

in the power of the Spirit...



Christ Church Mount Pellon



December 2007  January 2008

Price 50p

*a loving, nurturing fellowship which,
in the power of the Spirit,
awakens all people to the love of Jesus
and spreads the Gospel through words and actions.*



www.christchurchpellon.org.uk

Church Address: Church Lane, Mount Pellon, Halifax, HX2 0EF

Christ Church

Regular events

Sunday Club

Children are welcome at all our services! There is always a crèche available for younger children at every 10.45 service, and age-appropriate groups at all 10.45 services except Parade Sundays and holiday times. Just turn up for a fun morning discovering more about God's love for you. For more details contact Liz Dingsdale (**834439**).

House Groups

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 7.30 p.m. alternate weeks

Get together with others to explore fellowship, faith and prayer to help you in your daily discipleship. For more details and dates contact Karen Hellewell (**365027**)

Uniformed Groups

Mondays 6.00 – 7.00 p.m. Rainbows (for ages 5 - 7)

Contact: Jane Webster **885878**

Mondays 6.30 – 8.00 p.m. Brownies (for ages 7 - 10)

Contact: Tracey Jagger **248365**

Mondays 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. Guides (for ages 10 - 15)

Contact: Ann Cockerill **363892**

Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. Rangers (for ages 14+)

(alternate) Contact: Pam Robinson **345258**

Lunchbox

A monthly chance to worship together, followed by a chance to chat over lunch. Mondays, 11.45 a.m. For dates and more details contact Pam Higgs (**320554**)

Chatterbox

Our parent & toddler group meets every **Monday, 1.00 – 3.00 p.m.** – all are welcome! Just turn up for a chance to have a coffee and a chat while the children play, do craft, sing and have a story and lots of fun! For more details, contact John (**365027**).

From the Vicar

What are you worth?

I wonder just how much money you will be spending on presents for Christmas this year? The last I heard was that Christmas spending takes on average until July to pay off our credit cards and four million of us were still paying in November! And why do we do this? To show our love? How much we value the person we're giving to?

Of course we do. But is this the best way to show our love? It certainly seems to be the world's way. We seem to have got the idea that we pay people according to 'what they're worth'. But is this right? Are people really rewarded for what they're worth?

For example, what is the education of our children worth? Or the looking after the ill or infirm by nurses? Or staying at home, caring for your own children, giving them a loving, safe environment to grow in?

And then we turn to sport and entertainment, and wonder whether you can really say that someone like David Beckham is really worth the millions he gets each year through his salary and sponsorship. Apparently he is now worth £112million. Is he really worth that much more than the person who puts their life on the line daily to save others?

It suggests to me a society that has got its priorities wrong, or at the very least, that we shouldn't judge people's worth by their pay packets.

It's little wonder, perhaps, that the gap between rich and poor in our own country is widening when we value people in this way. It's little wonder too that there is an increasing fragmentation in society, where neighbours don't know each other, where older people are frightened to go out at night, or even open the door, where youngsters hang around on street corners because there's nothing better to do.

It's little wonder that people feel increasingly under pressure at work, to work longer hours, never to make a mistake, to give greater commitment to the firm and so on.

And so family life suffers, more and more people feel isolated and alone, with no one who really understands them, no one who will take the time to listen or find out what's really going on in their lives just underneath the surface, what they're really like deep down.

And yet, at this time of year, we are especially reminded that the world shouldn't be like that. Christmas, if it says anything at all to us through the tinsel and the commercialism that it has become, says that everyone is important.

"For God so loved the whole world that he sent his only Son" is the message of Christmas. *"Peace on earth, and good will to all people everywhere"* is what the angels sang when Jesus was born.

God looks down on the world he created, he looks at you and me, and he sees our need, our need of purpose, of feeling valued, of feeling loved despite our failings, and he decides to show you just exactly how much he loves, how much you do mean.

So he sends the most precious thing he has - his one and only Son: Jesus. God sends him to be born in a borrowed room, soon to be a refugee with nothing to his name. Financially, not the most expensive gift in the world, perhaps. But more precious and valuable nevertheless. For he sends his own flesh and blood, his own Son, to come as one of us, able to talk with us, walk with us, listen to us, laugh with us, cry with us, because he is one of us.

