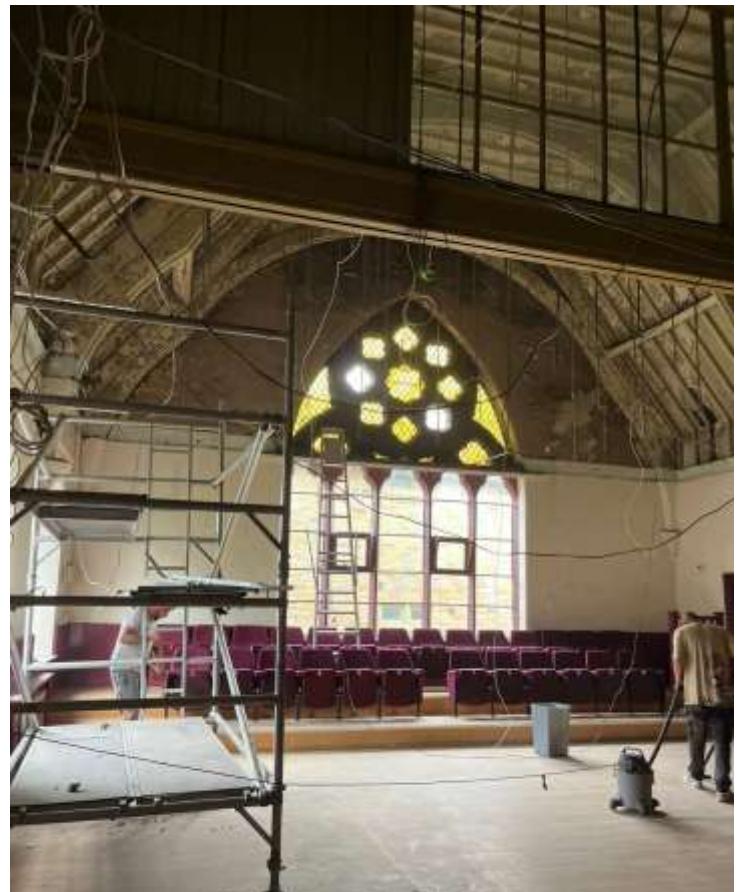


AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025

Church Hall Improvement Work

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. While doing so we uncovered the original ceiling and here we thought you would like to see what we uncovered before it gets recovered once more. (See photo)

This new ceiling means the main hall regrettably being closed week commencing August 4th for decorating. We are sorry and hope you appreciate the refurbished main hall to serve the community for many years to come.



Churches Together - 8th June, Pentecost Sunday.



In this issue ...

Photo credit Richard Whitely (and this page below)	Cover
Church Hall improvement work. / Churches together	Inside cover
Parish Officials	Page 4
A Note from the Editor	Page 5
A Letter from your Vicar	Page 7
Helme Ladies / Items For Sale	Page 9
Ringing the Prayer Bell / Wonderland Restored / From the Registers	Page 11
Parish Communion with the Bayfords. / Alpha	Page 12
Weekly services for August & September Churches Together	Page 13
200 Club / Flowers / Coffee Morning	Page 15
St Mary's Report / Update from Bell House Care Home	Page 17
Just For Fun	Page 23
Picnic In The Park	Back Cover

**“Faith is the capacity to trust God while not
being able to make sense out of everything.”**

– James Kok

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Churchwarden Alison Whiteley 319295

ST. MARY'S

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All magazine enquiries.

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

Prayer for Growth

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to give
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Help our church to grow
in numbers,
In spiritual commitment
to you,
And in service to our
local community,
Through Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen.



A note from the editor ...

Hello!

The Parish Magazine has arrived!

I echo the words I said in last month's edition, that life in the vicarage has been very busy recently and I have tried my best. You may notice that this edition is a bit thinner on the ground than usual. This is because its holiday season and people haven't been as forthcoming as usual with their submissions. However enjoy what we have!

There have been lots going on in the parish with various services (Pg12) So don't miss out and keep up with where the weekly services are on page 13.

Finally Wilshaw has been busy so keep up with all that's been happening on page 17. Thank you to Rev Judy for your continued support.

The deadline for the Oct / Nov magazine will be:

Friday 19th September 2025

Please send submissions via email to:

melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com

or

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



God Bless,
Fiona.

Meltham Prayer Chain

Meltham Prayer chain has representatives from every church in Meltham and serves to pray for any need or difficulty.

