

# **OUTLOOK**



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August 2015

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#### The Parish of St Thomas, Mellor

Registered Charity No. 1130414

Vicar: Rev'd Alex Sanders MA, The Vicarage, 51 Church Road, Mellor 427 1203

Phone 0161 484 5079 (Parish Office) email mellorchurch@uwclub.net www.mellorparish.org.uk

Parish Office The Parish Centre, Church Road, Mellor, Stockport SK6 5LX

For all enquiries and bookings for the Church & Parish Centre

Phone: 0161 484 5079

The office is open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm

**Reader** Nick Sanders 51 Church Road, Mellor 427 1203

Reader Emeritus Dr Peter Harrison 24 Clement Road, Marple Bridge 427 6542

Parish Office Val Wallace (Mon, Wed & Thurs mornings)

Administrator

Parish Secretary Peta Stockton (Tues & Fri mornings)

**Churchwardens** Anthea Nicholls 18 Townscliffe Lane, Marple Bridge 427 2187

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Churches Together in Marple Representatives Helen Kennedy & Janet Wilson

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are arranged through the Parish Office

Articles for publication should be submitted to the Parish Office (preferably by email to mellorchurch@uwclub.net). The deadline for the September 2015 edition is 15th August.

#### **Vicar's Viewpoint**



As many of you know, any change in the Church of England requires a lot of thought and discussion first – sometimes several decades' worth. This is reflected in one of the perennial 'lightbulb jokes': 'How many Anglicans does it take to change a lightbulb? ...... CHANGE???!!!'

It was therefore with some cautiousness that I and the PCC began to consider the timings of the two morning services on Sundays. Those leaving the 8.30 service

are often greeted by those arriving for the 9.30 service; not in itself a bad thing, but it has been causing congestion in the church entrance, in the car-park, and particularly in Church Road, where a steady stream of cars going down meets an equally steady stream of cars coming up. It also means that I have to choose between having a word with '8.30 worshippers' as they leave, and getting ready for the 9.30 service, both of which I'd like to do.

Questionnaires were offered to the two congregations over a few weeks in May, and a splendid number were returned -21 from '8.30 people' and 105 from '9.30 people' - close to a 100% return. The detailed results are displayed in the church porch; from these, three points are clear.

Firstly, there was no significant desire for change in either the time or the content of the 8.30 service. Almost all respondents would like it to remain as it is – so it will.

Secondly, a large majority of people (84%) attending the 9.30 service said that they would prefer, or would not mind, a later start to the service, against 16% who prefer a 9.30 start but would still come to the service if it started later. The PCC discussed this issue at its last meeting, and resolved to move the start time to 10.00 am with effect from the start of September. This will be reviewed after Christmas. It was felt that a later start to the service might make it easier for older members to attend, and also teenagers who need a bit more sleep!

Thirdly, there was a vote of support from the 9.30 congregation to have occasional 'Family Services'. We are fortunate to have a good number of children and young people in our church community, and we are enriched by them. The weekly Toddler Group in the Parish Centre, run independently but supported by church members, is full to capacity, and attendance is rising at the monthly Praise & Play sessions for babies and toddlers. We also have a growing number of families bringing their children for baptism at St Thomas' church. It

(Continued on page 5)

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2015**

2 Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	8.30 am 9.30 am	Holy Communion Parish Communion
4 Tues		Choir trip to Belgium (until 10th) Meet Mellor Rec Field at 6.00am
5 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion
9 Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	8.30 am 9.30 am 6.30 pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evensong at St Georges Church, Ypres, Belgium Last Post at the Menin Gate, Ypres
11 Tues	1.30pm	Wedding of James Garbett and Jane Williams
12 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion
14 Fri	1.00pm	Wedding of Paul Fletcher and Gemma Brook
15 Sat	1.00pm	Wedding of Craig Deacon and Sarah Whitham
16 Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	8.30 am 9.30 am Tbc	Holy Communion Parish Communion Holy Baptism
19 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion
22 Sat	2.00pm	Wedding of Michael Douglas and Amy Buckley
23 Sun 12th Sunday after Trinity	8.30 am 9.30 am	Holy Communion Parish Communion
26 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion

29 Sat	2.00pm	Wedding of Njal Long and Zoë Fairclough
30 Sun 13th Sunday after Trinity	8.30 am 9.30 am	Holy Communion Parish Communion
31 Mon	12.30pm	Wedding of Benjamin Gibson and Amy Sutton

(Vicar's Viewpoint: continued from page 3)

would be very good to have an appropriate Sunday service from time to time to which we can invite all these parents and children.