No, you may not be worth millions in the world's eyes, but you're worth much more in God's eyes! Why not come and find out more in one of our Christmas services this year - and find a source of love and acceptance that will never give out, that will never fail, that is not just for Christmas - but for life.

John Hellewell

Parish Noticeboard for December & January



10.45 a.m.

6.30 p.m.

December 2nd ADVENT SUNDAY

Isaiah 2.1 – 5; Matthew 24.36 – 44

Preacher Karen Hellewell

Reader Trevor Greenwood

Prayer Iain Lawson

Sidespeople Paul Newman

Coffee Patricia & Paul

Bread Derrick & Kathleen Lee

Chalice David & Christine

Hebrews 10.19 – 31

John Hellewell

Susan Levis

John Hellewell

December 9TH SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 11.1 – 10; Matthew 3.1 – 12

Preacher Sue Heptinstall

Reader Kath Sharman

Prayer Janet Abel

Sidespeople Valerie Schofield

Coffee Joyce, Margaret & Trevor

Hebrews 12.1 – 11; Mark 9.2 – 13

David Ramanauskas

John White

John White

December 16th THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 35.1 – 10; Matthew 11.2 – 11

Preacher John Hellewell

Reader Audrey Mitchell

Prayer Ann Cockerill

Sidespeople Trevor Greenwood

Coffee Freda, Tess & Pam

Bread Trevor & Eileen Hesselden

Chalice Christine & Rosemary

Hebrews 10.19 – 31

John Hellewell

special

10.45 a.m.

6.30 p.m.

December 23rd FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 35.1 – 10; Matthew 1.18 – 25 **No evening service**

Preacher John Hellewell

Reader Lynn Lumb

Prayer Jane Webster

Sidespeople Eddie Beaton

Coffee Susan & Hazel

December 30th FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS

Hebrews 2.10 – 18; Matthew 2.13 – 23 **No evening service**

Preacher John Hellewell

Reader Paul Newman

Prayer Anne Cockerill

Sidespeople Margaret Beaton

Coffee Volunteers

Bread Margaret & Eddie Beaton

Chalice Rosemary & June

January 6th EPIPHANY

Matthew 2.1–12; John 2.1–12; Mark 1.1–11 **Service at Highgate**

Preacher John Hellewell

Reader

Prayer

Sidespeople Ian Buckley

Coffee Kathleen, Katie & Clare

Bread Barrie Kitchen

Chalice June & Graeme

January 13th BAPTISM OF CHRIST

John 3.1 – 15

Jeremiah 1; Matthew 10.16 – 20

Preacher Iain Lawson

David Ramanauskas

Reader Ann Rollinson

Susan Levis

10.45 a.m.

6.30 p.m.

Prayer Caroline Spencer
Sidespeople Michael Cockerill
Coffee Margaret, Eddie & Grace

Ann Cockerill

January 20th THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Revelation 22.1, 2; John 4.5 – 34

Service at St Hilda's

Preacher John Hellewell
Reader Jane Webster
Prayer Jane Webster
Sidespeople Douglas Drake
Coffee Fran & Susan
Bread June & Brian Lockwood
Chalice Graeme & David

January 27th FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Luke 7.36 – 50

Jeremiah 16.1 – 18

Preacher John Hellewell
Reader Guides
Prayer Guides
Sidespeople Christine Buckley
Coffee Patricia & Paul

Karen Hellewell
Paul & Patricia Newman
John Hellewell

February 3rd SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

2 Timothy 3.14 – end; Luke 10.38 – 42

Jeremiah 20.7 – 18

Preacher John Hellewell
Reader Ann Cockerill
Prayer Iain Lawson
Sidespeople Marion Hunter
Coffee Rosemary & Jean
Bread Dorothy Faller
Chalice David & Christine

John Hellewell
Sue Heptinstall
Sue Heptinstall

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday 1st December 3.00 –5.30 p.m. District Guiding Advent Event
- in church

Sunday 2nd December: Advent Sunday

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

Monday 4th December 10.30 a.m. Asquith Court Communion

Friday 7th December 7.30 p.m. Ladies Friday Group
Christmas Bring and Share
at Jane Webster's