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Letter from your Vicar

August is widely recognised as the time of year that we should all look to take a holiday (especially if we have children). I came across an article which suggests a few ways you might be able to tell if your vicar is overdue a holiday.

1. The theme of a recent sermon on Jonah and the whale was “a change of scenery will do you good”.
2. He recently fell asleep during the prayers of intercession.
3. His wife has begun putting pictures of him around the parish with the caption “have you seen this man?”

Being tired and ready for a rest isn’t necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes life is very busy, but the question is, are we busy being caught up in the busyness of life or are we doing things that are truly worthwhile and productive? The truth is that sometimes it can be hard to tell but the last few months has seen so much happen, that this year I feel I need a break to have time to take stock of all the good things that have happened.

I can’t list everything as that would make for a very long letter but the way in which the congregations of St Bartholomew’s and St James, and of St Mary’s and Christ Church have grown together must be recognised as an act of God’s grace. We have had a number of wonderful Parish communions with shared lunches and our second Churches together Pentecost celebration which I feel is quickly becoming a very positive fixture within our Church year. Perhaps most importantly we continue to have the joy of welcoming new people into our fellowship.

For some people reading this it may be that the most obvious “good thing” is the refurbishment of the Church Hall. Not least because this should be completed while I am away on holiday and the repainting may have just been completed as you are reading this letter. This has taken a huge amount of work to organise, and I am very grateful to all those who have been involved.

Of course, August lasts but a few short weeks and we are already looking towards a very busy September. This will include our annual Civic service on the 14th and on the 17th we will start an Alpha course in the Church Hall. This is open to anyone who wishes to come along and explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and maybe find some answers too. On the 18th at 6:30pm there will be an open meeting at Christ Church, Helme Church, to discuss the future. It is my hope and prayer that we will be able to keep the Church open and contributing towards God’s mission in our parish by serving and working with the community.

I hope you will all find some time to rest, with a very busy autumn ahead, it really will soon be Christmas.

God bless,
Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)

DIMPS

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Helme Ladies Report

In the June/ July magazine, I mentioned our summer meetings would be rambles around our local area followed by lunches at various venues. Our first outing was to Greenhead Park. I hadn't been there for years and was surprised how well kept it was. I have fond memories of visiting as a child especially the summer entertainment followed by fireworks in August. I also remember playing tennis, putting and bowls with friends and then a terrifying few minutes when I lost one of my children on a very hot crowded Saturday afternoon. Fortunately he had taken himself to the Lost Children Tent and his name was called out over the tannoy!! Sighs of relief.....

Our second walk was along the canal between Slaithwaite and Marsden but we didn't get that far. What a busy area that is; cyclists, joggers, walkers. I think we were the slowest. After watching the ducklings and a stop for coffee, we descended on the Wills O' Nats for a well earned meal!

Our third walk took us round South Crossland where we all appreciated what a beautiful part of the world we live in. I read a notice on a gate which said a Wetland area was going to be created. Perhaps we will be visiting there next year. Our lunch venue was The Sons of the North in Armitage Bridge but unfortunately I was not able to go.

Having had lovely weather for all our outings, it was bound to break. After setting off round Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, the heavens opened so we ran for cover. Morrisons cafe beckoned so we went there for a drink and a chance to dry off, before once again arriving at The Wills for sustenance.

We have one more walk planned to be followed by a trip to Cannon Hall and then our annual coffee morning at the end of August. Please support us. All our surplus funds go to charity and we have supported countless ones over the years.

Janet Rockett

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

Ringing the Prayer Bell

On our recent Dales holiday, Richard and I visited the local church in Grinton for 'Hymns and Pimm's'. (A possible future event for our Parish?) The theme that linked the hymns together was church bells. The vicar used the following quotation from Charles Sturgeon. Make of it what you will!

Alison Whiteley

'Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give but an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might.'

Wonderland Restored

It was a joy to perform Opera North's production of Will Todd's *Wonderland Restored* at St Bartholomew's, Meltham.

We had 70 students join our professional cast & band, performing to a packed audience.

All in all a fantastic evening - thank you for having us!