The PCC approved a proposal to have a Family Service once a quarter; there will of course continue to be an 8.30 Said Communion and 6.30pm evening service on these days too.

So yes, we are going to change the time of our main Sunday service from 9.30 to 10am, and we are going to introduce occasional Family Services. This is the first significant change I have made in getting on for 3 years here (intentionally at least!) and I hope you will agree with me that it is for the right reason – to encourage, and make it easier for, more people to come to worship God here. With every blessing, Alex

#### Coffee with the Vicar

There will be no **Coffee with the Vicar on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August** because of the work being done to the heating system in the Parish Centre.

#### Good Luck to the Choir!

We all send our very best wishes to our choir, who are off to Belgium for the 2015 Choir Tour from 4th to 10th August. During the tour they will be singing in Brussels and Bruges Cathedrals, and also at St George's Ypres, followed by the moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate memorial. They will also be going on a canal trip, visiting Tyne Cot cemetery, going on a mass bike ride and no doubt sampling the local chocolate on a number of occasions! Full report next month...

#### **Editorial Meanderings**

Greetings, gentle readers. I'm getting a bit concerned. Some of my devoted readers have informed me that they like reading my 'Editorial Meanderings'. All I can say is that it's a pity they haven't got anything better to do. These ramblings started purely as page-fillers when I had nothing of relevance, interest or value to impart to my readership (I still don't, if the truth be known). Anyway, dear readers, technology. That's as good a thing as any to have a go at this month. We all know technology has its advantages and it is very much with us and here to stay. I'm using it now. But for those of us with a few more years on the clock it takes a bit of getting used to. Cards this, cards that. Pin numbers this, pin numbers that. Passwords this, passwords that. Frankly, if I didn't share my house with Mrs Editor, who is quite 'techno-savvy' and can explain things (she passed the ECDL when on the staff at UMIST), I would go back to the steam-typewriter, cat's whisker radio, the Light Programme and rubbing two sticks together to make fire. The only thing I watch on my 'telly' now is a few minutes of the BBC News channel occasionally and even then I wonder why I bothered. Anyway, there's a programme on that channel called 'Click' which I have watched once or twice. It reports on new inventions and technological developments. Each week these inventions and developments make redundant, or supersede, the ones I saw the week before. I'm sure we do this, not because we need to, but just because we can.

My youngest son tells me I shouldn't be afraid of technology. Now, he happens to be a Royal Navy Air Traffic Control Officer controlling some pretty expensive flying machines so he's got to be at the sharp end of it. Whereas I haven't. Most technology brings out the 'Victor Meldrew' syndrome in me. I would say, though, that it doesn't mean the missus and I are complete troglodytes. A while ago we decided to change our huge old wind-up TV set for a modern flat-screen jobby. Unfortunately, placing the on-line order, Mrs Editor inadvertently clicked the wrong measurements box and we are now watching a screen 16 inches wide and 9 inches high across the room through binoculars!

When aforementioned son first saw our 'new' telly, he collapsed with laughter. The following day the phone rang (from son's flat in Manchester) and when I answered it, a little high pitched mock-Hobbit voice said, "Hello, Bilbo Baggins here. Can I have my 'telly' back, please?" - followed by sniggery laughter.

He obviously thought that was funny, gentle readers. I thought it was pathetic.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully,' said the divorce court judge, 'and have decided to give your wife £500 per week.' 'That's very fair of you, Your Honour,' said the husband. 'And I'll try and slip her a few quid myself on occasions.'

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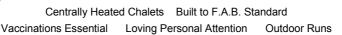
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#### **Mellor Textile Arts Group**

Meg Barley

Following the first Textile Journeys event in 2011 a group of local people came together to form the Mellor Textile Arts Group. We meet monthly at the Parish Centre and have a wide range of skills relating to textiles, including embroidery and patchwork & quilting. It is not a teaching group but sometimes members offer demonstrations of their favourite techniques, and we certainly offer each other support and encouragement. Although we typically work on our own projects we also sometimes have a theme which we work towards, but this is not compulsory! In 2014 we entered a quilt in the group competition at the Loch Lomond Quilt show. We occasionally organise workshops with experienced leaders.

MTAG is a local community group and welcomes people who live in the Mellor, Marple Bridge and Marple area. If you enjoy embroidery, patchwork & quilting, feltmaking, spinning or any other textile-related activity do come along and give us a try. You would be very welcome.