Sunday 9th December: Second Sunday in Advent

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion

Thursday 13th December 7.30 p.m. Celebration Band
midweek special service

Friday 14th December 6.30 p.m. Choir Practice
with Music Group

Sunday 16th December: Third Sunday in Advent

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

6.30 p.m. Candlelit Carol Service

Monday 17th December 7.00 p.m. Carol singing at Asda

Tuesday 18th December 10.30am Asquith Court Carol Service

Sunday 23rd December: Fourth Sunday in Advent

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

Monday 24th December 4.30 p.m. Christingle Service

6.30 p.m. Christingle Service

11.30 p.m. First Communion of Christmas

Tuesday 25th December 10.00 a.m. Family Communion

Sunday 30th December: First Sunday in Christmas

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

Sunday 6th January: Epiphany

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

6.30 p.m. Hope08 Churches Together
Service at Highgate

Sunday 13th January: Baptism of Christ

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion

Monday 15th January

7.30 p.m. PCC Meeting in The Barn

Sunday 20th January: Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

4.00 p.m. Churches Together Service
at St Hilda's

Sunday 27th January: Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.45 a.m. Parade Service

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

Sunday 3rd February: Sunday Next before Lent

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

Wednesday 6th February

7.30 p.m. Ash Wednesday - Ashing and
Holy Communion Service
at Pellon Baptist

THANK YOU!

Everyone who comes to our church helps to make it the place it is, and some people are especially important in that. Some are obvious - our Readers, the choir & worship group, those who help give out the books, etc. Some are less obvious - those who make the coffee, run the young people's work, clean the church, arrange the flowers, etc.

To name them all would take up more space than I have, but you are very much appreciated!

If Christ Church is to continue to grow - in numbers and more importantly in our relationship with God - then we all need to play our part, so why not make this coming year a time when you ask God what part he wants you to play in the life of his church?

God bless you all.

John Hellewell



And finally...

The minister came home after church on Christmas morning looking very satisfied.

“Many people in church?” asked his wife, bustling around the kitchen.

“Yes, and we had at least three strangers, though I didn't see them.”

“Then how do you know?”

“Because there were three £10 notes in the collection plate.”



*Be joyful always, pray
continually; give thanks
in all circumstances, for
this is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus*

(I Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

PELLON LUNCHEON CLUB

Thursdays
at Pellon Baptist Church Hall



Food served at 12.30 pm
Two course lunch - £2.50

For more information
contact Norma on 839861



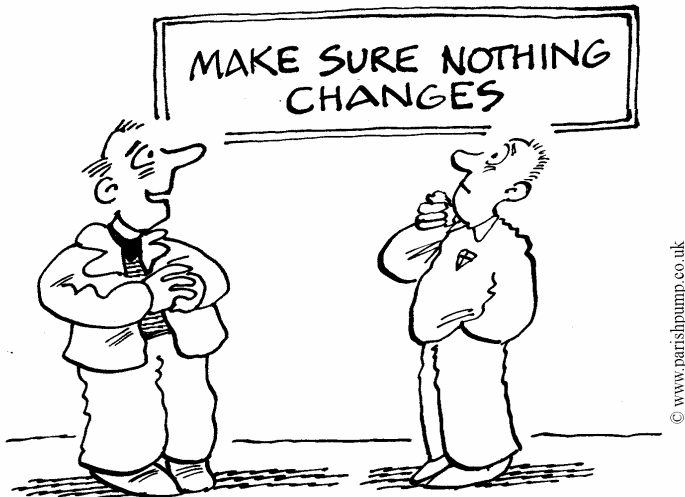
UNWANTED MOBILE PHONES AND USED PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES

Kit Merrill collects these items on behalf of Christian Aid. When sent for recycling each phone adds £3.50 and each cartridge about £1.33 to Christian Aid funds. Please Help. Kit would also be pleased to receive any used large padded envelopes as he recycles these to send the phones and cartridges to Christian Aid

***Please bring your items to church,
or contact Kit directly on 01274 876141***

Archbishop of Canterbury - atrocities 'disgrace of twentieth century'

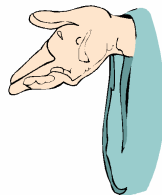
The Archbishop of Canterbury has said that violence targeted against whole communities is 'one of the greatest disgraces of the twentieth century'. Speaking during a ceremony at the Genocide Memorial at Tsitsernakaberd in Yerevan, during his recent visit to Armenia, he said that such atrocities had scarred the international community. "This ceremony reminds us of one of the greatest disgraces of the twentieth century ... the history of brutal massacres of whole peoples on ethnic and religious grounds; the turning away of the rest of the world and the denial of the suffering of the victims throughout the 20th century - this has been one of the most regular and terrible features of international conflict."



