



Exciting times ...

Do you remember the first television programme you saw? I do. It was the Coronation, and my father drove us several miles to the nearest people we knew with a television. It was several years later that we got one of our own.

Our lives have changed enormously over the years, and the ways we communicate with each other are among those changes. When I was at university, I rang my parents once a week from a phone box (if I could find one that worked!) It would be unthinkable now for a young person not to have a mobile phone for instant contact at any moment. News came from newspapers or the wireless – or even by word of mouth!

Many of us have not (yet?) adopted some of the newer means of communication, such as email, or Facebook and Twitter, but as a church we cannot afford to miss these wonderful opportunities to share our faith with other people. However, we have moved on to embrace the digital age by establishing a new church website, which should reach those for whom the internet is the normal means of communication. Visitors or newcomers to the area will be easily able to access information about us and our activities. This is alongside our printed communications, and gives more opportunities to reach a wider range of people with the good news of Jesus Christ. How exciting is that!

Love and Blessings, **Rev. Laura Hardy**



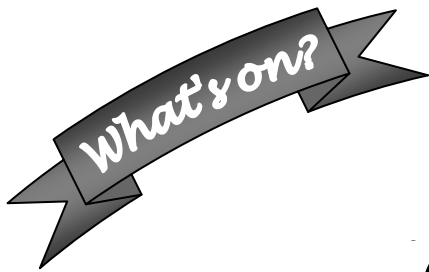
The eagle-eyed amongst you (and even hopefully those not usually so observant) will have noticed that the Newsletter has had a makeover for 2012.

The main reason for the change is to update the newsletter to reflect some of the design of the new Meltham Methodist Church website. The website has been significantly updated, but is still found at www.melthammethodist.org.uk. The website now includes general information about Meltham Methodist Church but also a detailed calendar of events and activities happening in our church and locally. Future plans are to work on increasing the amount of available information – if you want to help or make suggestions then just let me know. I'm also hoping to establish a Facebook page – to give people another way of finding out about us, and also a way for some of us to keep in touch with each other. I have to admit to not yet using Twitter, but I think it's quite interesting and there's time yet ...

I hope you like the new format, but if you want to make any comments or suggest changes or provide content for either the newsletter or the website, or are aware of an event that needs to be added to the web calendar, speak to me in Church on a Sunday or email

melthammethodist.web@gmail.com

Alison Stott



**Meltham Churches Together
Lent Courses/Learn and Lunch**

This year's Lent Courses will start on Thursday the 1st March and run for five weeks.



**Tuesday 14th Feb, 11am
Circuit Leisure Group**

Meet at Brockholes Methodist Church, for a two-hr walk. Bring your own picnic.

**Wednesday 15th Feb, 7.30pm
Ladies Fellowship**

Speaker Mrs G. Faricey—"Who Cares?"

**Wednesday 22nd Feb, 7.30pm
Circuit Ash Wednesday Service**
Shepley Methodist Church.

Tuesday 28th Feb, 7.30pm
Brighthouse Central Methodist Church are pleased to host
'An Evening with the Hudson Taylors'
Comprising Noel Richards, Brian Houston and Wayne Drain an evening of fabulous music is guaranteed.
Please contact Linda Brook as soon as possible to reserve your FREE ticket.
Tel: 07761 867723, or email
brighthousemusicgroup@gmail.com

The venue for all events is Meltham Methodist Church unless stated otherwise

The course at Meltham Methodist Church will replace the usual 'Learn and Lunch' fellowship sessions and start at 10.45am, with lunch following at noon. Sign-up sheets for all the courses will be available for the next couple of weeks, in Church, but sessions are open to all.

**Friday 2nd Mar, 1.30pm
Women's World Day of Prayer**

Service at Meltham Methodist Church.

**Tuesday 13th Mar, 11am
Circuit Leisure Group**

Meet at Honley Methodist Church for a two-hr walk. Bring your own picnic.



**Saturday 15th March, 9.30-11.30am
MWiB (Network) coffee morning**

Holmfirth Methodist Church. See Glenda for a ticket. Gifts of cakes, buns, preserves etc gratefully received. Proceeds for the Blenheim Project

**Wednesday 21st Mar, 7.30pm
Ladies Fellowship**

Mr. C. Baldwin on 'Theatre Studies'.

A date for the diary:

On **Saturday 2nd June** we are planning to hold a tea party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Everyone will be invited. Watch this space for further details.

Useful contact details
Minister Rev. Laura Hardy 851985
Church Council Secretary Gillian Moorhouse 01924 491370
Need somewhere to meet?
Meltham Methodist Church has rooms to rent. Contact Michael Gold, Tel: 859948

Regular Events

Every Sunday

Morning worship, 10.30am.
Sunday School available. All welcome.

Every Monday

Prayer for Zimbabwe, 11am, Jim Dearden's.

Alternate Mondays

Housegroup, 8pm at the home of Jo and Paul Rand.

Alternate Thursdays

Bible Study/Fellowship "Learn and Lunch", 10.45am, lunch at noon. Good food, good fellowship, everyone welcome. See notice about LENT GROUPS opposite.