The first meeting of the Autumn term is on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1.00pm – 4.00pm. Please contact Meg Barley on 427 4370 or meg\_barley@hotmail.com



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#### Letter to the editor

#### Dear Editor

The recent request for amusing contributions for the magazine reminded me of the time, over thirty years ago, when Guy Nicholls and I used to pick up our children from Mellor Primary School. I had only recently moved to the area and at that time it was unusual to see a man at the school gates. One day I asked him if he worked shifts. "No, I'm resting," he replied. "Oh," I said with concern, "have you been ill?" He fixed me with an icy stare and replied, "I'm an ACTor."

Naturally I repeated this story and it soon entered our family language. Over the years, if anyone had skived off doing homework or chores, their excuse was always, "I'm an ACTor and I'm RESTing!"

Now I am about to retire, and looking forward to RESTing myself. So keep on with your gags, Guy. We love your wit and style, and remember that our funniest lines are often delivered when we think we are being serious. Moira Hopwood

#### Dear Moira

I was delighted to receive your letter to the editor. I remember well that petite raven-haired young beauty at the school gates (which was the only reason I used to meet my children). Gentle readers, I always remembered her as a lady of style, charm, humour and quality, and my perceptiveness has now been exemplified by her amusing and welcome letter.

I would, however, just point out to my devoted readership, that although I remember the lovely Moira, I don't remember the particular exchange she refers to but I'm sure it took place. I would just like to clarify, however, that as an old theatrical, any use of that rather dated phrase (even then) "I am an ACTor and I'm RESTing" (particularly with emphasis on those first two syllables) would have been intended 'tongue in cheek', however icily delivered. Just in case it makes me sound like a bigger theatrical poser than I am already.

Once again, Moira, thank you for your letter. Glad to have you among my devoted readership. The name 'Daniel' comes to mind. Fd.

Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss Cricket League records were destroyed in a fire, and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

## **Calling all Kids**

#### Edale Youth Weekend 2015 - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September



By now you will all no doubt be thoroughly bored of your phones and tablets, having been attached to them all summer, and are NATIONAL desperate for a chance to socialise with some other humans. Or maybe you just haven't eaten enough mine-

strone soup? Well, the time has come...it's the Edale Weekend!

Every year we gather as many 8- to 17-year-olds as we can find and take over the Peak Centre in Edale for a relaxed weekend of games and activities (and cake). There are no other restrictions as to who can come, but there are a limited number of bunk beds, so first back with their forms, first served (cake, probably...). The cost this year will be £40 each, with all food and activities provided... except for the cake, which is your job!

Please ask for an invitation letter and booking form if you'd like to come, or would like to know more about details of costs, programme of activities and kit list. They can be found in church, or up at the Parish Centre, or from any of this year's team. But finally a massive thank-you to last year's team, Janet Wilson, Helen Kennedy, Jules and Richard Elliot and a whole host of other congregation members and parents who have put so much time and effort into making Edale such a wonderful experience over many many years. So many memories, so much cake!

Looking forward to seeing you all there, Ash Shah, Clare Jackson, Emma Wilson, Jo Burrows, Mel Groocock, and Ric Benford-Miller

#### Church Fete and Bands on the Hill

Cornelia Smith

On 27<sup>th</sup> June the sun shone for the annual Mellor Fete festivities. From Brabyns Park, Mellor's Rose Queen was paraded up Longhurst Lane to grace the opening of the fete on the hill. The proceedings included the usual wellorganised array of activities: traditional bric-a-brac, teddy tombola, Punch and Judy, a coconut shy, a highly competitive golf competition and the obligatory bottle tombola stall to peruse at your leisure.

All this was interspersed with birds of prey displays, tree surgeon acrobatics, dog agility and the annual children sports races. A plentiful beer supply, coffee, cakes and various live bands meant there was something for everyone. A fantastic family day out which is a permanent fixture in our calendar... Next year we will definitely attend the evening band night, as it topped off a day to remember.



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#### Mellor Church Fete and Bands on the Hill

Chrissie and Lily Douglas

Saturday 27th June proved to be another memorable day for the families in Mellor - it was the annual village fete and thankfully the sun was forecast to shine all day!

The event kicked off in the usual fashion with the beautiful Rose Queen and adorable Rose Buds being chauffeured country-style by tractor from Brabyns Park up to the church. On arrival, the field was already buzzing with activity. Local bands were showing off their hidden talents, the beer tent was keeping the adults refreshed and the children were free to wander with friends from stall to stall - from stints on the bouncy castle and penalty shoot-out competitions, to Punch and Judy, face painting and biscuit decorating - they were entertained for hours. The bird of prey demonstration once again gave a fascinating display and the dog show proved to be a hit, but the highlight of the day was watching the teddy bears parachuting gracefully over the Mellor hills. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all.