*...it's perhaps not the most dynamic of mission statements...
but at least it received the unanimous approval of the Church Council!*

GOD THE CREATOR?

In today's culture the story of our universe's origin focuses on the big bang. A lump of matter, smaller than a pinhead, exploded 15 billion years ago, producing billions of stars. Life took shape as the necessary elements came together from the dust of exploding stars. And so the story goes on! It defines who we are and where we come from.



However, whether we accept the science or not, this is only half the story! The Bible sets out another story, in which God is creator of the universe, 'By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible' (Hebrews 11:3). So how is God as Creator presented in Genesis 1?

'In the beginning God': While science can offer answers about the how of creation, the Bible tells us about the WHY- i.e. the purpose of the Creator. Creation reflects the character and glory of God, inviting a response of dependence and praise!

'God created the heavens and the earth': God shapes the universe, as expressed in the six days of creation. They speak of an ordered and purposeful universe that expresses his will; God spoke and it was done! An alternative translation says 'God began creating...' This reminds us that creation is not simply a past event, but an incomplete process. The Holy Spirit who brought life out of chaos at the beginning is still working in our lives and world.

'God created man in his own image': We mustn't miss the point of the narrative; human beings are the climax and crown of creation. We share the sixth day of creation with other creatures, as well as 95% of the same DNA. However, we are distinctively made in the image of God, which means that we are not simply here for ourselves, but we are created for relationship with God. This involves reflecting and representing God's character in our relationship with and responsibility for the created order.

'And God saw that it was good': Like an artist, God described his work as good. We should never lose the sense of wonder, blessing and enjoyment in God's world, which includes affirming creativity not only in ourselves but others.

Report of PCC meeting held November 9th 2007

It is a privilege to serve on the PCC and see how hard so many people work for God here in Christ Church.

Finance

Barry presented a statement of the finances showing how many ongoing projects there are. The Samuel Room is completed (go and have a look if you have not already done so). The £2000 received from the Gift Day 2007 will be added to money still in hand from 2006 in order to improve the lighting, set up the projection system and, if necessary, be used in the reordering project (sale of surplus pews may cover the costs). We have paid £23,000 of our parish share with the probability of being able to pay off another £5,000 at the end of the financial year. I found it very complicated which is why he's the treasurer and I'm not.

The Standing committee will deal with updating the Health and Safety document and Pam and Graham are involved with diocesan training events for Child Protection issues.



Re-ordering

Thank you for your written and oral responses to PCC members regarding the reordering at the front of Church. Your concerns have been taken on board and it was agreed that the font should be re-sited in the entrance vestibule of the church (subject to the approval of the architect) where it can be seen when coming in and be safe from vandalism, with further discussions with the family of Joyce Levy

regarding how the cover will be displayed in church.

The cost will be greatly reduced by the fact that there are gifted and willing craftsmen at Christ Church.



It was agreed by a majority that, subject to the architect's approval, the outline plans would be put to the DAC in order to apply to the faculty.

We agreed to apply for grants to restore the bells, bell frame and clock and stained glass windows. We may not be granted them but it is worth applying.

Parish weekend

In 2008 would you rather go away or hold it locally so that those who find the cost too much could also be involved? Please let someone on the PCC know your preference.

Donations for flowers would be appreciated.

Hope 08

We agreed that we would purchase a banner to go outside the church.

Sound system

The event run by Celebration Halifax was extremely useful and we now have all instruments through the system.

Link with St Augustine's

The vicar is having talks about this - could be really exciting as we already have links.

Christmas Services at Christ Church



Wednesday 5 December

7.30pm 'Still before Christmas' advent Service

A chance to take time out of this busy time of year and prepare our hearts for Christmas in this quieter, more reflective service.

Thursday 13 December

7.30pm Christmas Celebration Service

An alternative, lively, modern praise-style celebration of Christmas.

Sunday 16 December

10.45am Christmas play by Sunday Clubs

A communion service where the children perform a play on a Christmas theme.

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

A traditional mix of readings and well-known carols, all in the wonderful atmosphere of candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 23 December

10.45am Communion Service

Preparing for Christmas as we celebrate communion together.

