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Meltham Parish Magazine

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2025

www.melthamparish.co.uk

Crisis



Charity Fundraising Morning



Saturday 22nd November

10.00am to 12.00pm



At St. James' Church
Meltham Mills (the one by the park)

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Crisis UK (trading as Crisis) Charity number: 1082947

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St Bart's Poppy garden. Credit to Carl Aspey	Cover
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"If you worry, you didn't pray.
 If you pray, don't worry"

– Anon

VICAR OF THE PARISH OF MELTHAM CHRIST THE KING

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CHRIST CHURCH

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

Prayer for Growth

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Who alone brings
growth to your
Church,
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local community,
Through Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen.

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A note from the editor ...

Hello!

Autumn has definitely arrived in the Parish and I hope you are snuggled up in a blanket delaying turning up the heating for a little longer while reading what has been happening and what's coming up.

Some exciting news on 'Eco Church' on page 11 and what we are hoping to achieve. Take a look!

Also Alpha is well and truly underway in the church hall on Wednesdays, but its ok you can still take part if you would like, turn to page 9 for more info.

Don't forget to look out and put dates in your diary of all the exciting events coming up over the next 2 months.

Thank you for those who continue to support me and the magazine by sending submissions in. The deadline of the Dec/ Jan magazine will be earlier than usual:

Monday 17th November 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.

Confidentiality is always respected.

If you would like to ask for prayers to be said, please contact

Christine Rolls 340342

Hester Deacon 657069

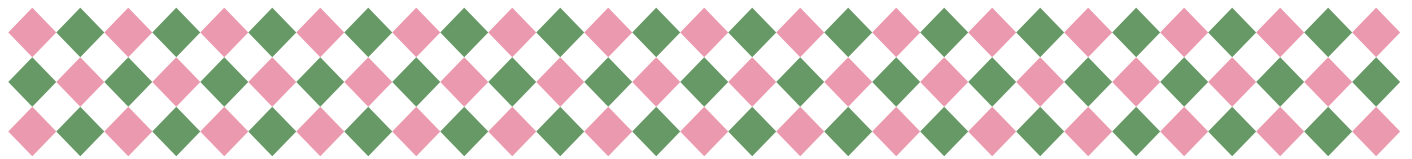


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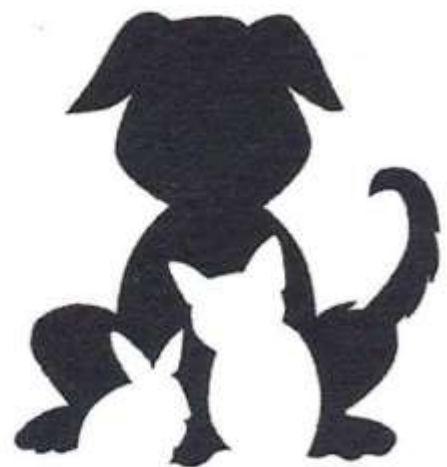
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Thongsbridge, Holmfirth HD9 7HP

Eve Burrows

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Mobile: 07907 630622

holmevalleypetsandsuppliesltd@gmail.com



Letter from your Vicar

September is a funny month; if you don't hit the ground running you will spend the month trying to catch up and be exhausted by October, if you do hit the ground running, all your plans will ensure you're exhausted by October. Either way around the summer holidays will feel like a long distant dream and people will start talking about Christmas coming soon.

For us, September has been busy and productive. We held our annual Civic Service at which we welcomed our new mayor, Ann, into her post and took the opportunity to thank all those who work hard to support our community as well as to pray for God's blessing on their work.

We have also started our Alpha course which will be running each Wednesday evening in the Church Hall until the end of November. This is being well attended and well supported.

We also held a public meeting to consider the future of Helme Church. It was very encouraging to have so many people attend and offer their support in trying to find a way to keep the building open and serving both the community and the Church. The next step will be to draw together a smaller group of people to consider the details and practicalities of how we might best manage the building in this respect. I am aware that maintaining access to the Churchyard is important to many people. It is the Church of England's theology to provide a permanent resting place. So I can reassure you all that ensuring that all graves are respected and remain accessible will be an important part of our planning.

I said that people are already talking about Christmas, and this will start on the weekend of the 29th/30th of November when we will have a Christmas fair in the Church Hall followed by the lights being turned on in the evening on the Saturday and Carols in the Park on Sunday evening.