But it wasn't home time just yet... as the sun went down over Manchester, the field was being prepared for the evening entertainment. It was the third 'Bands on the Hill' event and this time a sell out! With the beer tent restocked, five local bands ready and waiting to perform, and delicious street food on offer, it was a night not to be missed for both young and old. The hand-made stone-baked pizzas were definitely worth the wait and the VW camper van dishing up Mexican street food provided a unique twist on the usual burger in a bun! The kids had the time of their lives exploring in the fields and hiding from parents in the long grass, whilst the adults chatted and danced well into the night. Shortly after midnight it was time to head home. For some the walk across the fields proved a little challenging but I suppose this just adds to the excitement of a fabulous summer's evening spent on the hill!



#### Film on the Hill

Advance warning of the next Film on the Hill:

#### Whistle down the Wind

will be shown on **Saturday 12th September at Mellor Parish Centre,** with the show starting at 7.30pm.

Once again there will be refreshments, a bar and raffle. **Tickets £5** will be available from the Parish Office and Anthea Nicholls nearer the time. All profits to Mellor Parish Church.

#### **Friends of Mellor Parish Centre**

Kath Threlfall

The Friends Committee will be kicking off the Autumn season with a presentation on family history research by a genealogist with over 50 years of experience in this field. Four lucky winners of our raffle on Fete day are having their family trees researched over the summer, and demonstration of the process and results will form part of the evening's talk:

**Thursday 1st October: 'Who do you think you are?',** a presentation by **Michael Watts**, 7.30pm Mellor Parish Centre. Tickets £7.50 *from Angela Stead 427 3571 or the Parish Centre 484 5079. Booking for Friends opens 24th August. Public booking from 31st August.* 

We continue with

**Saturday 17th October: Rubber Bridge Drive,** 1.30-5pm, Mellor Parish Centre. *Tickets £5 each or £18 per table from Val Wallace on 427 4900. Booking opens 7th September.* 

And a couple of dates for your diary, both at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre:

**Saturday 21st November: French Evening**, a 3-course meal and entertainment. **Saturday 19th December: 'Figgy Pudding'**, an evening of music and readings for Christmas.

The Friends exist to raise funds for the maintenance of our widely used community facility, Mellor Parish Centre, while giving you all a reasonably priced, good evening out at our wide variety of events. Thank you to all who support us. You can also contribute to the Parish Centre by becoming a Friend for a £10 annual subscription. If you would like to do this, our membership secretary Christine Dutson would love to hear from you on 427 3775 or c.dutson@btinternet.com .

#### **Postcard Corner**

When was the last time you looked at the Postcard Corner? You might be surprised to find two new postcards with views of our Church. One of these was taken in early summer and the other in winter, on St. Andrew's day with snow on the ground!

Also available is a recently printed "Guide to Mellor Church ", beautifully illustrated with colour photographs. This costs only £3. Why not buy a couple to send to relatives or friends who may have moved away from Mellor? Another fascinating publication is "A Year in the Mellor Churchyard" which costs only £2.50. There are also four poetry books in a series written by a local prize-winning poet (now I wonder what her name is?).

Please do have a browse. Remember every purchase helps support our historic Church.



#### **BRADFORD DALE WALK**

## Distance 6.8 km; height gain 100 m; approx walking time 2 1/2 hours Map OL24 White Peak

Drive to Bakewell and continue out on the A6, turning first right after Haddon Hall (B5056).

Keep on this road until you reach Alport: do not turn left with the B-road but carry straight on. Park at Alport Bridge in the lay-by on the right or left.

MR219645. Walk up the road, looking for a small gate on the left; turn into the field heading south-west. Do not go downhill, but keep to the left of the fence with fine views to the south. Continue to the road turning left, then walk down the road, crossing the river and up the other side, just before a small field barn on the left.

Now take the footpath on the right, turning left just before the river. Follow the path uphill behind the houses. Keep on this path and head south-west for about 1 km. Descend into a valley then turn right into the wood. Follow the path until you descend the steel steps on the left: continue to follow this path until the junction, MR199633 (if you turn left and walk uphill you will reach the village of Middleton after approx ½ kilometre). Turn right and follow the riverside path (note the stone books in the wall by the sheep wash just on the right).

Pass the stone bridge on the left, noting the inscription, and looking out for fish in the river. At the end of the wood, cross the flagged bridge and follow the riverside path to the road. Cross the road and take the Coach Road to Alport, keeping to the right of the river. Use the "Walkers Only" path (do not use the Coach Road when it climbs to the right).

At the old telephone box (now a defibrillator!) turn left to arrive back at your car.