Monday 24 December

4.30 & 6.30pm Christingle Service

Two chances to join in this perfect way to enter into the spirit of Christmas, as we present the Christmas story in a relevant way for all the family.

11.30pm Midnight Communion

The first communion of Christmas as we celebrate together the birth of Jesus at the first opportunity.

Tuesday 25 December

10.00am Christmas Family Communion

Our family celebration of Christmas and the birth of the Saviour.

Sunday 30 December

10.45am Family Communion

Reflect on the year past, and look forward to the year ahead.

Sunday 6 January 2008

10.45am Epiphany Family Communion

Celebrate the feast of the Epiphany at the start of the new year together.

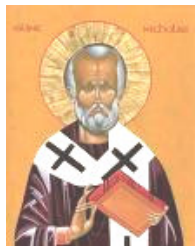
6.30pm Hope 08 Launch Service

Celebrate with other churches our commitment to one another, to our communities and to the Hope08 initiative *at Highgate Methodist Church.*

DECEMBER 6—ST NICHOLAS

Father Christmas seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children, and was given 6 December as his day.

Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution. According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)



Over the centuries many, including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron. Perhaps it was on account of St Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6 December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night - or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival.... and after awhile his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the window sill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind - Krishkinkle as they knew him - and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded good ones with presents.



From a Parish Magazine:
Burial of the dead held over to next month
owing to lack of space.



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGH THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published Monarch

Thoughts for anyone tempted to spend, spend, spend....

- ◆ *The world provides enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed. - Mohandas Gandhi*
- ◆ *If we have God in all things while they are ours, we shall have all things in God when they are taken away. - Anon*
- ◆ *It is easier to renounce worldly possessions than it is to renounce the love of them. - Walter Hilton*
- ◆ *Nothing influences a man so much as that which he calls his own. - C H Spurgeon*
- ◆ *He who is not liberal with what he has, does but deceive himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more. - William Plumer*
- ◆ *Let us give according to our incomes lest God make our incomes to match our gifts. - Anon*
- ◆ *We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. - Duane Hulse*

For 2008, live a life of faith...

As a New Year dawns, the world is still full of evil and injustice. To react with bitterness against it may be understandable, but all the same, such bitterness can become a curse that is passed from generation to generation. When evil and injustice hits home, we have a choice: we can become hard, bitter and vindictive, or we can keep our hearts soft and clean by praying and believing.

Years ago Marilyn Hickey, the great American Bible teacher, was lying ill in bed for months laid low by parasites she had picked up on a journey to the Russian steppes. She couldn't do anything except watch a bit of TV. She would watch the news and find it very depressing. Then the Lord said to her, "You can pray over the news and change it." Revolutionary thought.

So Marilyn prayed for the removal of Ceausescu, that cruel despot who devastated Romania for so long. She prayed and prayed. She had been stopped many times at the border into Romania and had all sorts of obstructions to her work there. Was Ceausescu removed immediately? No. But she never gave up praying and within months of praying all those prayers, that dastardly regime was brought to an abrupt and very final end.

Do you despair about the regime in Zimbabwe? Or in Burma? It seems impossible that such wickedness and cruelty can ever come to an end. But think of the end of Communism and the fall of the Berlin Wall? The great intercessory leader, Johannes Fasius, was told by God to go to Russia and pray



against the spirit of death at Lenin's tomb. Along with other intercessors, he did so. And prayed and prayed and prayed. Thousands of others were praying too. The monolith of Communism crumbled without a shot being fired.

Have you ever thought how remarkable that was?

As Christians, we can walk humbly before God and pray believing that even the most impossible situations personally, nationally and internationally can be overcome by the power of believing prayer. Have faith in God. Never give up! *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."* Psalm 23: 4

The Bible urges us to turn to God in expectation of changing things. But it also stresses the need for faith.

For *"without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists, and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6)

CHILDREN'S X-MAS CAROLS

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
We three kings of porridge and tar
On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me
Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire.

He's makin a list, chicken and rice.

Noel. Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.

With the jelly toast proclaim
Olive, the other reindeer. (all of the other reindeer)

Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say

Sleep in heavenly peas.

In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is
sparse and brown

You'll go down in listerine ...

Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay

O come, froggy faithful.