1st Tuesday in the Month

Beetle Drive from 2-4pm. Two hours of fun, chat and refreshments. Admission £1

The deadline for submission of items for the next newsletter Apr-May 2012 is:

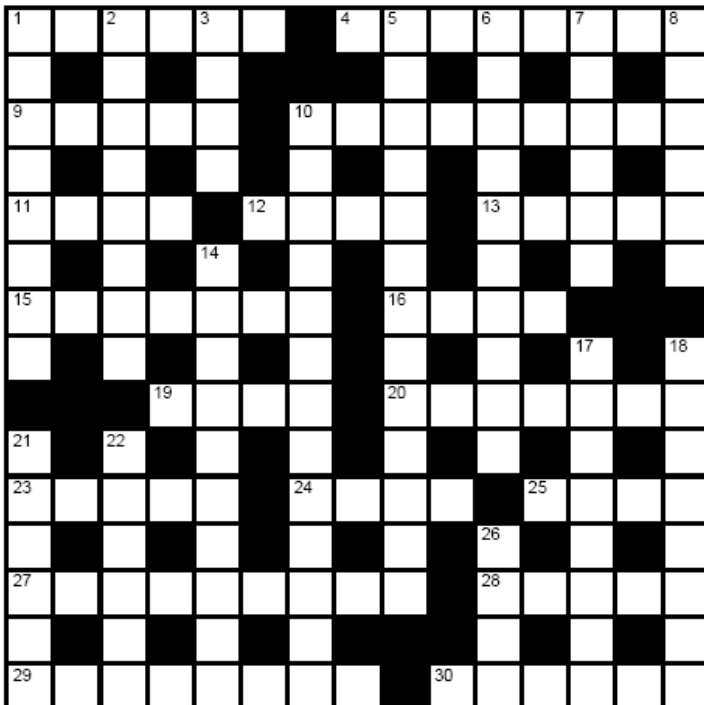
Sunday 18th March

To Jack Yates (tel 851156) or Alison Stott (melthammethodist.web@gmail.com).

Across:

1 Silenced. 4 Allocated. 9 Kingdoms or domains. 10 Babylonians. 11 Left behind when Peter and Andrew followed Jesus. 12 Lame man's entrance to the house where Jesus healed him. 13 Depart. 15 Stamens of a crocus. 16 New thought. 19 Unhearing. 20 Absconded. 23 Enticed. 24 The coldest of the ten plagues. 25 Insult rendering the giver in danger of hell fire. 27 First visitors to the baby Jesus. 28 Twinkle. 29 Sin. 30 Physical state after absence of food.

C r o s s w o r d



Down:

1 Written on the Priest's headband. 2 To set apart for sacred use. 3 Wise men's domain. 5 Location where Jesus met the disciples for breakfast (3,2,8) 6 Greediness. 7 Cured of leprosy by washing in the river Jordan. 8 Crockery. 10 Worn by Jesus on the cross (5,2,6) 14 Amity between David and Jonathan. 17 Against. 18 Forbidden in the seventh commandment 21 A place to pray. 22 Country visited by Paul. 26 Hairy Old Testament hunter.

What a Nativity carry on...

Our recent Nativity Service was led by Barbara Rochester. A number of members of the congregation young and not so young helped to tell a modern version of the Nativity story.

The story was narrated by two latter day Angels (Jack Yates and Sheila Furmedge). They saw the arrival of Mary and Joseph (Martha Rand and Eleanor Croft) with the baby Jesus on a bench in Meltham Hall Park. They were surprised by the arrival of a shepherd (Roger Furmedge) hotfoot from tending his flocks on Holme Moss, and the Park Gardener (Glenda Yates) who looked on in amazement as the subsequent dignitaries played havoc with her herbaceous borders. The Prime Minister (Paul Rand) with his bodyguard (Amos Rand), the President of the USA (John Hardy) and his bodyguard (Adam Croft) and then the Queen (Barbara Trevanion) with her lady in waiting (Eleanor Stott) and a complement of corgis all came to see the baby and bring presents.

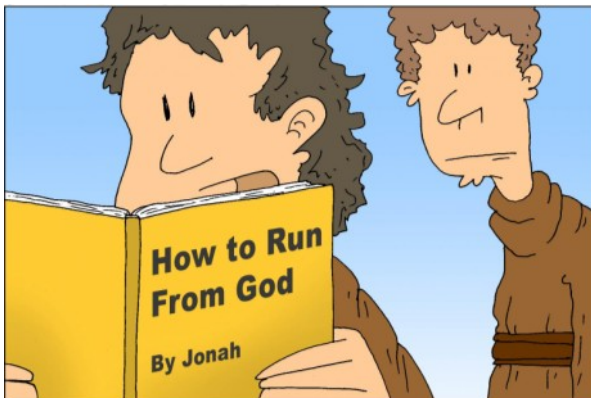


A small company of angels (Ella Mcfarlane and Harriet Gold) looked on and looked sparkly.

Our grateful thanks go to all members of this glorious company who were (?type-) cast at very short notice and gave us all an alternative view of a familiar story. Our thanks also to Barbara Rochester for leading the service and providing the script.

Lizanne Searson

The last laugh!



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IT JUST SAYS "DON'T"