Of course, before that we have the Harvest Festivals in October, the annual memorial service, and Remembrance Sunday. Our memorial service will be on the 2nd November at 4pm in St Bartholomew's and is open to anyone who wishes to remember a loved one. This year Remembrance Sunday is the 9th of November, and the service will start at 10:45am outside St Bartholomew's. The Church will be open for those who need shelter or a seat.

God bless,
Reverend John Dracup (Vicar)

Parish Admin Assistant

We are looking to recruit a new part time Parish Admin Assistant to work approximately 6hrs per week. For further information please email parishofchristtheking@gmail.com



Choir Notes

As you are maybe aware, the choir have been singing at services regularly less and less and rehearsals stopped quite a while ago. The reality of the situation is that we have struggled for quite some time now to get enough voices together at the same time for various reasons, and we only now have one remaining man - that being our head boy and longest serving member Denis Armstong.

Conscious of the situation, the remaining choir members decided to meet socially to discuss the future of the choir. We met in the back room of the church hall and had a buffet tea then reminisced about the past and chatted about how we all feel currently. There was a consensus amongst most that it was not really feasible to continue as a choir and that we should now hang up our robes and officially draw down the curtain on this wonderful chapter of our history here at St Bartholomew's. Whilst this is a sad and reluctant decision, we felt that the time was right rather than to just let things drag on with no real purpose as they have for the past 12 months or so.

We do however have a lot to be thankful for; we've been very fortunate to be able to continue all these years with such a strong choir when many churches lost their choirs maybe more than 30 years ago. Much of this is down to the dedication and long service of individual members. On this subject, after digging through the choir musical diary which dates back to 1926, we were fortunate to find that the choir members had been listed in the January of each year. Looking back, we realised that Sue Gregory had clocked up 50 years singing in the choir. We presented Sue with a certificate, gift voucher, flowers and card. It was nice to mark the occasion and thank Sue for her years of dedication to the church and choir. Over the years we have had a few men who have reached milestone years of service, but we think Sue is the first lady to be recognised.

We feel that we would like to mark the occasion officially and we hope to sing together at the morning service on Advent Sunday (30th November) where as a church we can give thanks for the wonderful years of service from all choir members past and present, and hopefully sign off with some good Advent hymns. We hope that maybe some previous members will be able to join us for this also.

You never know though, we may have to dust off the vocal chords and turn out for the odd special occasion here and there. Denis A has already chosen his hymns and requested a 30 strong choir when the time eventually comes for his funeral! I'm not sure how we would muster up that many voices but we'd certainly do the best we can!

Simon Ball

Alpha Course in Meltham Church Hall

It must have been a message of reassurance that the plan to hold an Alpha Course in the Church Hall was not a barmy idea! Sue and I were in the Basilica of St Trophime in Arles in September. And there on the church notice board was a poster advertising the Alpha Course!

The translated message was – “Try the Experience - A Time to meet, Question, Share, Meditate, Relax, Laugh, To discover.”

And now the Alpha Course is underway, not only in Arles but in Meltham! And not just anywhere in Meltham – we are meeting in the newly refurbished Church Hall.

What happens? We gather, chat, have a meal together on tables of 8 or so, chat more watch a 25-minute video which provides the opportunity to chat more! The first video asks the question – “Is there more to life than this?” From the animated discussion on the first night, it was clear that the 32 participants were questioning, sharing their stories, meditating on what they had just watched, laughed and kept on talking.

Rev John encouraged everyone to have fun. Although deciding to go on this course is a serious undertaking, by and large, those present complied with his request.

Future topics include “Who is Jesus?” “Why did Jesus Die” “How can I have faith?” “Does God heal today?” and much more.

If you would like to sample one of the sessions, just come along on a Wednesday night at 6.30pm and see what you make of it. The Course runs until November 27th and the sessions last for about 2 hours.

As the poster said
“Tentez l’expérience”
– try the experience!





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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

Eco Church.

The Church of England has five missional priorities it is the fifth mark of mission that I am reflecting on today

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth: This emphasizes the Church's responsibility towards environmental stewardship and caring for God's creation.

As a PCC in the summer, we discussed how we cared for creation and how we moved forward as a parish to think about how we did environmental stewardship in our churchyards and church buildings. The question was raised about what survey we could use to enable us to measure where we are and encourage us to move forward. The PCC took the decision to move forward with a programme that the diocese supports and which was set up by a Christian charity called A Rocha UK.