Laura Maniura,
Schools Programme Producer, Opera North

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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

Daniel Jay Hart and Naomi Leigh Garnett

Baptisms - we welcome you into the Lord's family

Evan Keifer Dyson Howarth

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Rodney Warhurst, Peter Whiteley

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

Parish Communion with the Bayfords

The whole Parish came together at St Bartholomew's Church on Sunday 29th June for a service of Holy Communion. Rev John Dracup led the service and introduced CMS mission partners Stu and Rosie Bayford who shared the story about their ministry in Brazil. Jean Collison was organist, Janet Rockett read the lessons and Alistair Storey and Irene Harrop assisted with communion. Sarah Glover led the prayers and the music group accompanied one of the hymns. It was so good to worship together and to share an excellent lunch afterwards which was served in the church hall. Thanks for to all at St Bartholomew's for their warm welcome and their hospitality.



**Each Wednesday starting on
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still thinking,
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for your guest!

I'm inviting



to Alpha.

Weekly Parish Services for August & September

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

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

3rd Aug	St James' (SoW) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am
10th	St Bartholomew's 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am
17th	St James' (HC) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am
24th	St Bartholomew's 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am

31st Aug Parish Communion at Helme Church 10.30am

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

7th Sept.	St James' (SoW) 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am
14th	St Bartholomew's (HC) 9.00am then Civic Service 10.30am
21st	St James' 10.00am (HC) and St Mary's Wilshaw (HC) 11.15am
28th	St Bartholomew's 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** 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.
- 14th Sept will have a short said communion service at 9am followed by the Civic Service, both at St Bart's Church. All Welcome to both services.

Pentecost Sunday - 8th June

To celebrate Pentecost, all 6 church congregations came together for a service of Holy Communion at St James' Church Meltham Mills. Rev John Dracup led the service and was celebrant assisted by Alistair Storey and Rev Martyn Crompton. Liz-anne Searson and Tim Bleasdale read the lessons and Richard and Alison Whiteley operated the PowerPoint. Rev John spoke about how the Holy Spirit came on the disciples and of how this experience completely changed their lives. If we say yes to the Holy Spirit it is a bit scary as it will take us out of our comfort zone and disturb our complacency but what a wonderful difference it will make to our lives. Fellowship continued over coffee and cake and our thanks to all at St James' for their hospitality.



Tel. 01484 859229 E: secretary@hdfhs.org.uk W: www.hdfhs.org.uk

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Twitter (X): [@HDFHS01](https://twitter.com/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:

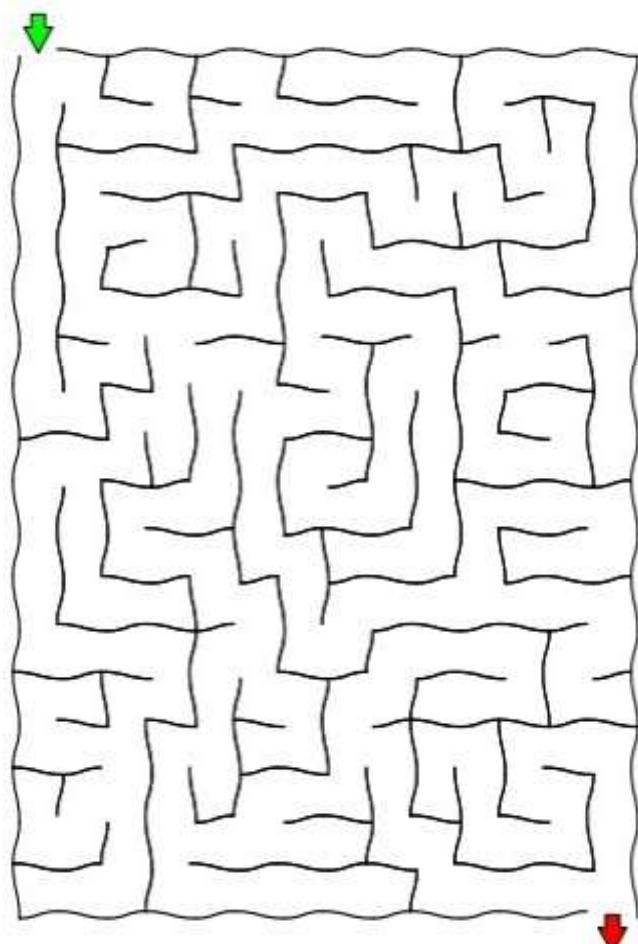
Monday to Thursday & Saturday	2.00 pm to 4.30 pm
Wednesday also	10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Friday	10.00 am to 12.30 pm

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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:

11/08/2025	Mrs V Poole	01/09/2025	Vacant
18/08/2025	Mrs V White	08/09/2025	Vacant
25/08/2025	Mr & Mrs J Brierley	15/09/2025	Vacant
		22/09/2025	F Whitaker
06/10/2025	Mr & Mrs M Farrell	29/09/2025	Glover Family

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.