#### **Tea and Friendship**

Nancy Cloughley

In June we had our special summer lunch—as usual a most delicious home-cooked affair but made even more special by the fact that it was the fifteenth anniversary of Tea and Friendship, it having been started in 2000 by the WI as their Millennium project.

Do phone Sheila on 449 0282 if you would like to join us. You can be picked up by our volunteers and we should be pleased to see you.

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#### My Rose Queen day

Lucy Howling



On Friday I got off the school bus to be picked up by Jo Burrows and driven straight up to church. As I walked in, Lisa handed me my bouquet. It was beautiful! I really loved it! We started the rehearsal. As there was one visiting Rose Queen. George M's Dad stepped in and acted as the visiting Queen! It was very funny and we all laughed a lot. We then all hopped into our cars, as it was pouring down, and drove to Knowle Farm to decorate the trailer. The trailer was decorated, and made extra special with Sam's wedding decorations. The little ones then had a go at sitting in the trailer. They loved it so much it was a struggle to get them out! Eleanor, Helena, and I went back to my house. We all had a glass of bucks fizz and Helena painted our nails.

They looked great! I went straight to sleep that night.

On Saturday morning I got up and went to my dancing class. Mum said I shouldn't go but our show was in two weeks so I felt I had to. I left 30 minutes early and went straight to Sherlocks. They were fabulous and made my hair look beautiful. I then went into their staff room where my friend, Anna, did my make-up and put on my dress (much to David's surprise, when he walked in by accident). When I arrived at Brabyns everybody looked gorgeous and the sun was shining.

Amy got us all ready for the photos, and then took the most amazing shots. She even got little Harriet with a smile and a clap! The tractor, trailer and big blue lorry arrived with Farmer Hodgson, Dave Watson and the Band. My team and Gaby's team climbed on board the trailer and Gaby and I got in Kate's car. It had been polished so much it was like a mirror and looked extra beautiful with the flowers and bows. We rode up the hill slowly, waving at everyone we

passed. I felt like royalty as everyone came out of their houses and watched us.

The service commenced and it was time for me to pin the rose onto Alex. I was rubbish and couldn't do it! Eventually we did it together and then the service carried on. Gaby told us about her fun-filled year and about the charity and how much money she raised. It's hard to follow in your footsteps! I then got crowned by Gaby! It felt nice to be the official Mellor Rose Queen at last.

After the service we went to the well dressing led by the two enthusiastic Georges who went very fast. On the way there I kept sinking in the mud! Don't wear heels in a field - a lesson I learnt that day! Alex blessed the well and then I went straight off to launch my teddy! Chris Mann and his well experienced teddynauts were all there waiting and I let them fire it to the moon! After that I went over to see Lucy Monk very kindly running our stall! Thanks, Lucy, it was a great help! On the stall we had many EducAid-related things, trinket boxes, decorate a biscuit, Emily's hand-painted cards and face painting.

The fete was wonderful and the weather was great. I had an amazing time and really want to do it all over again. In the evening was Bands on the Hill. I enjoyed this as I got to relax more and spend more time with my friends. Thank you everyone who helped make the day as special as it was especially my team: Helena and Eleanor who looked after the little Buds and helped on the stall, Mollie and Laura who did a 'fab' job of holding my cloak, Daisy who looked beautiful and never stopped smiling, Lowri who came in the trailer even though she was only two, George H for being my crown bearer, George M for carrying Alex's rose and waving all the way up to church and to my honorary Rose Buds - Harriet Maxwell and Ollie Botly. Thank you too to all their Mums, Dads and Grandparents. If I did it again I wouldn't change it one bit.



Already we have got off to a great start to our fund-raising. Jo Burrows swam in Salford Quays to raise money for EducAid. Thanks, Jo!

Our first event is a fashion show on 24<sup>th</sup> September. After that we have the Oktoberfest on 10<sup>th</sup>October. Thank you again to everyone who came and made it such a special day! Lucy xxx

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#### Women's Evening Fellowship

Margaret Oldham

The WEF Meeting on 8th July took the form of a visit to 84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester (a short walk from the MRI and eye hospitals). This was the home of the Gaskell family: Elizabeth (known as Lily), William and their four daughters. Here they received their many literary, political and socially aware friends: Charlotte Bronte, the Nightingales, the Darwins, Charles Dickens, the Wedgewoods, Ruskin, Halle, etc. and Elizabeth and William's students.

The house received a £2.5m grant toward the restoration and some research, nuggets of which can be seen on the website. The University lent furniture, documents and copies of portraits. Photographs of the rooms as they used to be and descriptions in the prolific letters of the period filled in much of the detail.