Advent Desire

*Come now, high king of heaven. Come to us
in flesh and bone. Bring life to us who are
weary with misery. Bring peace to us who
are overcome with weeping, whose cheeks
are covered with bitter salt tears. Seek us out,
who are lost in the darkness of depression. Do
not forget us, but show mercy on us. Impart to us your everlast-
ing joy, so that we, who are fashioned by your hands, may praise
your glory.*



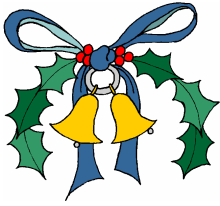
(From The Exeter Book, c.950 AD. Author unknown)

Jesus knows how you feel!

'He...experienced...all the pain, all the testing...' Hebrews 2:18

Are you financially strapped? Jesus knows how you feel. He said He didn't have a place to lay His head. Do you feel taken advantage of? Jesus paid taxes to a foreign emperor. But what if your problem is the opposite? You have a successful business to run. Can Jesus relate? Absolutely. He recruited and oversaw His own organization. Seventy men, plus an assortment of women who looked to Him for leadership. Do you make budgets and hire personnel? Christ knows leadership is not easy. His group included a zealot who hated the Romans and a tax collector who worked for them. And how about family tension? 'When His family heard what was happening, they tried to take Him home with them. "He's out of His mind," they said' (Mark 3:21 NLT). Have you been falsely accused? The night before His death people '...tried to find something false against Jesus so they could kill Him' (Matthew 26:59 NCV). Oh yes, Jesus has been there. He experienced '...all the pain, all the testing...'

Max Lucado writes: 'Jesus was angry enough to purge the temple, distraught enough to weep in public, fun-loving enough to be called a drunkard, winsome enough to attract kids, poor enough to borrow a coin for a sermon illustration, radical enough to get kicked out of town, responsible enough to care for His mother, tempted enough to know the smell of satan, and anxious enough to sweat blood'. But why would Christ endure earth's toughest pain? So that you would know that '...He is able...to run to the cry of...those who are being...tested...' (Hebrews 2:18 AMP). Whatever you're facing today, Jesus knows how you feel!



'The soul is dyed the colour of its thoughts. Think only on those things that are in line with your principles and can bear the light of day. The content of your character is your choice. Day by day, what you do is who you become.'

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

These were not found in England earlier than 1854. The practise also came from Germany, but not exclusively; for in certain French and Italian convents, the nuns had long been hanging stockings on the abbess' door, with notes inside asking for St Nicholas' protection; and next morning they would be found to be full of sweets and trinkets.



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The Parish Magazine is distributed on the last Sunday of each month. The copy deadline for the February magazine is **Sunday, 13th January 2008**

MID-WEEK CELEBRATION SPECIAL

Thursday 13th December at 7.30 p.m.



The Celebration Band will lead contemporary and traditional songs

(in the style of our Sunday evening Celebration Services)



Mulled wine and mice pies afterwards

Do come and join us!

As a New Year begins

A prayer by Karl Barth (1886 - 1968). This most prominent Protestant theologian of his time spent much of his life resisting the Nazi movement, and so knew a thing or two about entering a New Year undaunted by troubles all around him.

O Lord, our Father!...at the turn of the year... our hearts are filled with sombre thoughts... our ears are deafened by the voices of the radio and the newspapers, with their numerous predictions for the coming year. Instead we want to hear your word, your voice, your assurance, your guidance. We know that you are in our midst, and are eager to give us all that we need, whether we ask or not.

...We ask for one thing only: that you collect our scattered thoughts, getting rid of the confused and defiant thoughts that may distract us, and thus enable us to concentrate on your limitless generosity to us. You were abundantly generous to us last year, and will be no less generous to us next year, and in every year to come. Fill us with gratitude to you.



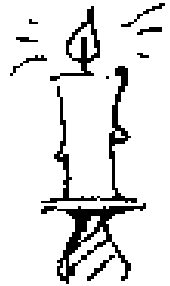


From the Registers...