2nd Aug - Tia Greyhound

6th Sept - Hospice

9th Aug - At the Methodist Church

13th Sept - St Mary's Church

16th Aug - Pie Ladies

20th Sept - Stage Co.

23rd Aug - Helme Ladies

27th Sept - Church Hall

30th Aug - Junior Football

4th Oct - Guilbert & Sullivan



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St Mary's Report

What a glorious few weeks of summer we have been able to enjoy and how beautiful all the gardens are looking. Up at St Mary's, along with our lovely friends from Christ Church, we have enjoyed four Services of the Word and four services of Holy Communion. We are grateful to Rev John, Rev Dennis, Rev Judy and Lay Reader Jacqueline for leading our worship and to all those who read lessons, provide music, prepare and operate the power points and provide refreshments.

Special services included a service on Fathers' Day when we were reminded how God our Father cares for and loves us and can be trusted to always provide good things for us. We attended the Churches Together service on Pentecost Sunday and also the Parish Communion at St Bartholomew's at the end of June which was followed by lunch.

On Sunday 22nd June around thirty people enjoyed an Afternoon Tea up at Wilshaw Village Hall. The hall looked beautiful and the tables were adorned with pretty tablecloths and china crockery and laden with delicious savouries and cakes. Background music was provided by Valley Flutes and we even had a glass of Prosecco.

During Holmfirth Art Week 9th - 12th St Mary's hosted a fringe event. There were 120 exhibits provided by "Friends Through Art" and Moor View Glass. £170 was raised for Macmillan and Kirkwood Hospice. The Mystery Bag Stall and refreshments raised £600 for St Mary's Church so a great success so thank you to all who helped in any way. There was also a Fringe event at Wilshaw Village hall hosted by Wilshaw Art Collective in with lots of exhibits. M

ay we wish you all a happy holiday and ask God to bless all our young folk during their school holidays.

Update from Bell House Care Home

In July the Bell House residents shared a service for people with dementia. We used lots of symbols and pictures with our focus being on a special version of Psalm 23:

The Lord is my caregiver, He understands my needs
When my mind is confused and I am anxious, He is there beside me; He brings me peace.

Though my mind and body grow frail, I do not fear the darkness
for the light of His presence comforts me.

He sends moments of clarity and enjoyment that fill me with delight.
He enters the dark recesses of my mind, where others cannot reach.

Surely his goodness and mercy travel with me, and one day I will awake with Him
and all will be right.

Amen
Jacqueline France

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Just For Fun By Denis A

Did you know...?

- I've started telling everyone about the benefit of eating dried grapes, it's all about raisin awareness
- Fred bit the corner off a sachet of ketchup which resulted in ketchup being squirted into his eyes, Now he has heinzsight.
- If you sing whilst having a shower, and get soap in your mouth, does it become a soap opera?
- Did you know that if you boil a funny bone, it becomes a laughing stock.
- I didn't know how lighten works, then it struck me....then it stuck the chimney and I had to have a new chimney built. How much did it cost? Nothing its on the house!
- What you do when muffins is spelt backwards?
- Have you noticed that animals are getting more intelligent and active these days? Yesterday I saw six cows playing poker. The steaks were high.
- This morning I saw a lizard standing on its hind legs telling jokes to some other animals. It was a stand up chameleon.

I'm going to South Wales for a week's holiday at my brother's house. He lives in a lovely little village called Lloyshroyeyyrrhgridarbrewrothh... sorry, there was a hair in my mouth.

God Bless, T.T.F.N, Denis A.

Some tourists touring the north of England stopped to visit a Priory. The Prior gave them a tour of the buildings, ending in the kitchen, where one monk was making fish and chips. One tourist said brightly: "You must be the fish friar," to which the monk gravely replied, "No, I am the chip monk."

Can you solve the Sudoku?

	7	3				
	4		6		3	9
9		7				4
5	9	2				
			4		2	
2		6		1		
1	3	5		2		
			4	5		

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The hard core fans were at the back, playing air-organ

Answer on the inside front Page

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