All four of the churches in our parish have now registered for eco church and begun the journey towards bronze. If you would like to know more about eco church please do take a look at the ecochurch website

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

The survey covers five areas of church life.

Worship and teaching

Buildings and energy

Land and nature

Community and global engagement

Lifestyle

We currently have a small environment group consisting of Revd John, Jenny Mathers, Jacqueline France, Ruth Murray-Webster and myself. If you are interested in joining the team please have a word with me.

Elizabeth



Looking back to the end of summer Meltham Fringe @The Crossroads Centre 8th – 12TH of July

An exciting week, as once again we closed the Crossroads Centre to host a fringe event for the Holmfirth Art festival. Along with the Wilshaw Collective, the Carlile institute and the 4th Fiend we welcomed many people to admire and buy paintings crafts . glass work and pottery from our large group of mainly local artists. Many people had never been in to the Centre, so it was good to share with them what we do.

From the sale of items from the Carlile Institute and the Crossroads Centre, a talented portrait artist and raffle we were able to send over £800 to Holmfirth

Art to be shared between the Macmillan Cancer Support charity and Kirkwood Hospice

The Craft and Create group which is run from the Centre was able to have a stall as all their proceeds went to either Macmillan or Kirkwood hospice. They sold lots of painted pebbles, cards and hedgehogs made by recycling books

Thank you to the Craft and create group whose efforts earned them nearly £80 for Kirkwood Hospice.

God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians v7)

Thank you to all those who exhibited and to the Stewards who ensured that everything ran smoothly.

We hope that many of you will join us next year at the different venues around Meltham and help us to celebrate the Holmfirth's Art week 60th Anniversary.

Sue Priestley



Save the date It's that time of year again



At the Crossroads shop we are already busy getting ready for our annual

Christmas on a Budget

This year it is on **Saturday 15th November** 9.30 -12, at the Meltham Methodist church on Mill moor road.

Let's help you to make Christmas affordable with lots of opportunities to buy preloved, new goods and presents for all the family and friends

There will be Christmas decorations, Christmas jumpers, gifts, tombola, raffles handmade and recycled goods, books and toys.

Come along and enjoy a cup of
Hot chocolate and cake
Free Entry.



Please continue to contribute to Meltham Food Bank

They especially need the following items:

Semi Skimmed or Whole long life milk, Canned meat meals, Tuna, Eggs, Breakfast Cereal, Jam. Other helpful items include: Coffee, Sugar, washing up liquid, Toiletries e.g shampoo, shaving cream, shower gel, toothpaste, soap and feminine hygiene products.

Drop into the bins at the Coop in Meltham and Netherton. Fresh & fro welcome but these must be delivered to the centre only.

Financial donations are also welcome.

Post through the centre door, labelled clearly 'Food bank'.

The foodbank is open **Mon-Fri, 10am - 12.30pm.**



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delivering items to charity shops & the tip
Cat feeding whilst away



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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

At Bell House the reading for this month was from Isaiah 54:10: "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you. The reading helped us to focus on God's love: God's love is not dependent on our circumstances. It is constant and unwavering. As we age, we may feel forgotten or overlooked, but God's love never fades. He loves us with a love that cannot be measured or compared to anything in this world. We can take comfort in knowing that His love is everlasting, and it is a love that will never fail us.

Jaqueline France

Are you a relative of Miriam Crossland?

Don't worry, you're not in trouble!

The nephew of Elsie Sykes is looking for a relative of Miriam Crossland. He has a family Bible which is rightly theirs and would like to return it back to the Crossland Family.

Please get in touch with Fiona Dracup (vicar's wife) personally or send a message to: melthamparishmagazine@gmail.com if you have any information, and I can pass this on to the nephew. Thanks.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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

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

Ellie Rae Scarff, Georgie Wren Hirst, Evelyn Grace Norcliffe

Funerals - May they rest in peace

Peter Whiteley, Sheila Garside, Valerie Welburn,
John Harrison, Rosemary Schofield

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



Would you be part of our Catering team?

The Parish of Meltham Christ The King has always had many unsung heroes who work behind the scenes producing food and treats for the many events we do. But have you ever thought of yourselves as being as important as the Person upfront leading? Well in God's sight you are.