BAPTISMS

28th Oct James Lewis Brearley-Lawton
Teegan Charmaine Hazel Thompson
Kaine Stuart Lewis Thompson
Finlay Steven Miles

*our warmest congratulations to
their families and friends*



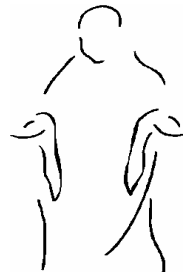
WEDDINGS

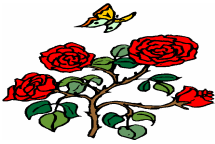
None this month

FUNERALS

1st Nov Hazel Warnes RIP
8th Nov David Harkess RIP
14th Nov Olive Jagger RIP

*our love, sympathy and prayers to
their families and friends*





CHURCH FLOWERS

Do you have a special memory of a loved one or a celebration? Then why not think about making a donation to the church flowers and have an arrangement designed for the occasion. Or if you just want to make a donation anyway that is also welcome. Just speak to June Lockwood in church most Sundays. If it is a donation then there is a collection box where you pick up your service books. Alternatively, contact June on Halifax 356740.

COMMUNICANTS AND COLLECTIONS

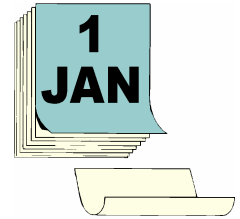
	Communicants	Loose	Stewardship	Total
Oct 7	75	75.57	496.10	571.67
Oct 14	28	96.52	275.00	371.52
Oct 21	10	89.34	328.93	418.27
Oct 28	28	46.88	521.22	568.10
(Oct 28 - Gift Day)				

LORD, PROP US UP IN 2008

An old farmer in the village attended the church's New Year prayer meeting. He stood up and made one simple request for 2008: "Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side." Intrigued, the minister asked afterwards what he had meant.

The farmer explained: "I've got an old barn in my field. It's been there a long time. It's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing, but just before Christmas I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side. I made sure it wouldn't fall over this coming year.

"Then I got to thinking about how much I am like that old barn. I've been around a long time, I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, and I'm still standing, too. But by the end of 2007, what with Foot and Mouth and Blue Tongue, I found myself leaning to one side a bit. So for 2008 I've asked the Lord to prop me up on my leanin' side. I figure he can make sure that I don't fall over, either."

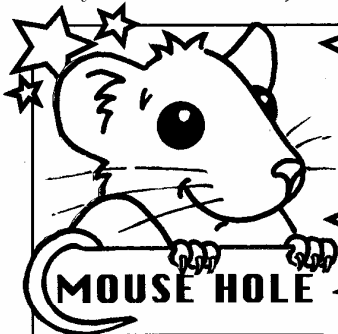


Ho! Ho! Ho!

First man: "My wife doesn't know what she wants for Christmas."

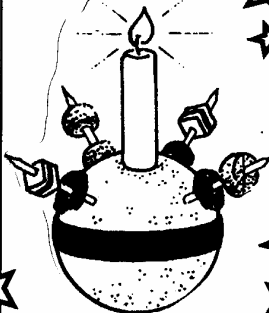
Second man: "You're lucky. Mine does!"

Sadly - we bid farewell to the Mousehole Page this month - we say a huge thank you to Deborah Noble for all her wonderful tales... or is it tails?



Christingles

Make a 'Christingle' this Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Light of the World.



The orange = the world
 The candle = Jesus, the light of the world
 The red ribbon = the blood of Jesus when he died for us.
 The fruit and sweets = God's goodness and provision.

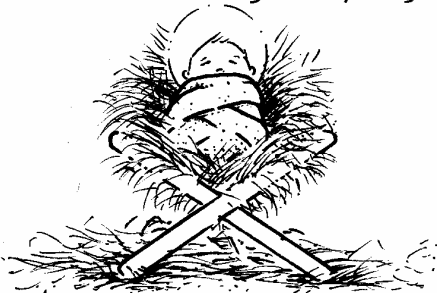
'Christingle' means Christ-Light

A Wonderful Promise

Two thousand, seven hundred years ago,
 God spoke to the prophet Isaiah,
 He had an important message to tell,
 About a coming Messiah.

A Saviour would be born one day,
 The greatest King of all,
 Born in a lowly stable,
 And laid in a cattle stall.

He'd teach us about God our Father,
 Of how he loves us so,
 He'd open the way to be friends with God
 And show us the right way to go.



And **JESUS** was born in a stable:
 The Messiah, the Saviour, the King,
 The Mighty God, the Prince of Peace,
 God's Son, **OUR** Saviour and friend!

Read the message God gave Isaiah in
Isaiah 9 verses 1-7

There are other names and titles for Jesus in the Bible.
 Look up the references to find out what they are.