The house has a warm and welcoming feel. You are immediately invited to sit on the chairs, to handle the books and letters. So what is there to see? A comfortable middle-class home furnished in the style of mid-nineteenth-century England. But what an energetic and multi-faceted family it housed. Elizabeth was encouraged to write a novel after the death of their infant son and the result was *Mary Barton*. Most of her other books were written at Plymouth Grove, from where she also went travelling, declaring that one daughter or another looked 'peaky' and needed a 'change of air'. William excused himself from these trips, saying that he couldn't spare the time!

And what does this cost? £4.99 for an entire year (£3.99 concessions). Why not give it a thought if you are looking for a place to take the children during the holidays - it is designed to be child-friendly. Or a wedding or party venue...

## Mellor Archaeological Trust - Friends of Our Valley MELLOR MILL HERITAGE DAY

'Fact and Fun' at the Roman Lakes on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015 from 11am to 5pm. Tours of recent discoveries at Samuel Oldnow's mill; refreshments; wood-fired oven pizzas; beer tent; talks; videos, music and a pop-up museum. Enjoy the "fun of the fair".

Entry by programme: £2.00. More information on www.matrust.org.uk

#### North West Air Ambulance

Alison Allcard

A date for your diary - On Saturday 10th October the Women's Evening Fellowship are holding an afternoon tea and china sale in the Parish Centre. All proceeds will go to our chosen charity for this year, the North West Air Ambulance. More details in the next magazine. If you have any china you would like to donate, please get in touch with Alison Allcard - 427 5712.

#### **Mellor Well Dressing**

Kareen Dayes

Some years ago, the talk regarding this custom of decorating wells around the villages of Derbyshire would have extracted a great yawn from me, and a concerted response of disinterest. I really could not see what was so riveting about looking at some flowers arranged around a wet hole in the ground!

Then in 2013, my daughter Jennifer and I went up to have a look at the well behind The Old Vicarage here in Mellor. There had been talk that some people had come all the way from Nottingham to look at the previous inaugural year's effort. What was all the fuss about? I can only say, 'Wow'!! I certainly had my eyes opened. We both thought it was absolutely brilliant and rushed back to fetch lan.

Over the following week or so we set off on a mini-tour of all the local well dressings we could find. We were fortunate to arrive at Little Hayfield just about the same time as the 'stand-in' vicar. He was a delightful fellow from inner city Manchester and quite new to this quaint Derbyshire custom. Thus, dressed in his dog collar and wellington boots, he performed the traditional blessing of the well. We joined in the singing and revelled in the friendly atmosphere exuded by those around us, both human and canine. Our own dog, Charlie, seemed to appreciate it also.

Each year since we have made a point to climb over the stile beside the Hearse House, cross the field and weave our way through the trees to look at the well dressing (this direction is included in case there is anyone reading *Outlook* not aware of exactly where to find Mellor's display). I can't say that we have seen all the examples around the county, not by a long way, but of those we have, Mellor's is by far the best and positively stunning. This is not said by reason of bias, it really is head and shoulders above all the others. Saying this though, the Flower Festival at St. John's Methodist Church in Hayfield is excellent and not to be missed. We also enjoyed a scrumptious piece of cake and cup of tea there.

I feel our team of well dressers should be highly congratulated. They certainly are a most talented group of people and I for one look forward to next year's masterpiece.

#### Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A

Malcolm Moss

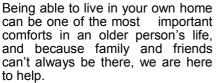


**OPEN MEETING AND GRAND CHARITY EVENT** Tuesday 18th August St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall 10am to 12noon.

To raise funds for equipment for the Urology Department at Stepping Hill Hospital: raffle - bric-a-brac - plants - cards - cakes; and come and hear about our U3A activities.

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Is this the one of the best fete pictures ever? Thanks to Mim Botley for allowing *Outlook* to use it!

#### Moor End Mellor WI

Nancy Cloughley

Our June meeting had most of us on our feet enjoying line dancing. Once we got the rhythm of the music, the steps and movements followed; rather more complicated than at first expected and obviously much more to learn but exercising to music is great fun.

The lunch group met at Lymefield and the walking group, renamed the 'social strollers', enjoyed a gentle walk.

We received an invitation from Gee Cross WI to see their well dressing in July. Jane Lee represented us this year at the NFWI meeting at the Albert Hall and reported that the Resolution was thrown out as it was judged that NHS funding was not possible. The meeting was honoured by the presence of HM the Queen for a short time. She said how we should get together with other groups, younger with older, to learn from each other.