You will know that under Rev John's leadership we have recently greatly increased the number of times we share food together and run events that welcome people in. All need catering for and washing up after. This is a vital ministry as we continue to build each other up and preach the Gospel.

To bring these talents together in a more organised form Debbie has the backing of the PCC to form an informal Catering team. This will be a very informal group which will add people as and when, more a central coordinating point perhaps. But if you enjoy feeding people in whatever way like baking, or preparing meals, please let Debbie or Mike know as we pull this team together over the next few weeks.

Debbie and Mike Still



Co - Incidence, no a God - Incidence

I had been invited to lunch at the Meltham Church Ladies Fellowship on a sunny afternoon on one of the last Tuesdays in summer. After a short service we tucked into some delicious open sandwiches, plenty of Yorkshire tea followed by trifle, fruit cake and a Victoria sponge - what a treat!

During the sumptuous meal, one of the members, a tall elegant lady, told us about her recent experience whilst with her daughter. One evening she could not get her breath and was breathing very rapidly. She felt she was in real trouble and her daughter quickly rang for an ambulance. However, they were told that the wait could be up to two hours. Realising that her mother likely needed urgent attention they decided to make arrangements to take her to hospital in the car. At that moment, there was a knock on the door and in walked two paramedics. Our elegant lady gasped because as she looked at the paramedics she saw a pair of white wings on each of their shoulders! At that point she knew that the Lord had sent them to help her and the wings were a sign from him. She was taken to hospital where she has made a full recovery which she attested to on that day. Another God-incidence in my book and I'm sure in hers too.

Jean Wrathall

Weekly Parish Services for October & November

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

These services will be as follows:

12th October St Bartholomew's (HC) 10.00am & St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am
19th St James' (HC) 10.00am & St Mary's Wilshaw (SoW) 11:15am
26th St Bartholomew's (HC) 10.00am & St Mary's Wilshaw (HC) 11:15am
2nd Nov St James' (SoW) 10.00am & St Mary's Wilshaw (HC) 11:15am
Memorial Service 4pm at St Bartholomew's Church All Welcome
9th Remembrance Sunday St Bartholomew's (HC) 9.30am & 10.45am (outside)
16th St James' 10.00am and St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am
23rd St Bartholomew's 10.00am & St Mary's Wilshaw 11:15am
30th **Parish Communion** - St Bartholomew's 10:30am

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.
- **Sunday 19th October** Tim from Jigsaw will be visiting and updating us on their work. There will be a Bring and Share Faith lunch afterwards. All welcome.
- 9th Nov - **Remembrance Sunday**, the church is also be open for this service.
- 30th Nov will be a Parish Communion, where all the Meltham churches join together, there will be NO other services that morning.

Further Events

Saturday 29th November, 11am - 4pm Christmas Market at the Church hall followed by Carols outside St Bartholomew's and the Christmas lights switch on.

Sunday 30th November, 4pm, Carols in the Park at Robert Ashton Park. Please gather near the bandstand.



Huddersfield & District
Family History Society

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

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

The Royal British Legion Poppy
Appeal starts Thursday 23rd
October until Tuesday 11th
November.

If anyone would like to help us sell
poppies in Morrisons during this
period, please contact me

on 07947 216695

Thank you

Sara Thorpe

RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser

200 CLUB : August & September Winners

622 £50 Mrs P Murgatroyd
808 £10 Mr. D. Earnshaw
889 £10 Vacant Number
376 £10 Mrs. P. Redfearn
939 £10 Mrs. J. Gee
445 £10 Mrs. B. Jennings

917 £50 Vacant Number
367 £10 Mr A Ball
403 £10 Mrs. A. Kaye
276 £10 Mrs P Homes
737 £10 Mr. C. Brearley

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:

06/10/2025	Mr & Mrs M Farrell	02/11/2025	Mr & Mrs J Halstead
13/10/2025	Mrs C Moulson	09/11/2025	Mr & Mrs J Mitchell
20/10/2025	Mr R Billington	16/11/2025	Mrs M Webster
27/10/2025	Mrs M Walker	23/11/2025	Mrs Cath Glover
		30/11/2025	Advent Sunday

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.