___ **M** ___ John 1:29 ___ **G** ___ Revelation 17:14
 ___ **OO** ___ John 10:9 ___ **I** ___ John 8:12
 ___ **A** ___ John 14:6 **S** ___ **P** ___ John 10:11
V ___ John 15:1 **W** ___ John 1:1

The Fourth Gift

The fourth gift they had was
Wisdom,
The one they needed for themselves
And the world.

Wisdom
To leave the familiar
In search of a new security
More precious than the gifts they gave.

Wisdom
To discover, in the starlit child,
A significance above
Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Wisdom
And the eyes of faith
To receive God's showing
Of his Son.

The gifts we read about
Were three,
But the fourth gift they had was
Wisdom.

By Daphne Kitching

John R Earnshaw

**Sales and Service
of
T.V. AUDIO VIDEO**

Showroom & Workshop

❖
❖ NOW OPEN ❖

9.00a.m.—6.00 p.m. Mon—Fri
10.00a.m.—4.00p.m. Sat

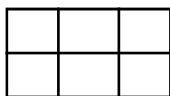
“THE TANNERY” Bradford Road
(up side of carpet shop)
Call or ring Halifax 202110
3 Oaklands Avenue, Northowram

You can advertise
your business
in this space
for a **whole year**
at a cost of just **£30**

Interested?

Then call
Kath Sharman on
01422 363058
for details

BRUCE RUSHWORTH



**BATHROOMS
And TILING**

48 Broadley Grove
Moorend Road • Halifax

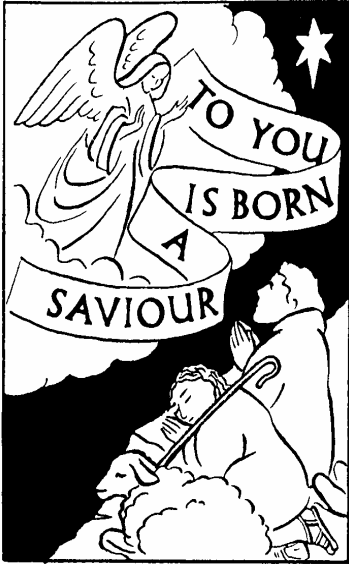
Tel:
01422 362155

RIGOR MORTIS

Having a Party to
Celebrate a Birthday or
Special Occasion
or
Putting on a Charity Show
(we also have other contacts)



Give us a ring on
01422 348616 or
07957 318999
For live music 60s style



Amanda Dalby Funeral Services



- . Caring Christian Lady
Funeral Director
- . Fully Qualified
- . Personal Independent Service
- . Free Pre-funeral Planning &
Advice
- . 24 Hour Emergency Service

Tel: 01422 253593
Mobile: 07895 539 409

21 St. Albans Avenue, Skircoat
Green, Halifax HX3 0LZ

FRIENDLY LANDSCAPES



Hard Landscaping,
Lawns and Maintenance
at affordable prices

Call John on
07979 801995

No job too small (or big)

gigi hair fashions

State registered Hairdresser

***Specialists in
colouring and perming***
or call in for a free consultation for
your special wedding day
hairstyle

Senior Citizen day
Tuesday and Wednesday

6 Sutcliffe Street, Pellon, Halifax
Tel: 01422 362812



Christ Church Church Directory



Vicar:	Rev. John Hellewell	365027
	New Vicarage, Church Lane, Mount Pellon	
	john@revjhell.freeserve.co.uk	
Readers:	Karen Hellewell	365027
	David Ramanauskas	330770
Wardens:	Jane Webster	885878
	Steve Daveney	251532
P.C.C. Secretary	Kath Sharman	363058
P.C.C. Treasurer	Barrie Kitchen	358178
Worship Director	tba	
Pastoral Care	Rosemary Power O'Mahony	330770
Prayer Line	Liz Dingsdale	834439
Housegroups	Karen Hellewell	365027
Evangelism	David Ramanauskas	330770
Children & Youth	Liz Dingsdale	834439
Child Protection	Audrey Mitchell	247494
Magazine Editor	Graham Cole	244214
Electoral Roll	Anne Rollinson	
Church Flowers	June Lockwood	356740
Baptism enquiries	John Hellewell	365027
Wedding enquiries	June Lockwood	356740

Christ Church (Pellon) C of E (VC) Primary School

Head	Helen York	350792
-------------	-------------------	---------------

Church Address: Church Lane, Mount Pellon, Halifax, HX2 0EF