Lucy Worsley is going to do a TV programme about the WI –do look out for it. Our August meeting is to be purely social with no speaker and there will be a raffle. We should be delighted to have you join us.

#### Lenny Kravitz - final instalment

Lenny says "My mother taught me to respect my father and to love him and take care of him regardless of what he had done. She would always quote the Bible: It says, 'Honour thy mother and thy father, and it doesn't say *unless, except* or *if.* That is what it says and that is what you must do." Lenny says he had a hard time with that, but he did it.

Eventually, his father had to go to hospital and that's where it happened. Lenny says:

"Spiritually, hospitals are very intense places. It's like death's doorstep and one night my father was in his bed and he looked at me and said 'There are things flying around my bed and things crawling on the floor.' And I said, 'What are you talking about?' I couldn't believe this was my father speaking. This was a man who didn't believe in any kind of spirituality - nothing unconventional and there he was saying, 'There are black winged things flying around my bed...the things are crawling on the ground, they look like rats but they are not....I see them.'" Lenny says "I didn't quite know how to take this. And then he began having this revelation and he accepted Jesus Christ. This is a non-religious Jewish man and somehow the spirit world opened up to him. It was if he had been spiritually constrained all his life and now was being released."

After this experience, Lenny's father started answering some of the questions Lenny could never get answers to before. A couple of nights after the experience, Lenny was sitting in the hospital with his two half-sisters when their father started apologising to them in the most heartfelt manner. He said, "I am sorry for what I have done. How I have been. How I have treated you and I love you." Lenny said their father told them that he had always wanted to change his life but he felt there was this thing on his back and he couldn't get it off.

There would be one further unexpected moment. A few nights later in the hospital, as his father got closer to death, he was very tired and Lenny says: "He looked over at me and said 'There are angels all around the room - because of Jesus'. And that was it. He turned and looked away. If you knew my father - this is the last thing you would expect from him. Something happened in that hospital that changed everything for me. The last three weeks of my father's life was the best relationship I ever had with him and it cancelled out the forty years before."

A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely, saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."



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#### Children's Page

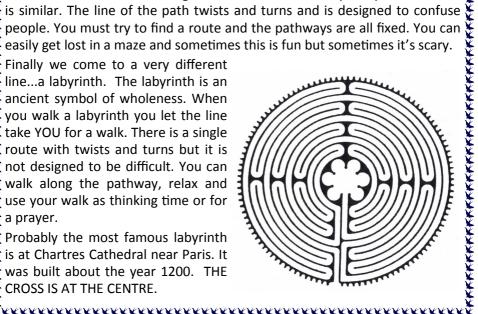
#### 'Take a line for a walk'

Have you ever been asked to do this in a school art lesson? It's fun to see what patterns you can make. Just start drawing anywhere on your paper and form curves and squiggles without lifting the pencil. You can then colour and add your own patterns. Everyone will do something completely § different. An even more interesting thing to do is to stare closely at your § drawing and see what strange animals may be hiding inside your pattern. Put a big eye in a good place and watch how your creature almost becomes real!

Tying knots is also a way of taking a line for a walk but this time there is a \( \) definite reason for the twists and turns you make with your string or rope. If § you came to St. Thomas' by the Sea you might have seen a group practising their knots. Some people were remembering when they were scouts or guides and others were using sailing skills. Everyone enjoyed it. A Reef Knot is what you need to use when tying a sling, a Carrick Bend can join heavy ropes together and a Clove-Hitch is a simple knot to tie a rope to a post. A Bowline makes a secure loop which won't slip or tighten and is probably the most useful of all knots. You can certainly see how useful knots can be. Get 🖔 your 'grown-up' to teach you some!

A maze is also a form of taking a line for a walk... or maybe a path. The idea  $\S$ is similar. The line of the path twists and turns and is designed to confuse 🖔

take YOU for a walk. There is a single not designed to be difficult. You can



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#### An evening of Dylan Thomas

Ian Dayes

What a privilege it was to be in the audience for this delightful event. Reading of all the accomplishments accredited to soloist, Arwel Huw Morgan and accompanied by our own John Wilson one could have expected nothing less than a superb evening's entertainment. What transpired surpassed even the most glowing of superlatives.

We were taken chronologically through the life of Dylan Thomas by means of poetry, prose and pictures. This was interspersed along the way with song - all performed with exemplary brilliance. Arwel Huw Morgan took on the characterization of various people whose paths crossed that of Dylan Thomas at different times in his life. He did this to perfection, laced with humour, and of course his own natural Welsh accent ideally fell in with the performance. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. How exceptionally fortunate we are here in Mellor to host such events as this. I sincerely hope there may be many more.