4th Oct - G&S

1th Oct - Christian Aid

18th Oct - @ the Methodist

25th Oct - Probus

1st Nov - Women's Institute

8th Nov - Meltham & MM Band

15th Nov - Metham Memories

22nd Nov - Closed for Crisis @ St James'

29th Nov - St Bart's Market

6th Dec - Scouts & Guides



DIMPS

by Ville

11 Station Street
Meltham, Holmfirth
HD9 5NX
tel. 01484 850960

Just For Fun By Denis A

Denis A with a difference - Pregnancy Q&A

Q. Should I have a baby after 35? A. No! 35 is enough

Q. What's the most reliable method to determine a baby's sex? A. Childbirth

Q. I'm 2 months pregnant now. When will my baby move?

A. With any luck, after they've finished college.

Q. Is there anything I should avoid while recovering from Childbirth? A. Pregnancy!

Q. Our baby was born last week, when will my life begin to feel and act normal again?
A. When the kid is in college.

Why I failed certain Exams:

Q. Which battle did Napoleon die? A. His last battle (Yes ok it was in St Helene)

Q. Where was the declaration of Independence signed? A. The bottom of the page.

Q. If you throw a blue stone into the Red Sea, what does it become? A. Wet

What I've found out:

As soon as I find a product that I really like, the manufacturer stops making it. I've also found out that the chances of a jelly and ice cream landing face down on your carpet are directly related to the newness, colour and cost of the carpet.

Another thing, as soon as I sit down to enjoy a cup of tea, the phone rings and by the time the call has ended, my tea has gone cold. But also, when I get time to have a lovely hot bath, that's the time when the phone rings again.

Us oldies again - I've just got a date with a lady who self identifies as a wheelie bin...? I can't remember if I'm taking her out on Tuesday or Wednesday.

I've decided to write a book about things I should be doing, it's called:
'My Ought to biography'

T.T.F.N, Denis A.

Exam

In the examination paper, the professor wanted the students to sign a form stating that they had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God.

The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

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St Mary's Report

What a lovely summer we have enjoyed this year and how much happier this makes us feel. We hope you have enjoyed a good holiday and feel rested and refreshed.

Up at Wilshaw we have shared four Holy Communion services, two Services of the Word and a Breakfast Church when we welcomed Lay Reader Nigel Priestley to lead our discussions and prayers. This is a different way to worship God and to learn more about Him. As well as prayers, hymns and Bible readings we shared bacon butties and coffee all seated around a big table. We enjoyed a good discussion about the Transfiguration as Nigel guided our questions, thoughts and conclusions and helped us to unpack the details of this amazing event. Thanks for to Liz and Peter for preparing the breakfast.

We have been encouraged to keep searching, to preserve in our prayers, to put God first and our own desires last and to follow Jesus' example of serving one another in a loving and humble way.

There was no service at St Mary's on Sunday 31st August as we joined the rest of the Parish at Christ Church Helme for a service of Holy Communion and **Forest Church**. How wonderful to see this beautiful church bursting at the seams with friends old and new and lots of young families coming together to worship God and to engage with His creation. Rev Elizabeth Snowdon led the service, Lay Reader Jacqueline France and Rev Dennis Shields read the lessons and Meltham Mills music group led the singing with Hannah on the keyboard. During the service we had the opportunity to go outside and search for hidden pictures of birds and flowers while we reflected on how God cares for us and the environment and of how we can depend on Him for all we need. Rev John Dracup was celebrant at communion assisted by Rev Elizabeth and Jacqueline. What a joy it was to share this holy "meal" with so many people in this beautiful church. Fellowship continued as we shared coffee and cake provided by the ladies of Christ Church and we thank them for their hospitality. Our thanks go to all the Clergy, Lay Readers. Musicians, readers lead our worship, not forgetting those who lead the intercessions and provide refreshments.

Our Prayer group has met twice when we have prayed for guidance for the future and for families. Finally on Saturday 13th September we held a coffee morning in Meltham. A good number of people came along to support this and we are grateful to all who helped in any way and to everyone who donated things for the raffle, cake stall and tombola. Another busy and happy time. God is good.

Good News! - Archie, who is four years old grew a pumpkin in the allotment behind Wilshaw Church. He entered it in a gardening competition in Hepworth and won first prize. Well done Archie.

Fused Glass Workshops

Hello everyone, I'm Carole Shoel, a fused and stained glass artist based in Meltham. From my home studio I create fused and stained glass, jewellery and art.

Two years ago, I was asked to run my first fused glass workshop. After some nudging and prompting I finally agreed and have to say it was a very enjoyable experience for all concerned. Working with fused glass is exciting because the raw materials are transformed into something really special in the kiln.

I hold fused glass workshops at Wilshaw Village Hall, a large light filled venue, accessible for those less mobile, with an adjacent car park.

This Autumn, besides holding fused glass Curve, Suncatcher and Christmas workshops, there are 2 Cross workshops taking place on October 9th and November 4th.

Suitable for adults of all ages, including those with less nimble fingers, the Cross shape will be hand cut and pre fused, ready for you to easily add your own creative and very personal decorations.

As there is less work to do in this workshop, decorating with beautiful glass elements will take less time than other workshops, approximately 1 hour, but there's plenty of time to finish if you take longer.

Come and meet new people and join in the fun! Make a floral or rainbow design, or something totally different. All materials, including specialist glass and equipment are provided and I'm on hand to assist. At the end of the workshop your work will be whisked away to be kiln fired. It will be ready within 2 weeks.

To experience this beautiful medium for yourself, you can book onto a workshop at www.cocoshoel.com. More details can be found online. I hope to meet you soon! Many thanks, Carole Shoel.



Helme Ladies Report

As I mentioned in my last report, we had one more walk left and that was around Beaumont Park. I missed this as I was miles away on holiday. It is a beautiful park and well looked after by a group known as The friends of Beaumont Park. There is also a lovely children's play area and a stone "lion "which my grandchildren loved sitting on. I used to push my pram from Netherton to Crosland moor through this park every Friday for my lunch at my in-laws house. It used to take me a good hour but I was younger and fitter then and the lunch was always a good roast dinner!

Our last summer trip out was to Cannon Hall park in a minibus. It was such a lovely day so after a coffee and a wander round the hall and gardens, we ate our lunch outside in the sunshine.

Our coffee morning proved to be a very successful event with a well stocked cake stall and numerous tombola prizes and so much help. The hall filled up as people came to sit at their usual tables to chat with their friends over a cup of coffee. It's such a great venue and asset to the town. It's lovely to see it being so well used. We netted approx. £350. Brilliant, and a good team effort.

Our next meeting was an afternoon tea in Helme church for members and friends. The previous week a group went up to the church to give it a good clean in preparation for this event and a forth coming service at the end of August. The tea was very enjoyable but sadly I missed out as I was in the Lake District with my son and family.

Back to the church hall again for our first meeting in September, with a well known local speaker, Jean Wrathall. She had us in stitches with her tales of her dad's antics. Though there was a sad side to this story, she made it humourous in a kind way. Well-done Jean.

Our next meeting, is a visit to the Mountain Rescue Centre in Marsden followed by lunch in the village.

In October we will be having an auction with our resident auctioneer Dorothy and model Jenny B who tries on some weird and wonderful clothes for us!! We fill the table with unwanted gifts, bric a brac and books. It's a good money maker.

Come and join us. We meet on alternate Tuesday mornings in the church hall. You will be very welcome.

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Poets Corner

The Bells of Meltham. by Richard Ryden

In Meltham's peaceful village fair,
The bells ring out through the crisp fresh air,
Their chimes a beacon, old and wise,
Telling tales of days gone by.

They echo o'er the moors and streams,
Awakening a village that's in its dreams,
A gentle sound of history,
Truly a link to God and mystery.



Back at School by Pam Murgatroyd

MOTHER'S VIEW

"Yippee, the kids are back at school",
All mums are heard to say,
"We've had six weeks of purgatory,
Their boredom every day"
"Where can we go today, Mum?
Mum, what can we do?
You're always busy in the house,
It's alright for you".

TEACHER'S VIEW

Oh no! The kids are back at school,
How quickly six weeks goes.
We teachers really need that break,
At the end of term it shows.
Six weeks off from "Please Miss,
It was him it wasn't me".
Six weeks off from playground duty,
When in the warm I'd rather be.

KIDS VIEW

Oh wow! It's back to school
After six weeks holiday.
A new teacher and a brand
new class, The next break
so far away.
But no boredom of six weeks at home,
No listening to mum say: "Go and tidy
your room", And then when I can't find
just what I need, It's because it's been
tidied away, I presume.

**The teachers work hard all year
round, In the Summer they're in
need of a rest, Some parents see
this as 'their' time,
While others see their kid as a pest.
But, no matter how it is viewed,
There is always more than one voice.
Although six weeks is such
a long time, It is stated in
the law and not choice.**



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