#### Mill Brow is buzzing

Lizzie McLelland



After several months of meetings over a few pints in the Hare & Hounds, a couple of work parties and lots of discussions, the Mill Brow Community Bees have arrived! They are now happy buzzing around their new hive just off Gird Lane in the heart of our lovely village. The bees arrived via pick-up carefully

driven by Joe Hadfield on 28th June.

If you want to get involved, come to view the hive, or want to learn more we would love to hear from you. The emphasis is on 'community hive': you don't have to live in Mill Brow to get involved. Everyone is welcome: email millbrowbees@outlook.com

For pictures and updates from the hive please visit the 'Mill Brow Noticeboard' facebook page link: facebook.com/millbrowevents

## An Epitaph

Here lies poor but honest Bryan Turnstall
He was a most expert angler
Until Death envious of his art
Threw out his line, hooked him
And landed him here
The 21st day of April 1790

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#### **Prayer for the Month**

Lord, your works are wonderful,
in wisdom you have made them all.
Forgive us for the madness that abuses the earth for short-term ends,
and give us the wisdom to cherish and share,
with daring and delight,
the abundant gifts of our fragile planet.

Angela Ashwin

#### **Thought for the Month**

The approach of the 24/7 media has a corrosive impact on public attitudes to politics and their willingness to engage in it. Our *Audit of Political Engagement* shows that the media generally - including television - do little to benefit our democracy in terms of nourishing political engagement and from the perspective of political citizenship it is better to read no newspaper at all than to read a tabloid.

In the guise of appearing impartial the press has become more adversarial and aggressive, fusing reporting and comment. Much of the political coverage is negative in tone, often bordering on the cynical. Controversial measures attract headlines but much political work, in terms of real impact on people's everyday lives, is often technical, detailed and non-controversial. There is, as a consequence, a tension between the visibility of parliamentary work and its importance and the extent to which it is reported.

Politics is treated as a game with an array of commentators on hand to issue snap judgements and award points. Performance rather than the substance of a debate largely takes precedence and the politics of personal destruction is often to the fore. The idea of politics as a theatre of controversy, where the only interest lies in conflict and who emerges from it, effectively precludes serious consideration and coverage of any politicians who are more consensual in their approach.

Both the traditional and new social media culture are also important contributory factors in the short-termism that dominates political action and feeds the public's sense that, regardless of whichever party is in power, nothing

(Continued on page 33)

#### **From the Registers**

#### **Holy Baptism**

We welcomed into the Lord's family:

Harry Ellis, on 12th July;

Harry Łabiak, on 19th July; and

Frederick Lee, on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **Holy Matrimony**

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to:

Daniel James Farr & Sally Louise Haughton, who were married on 11<sup>th</sup> July; and

Tristan John Catterall & Verity Alice Stafford, who were married on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

#### The Departed

We remember before God and commend to His love and mercy:

Helen Sugden.

We offer our love and sympathy to all who mourn her.

(Continued from page 32)

ever really changes. Democracy often works best when it works slowly and deliberatively but this is at odds with a media culture that favours an instant rather than a reflective response, and prefers simplicity over nuanced complexity.

Ruth Fox: 'Improving the health of our representative democracy' in 'On Rock or Sand? (essays edited by John Sentamu, January 2015).

Ruth Fox is Director of the Hansard Society

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#### **Church Rotas**

#### Stewards Rota

Date	8.30 am	9.30 am	6.30 pm
2 Aug	R Farmery	P Harrison and S McAllister	No service
9 Aug	A Mason	B Cheshire and C Starling	No service
16 Aug	J Gregory	P Long and A Muller	No service
23 Aug	M Myatt	T and P Holt	No service
30 Aug	A Mason	A Allcard and H Ruffell	No service
6 Sep	R Farmery	(10am) I and C Hamilton	A Dowdeswell

Please arrange your own substitute. If necessary phone Anthea Nicholls on 427 2187. Stewards should sit where they can see the door easily, so they can see latecomers and hand them service books and show them to a seat.

#### Flower Rota

2 Aug	Irene Smith	6 Sept	Wedding
9 Aug	Maggie Williams	13 Sept	Wedding
16 Aug	Wedding	20 Sept	Wedding
23 Aug	Wedding	27 Sept	Wedding
30 Aug	Wedding		

If you wish to change a date please contact Jenny Johnson on 427 1348. The church key is also available from the Parish Office (484 5079) weekday mornings.

#### **Brass Cleaning**

1 Aug	Mrs Morris/Mrs Cunningham	5 Sept	Mr and Mrs Nicholls
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