

Outlook



March
2022

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The Parish of St Thomas , Mellor

Registered Charity No. 1130414

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Diocesan/Deanery

Judith Shiel / Mary Heijbroek

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Churches Together in Marple Representative Helen Kennedy

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Pastoral Care Group Coordinator Lesley Futchter 449 0977

Articles for Outlook should be sent to the Editor (preferably by email).

melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com

The deadline for the April edition is 15th March 2022



Vicar's View Point

I came face to face with my first Easter egg. Sitting there in its bright yellow box. It's the middle

of February and the start of Lent is over 2 weeks away. Easter day is over 9 weeks away!!

Lent is a season that occupies the Church calendar for approximately 6 weeks. It was traditionally a season when people fasted and lived a simpler life. It's a period of time that encourages us to reflect and take stock of our own fallible state, our own fragility as human people, the fact of our own need for God.

But Lent is often more than this too it can signify a state of existence, an entrenched mindset and sometime even a way of life. It can happen in January or July, at Christmas or in the summer holidays. Lent is a spiritual state, and it can be a metaphor for those most harsh, most inexplicable times when we understand that life is tough through our living of it.

At the beginning of this season we traditionally remember Jesus going into the wilderness. I wonder what you think about when you hear the word wilderness?

The word is used more than 300 times in the bible. The wilderness in the Mediterranean where these stories originated is not the Sahara desert but it is a place that is alive with growing plants, trees, rivers, a place where shepherds could bring their sheep.

God sends people into the wilderness on

purpose. All the great leaders throughout the bible ended up in the wilderness at some point. Abraham, Moses, Solomon... to name but a few in the Hebrew scriptures through to John the Baptist, Jesus and Paul in the New Testament.

The wilderness, rather than a harsh backdrop for a human drama becomes a place of rehabilitation and transformation for all of them.

Maybe the wilderness places in our own lives, those places where we feel most lost, become a place that enables us to focus and slow down enough to hear the voices of 'burning bushes' calling humans to remember that we belong to a greater story?

A friend recently gave me the gift of a beautiful book called 'Big Panda and Tiny Dragon' by James Norbury. Beloved friends Big Panda and Tiny Dragon journey through the seasons of the year together. They explore the hardships and happiness that connect us all. They learn how to live in the moment, how to be at peace with uncertainty and how to find the strength to overcome life's obstacles, together.

There is a lovely quote that says... 'This garden is beautiful,' said Tiny Dragon. Big Panda nodded. 'And we only found it because we went the wrong way so many times.' Lent is a gift of a space to reflect with kindness on our journeys so far. To see the beauty in the wilderness times and reflect on the lessons learned.

Best Wishes. *Tracy*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 2022

2 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
5 Sat	7.30 pm	Friends of the Parish Centre "The Imposters" (see page 21)
6 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
1st Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Compline (Parish Centre)
9 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
13 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Contemplative Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
14 Mon	10.45 am-12 noon	Coffee & Chat (Parish Centre)
14 Mon	7.30 pm	Peter Cunningham Memorial Concert (Parish Centre) (see page 21)
16 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
20 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong
23 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
26 Sat	2.30–5.30 pm	Rose Queen Event "Mother's Day Pamper & Prosecco" (Parish Centre)
	6.30 pm	Organ Recital at Twilight (see Page 9)
27 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
4th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Compline (Parish Centre)
30 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)

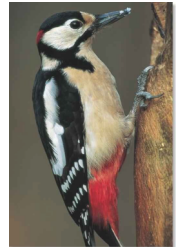
Mellor Birds

I was really excited when Julia from two thirds of the way up Clement Road happened to mention she had a bird wandering about on their lawn on one of those very windy days. Interestingly she said it had bands going across its head. Was it a snipe? On getting their bird book out they decided it was a **Woodcock**. This is most unusual. Fortunately Julia took a video and sure enough there was a Woodcock! How lucky she and Chris were to be so close.



Normally they are so well camouflaged on woodland floors that no one sees them except when they are Roding above trees at dusk in Spring. My 'Complete Book of British Birds AA & RSPB' 1997 says in first sentence about Woodcock:- 'rarely seen unless driven into the open by severe weather.' Julia and Chris had two fence panels blown down that day. I wonder which wood it had come out of?

Ann at Tarden had a first in her garden too. She saw a **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. It settled in an old apple tree and was pecking as it as it hopped up the trunk, maybe looking for insects in the moss. It wasn't there for long and she was surprised how large it was.



I did the Big Garden Birdwatch at 3 pm on Sunday Jan 30th. It was a grey, cold hour. I saw no birds in my garden. **Jackdaws, Magpies and Starlings** flew over but that was it!

Yesterday I was looking on the Churches Together Marple Area website to check some dates. I was surprised to see two links to short RSPB videos. One was 'Feed the Birds' which included shots of **Cranes** flying at Otmoor RSPB which are fantastic. Also fun was one called 'Birdsong beginners'

Maggie Williams

Down a Musical Memory Lane, part two with Mike Barley

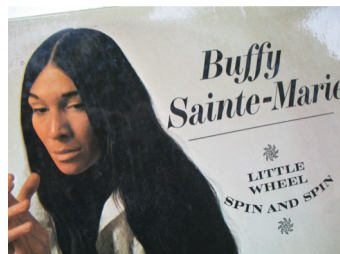
At the risk of boring you all, here are some more snippets from my jogged memory. As more 'pop packages' arrived at Bradford's Gaumont theatre we heard at first hand the Hollies, the Searchers, the Swinging Blue Jeans sounding 'just like their records', but it wasn't true of every group. There were some disappointments, but one or two nice surprises. Rory Storm and the Hurricanes – who dreamt up that name! - never had a 'hit', but played Beach Boys surfing music superbly. Sadly, I missed Little Richard and the Everly Brothers, and we had made a committee decision not to go to the Beatles or Stones concerts because it was common knowledge that you could not hear a thing above the screaming! Batley Variety Club was in its heyday, and it was there that we enjoyed not only Morecambe and Wise and Tommy Cooper, but a rather modest, self-effacing Roy Orbison, another who sounded 'just like his records'. A year or two later, off to Ilkley we would go, on our scooters, to enjoy some good music at The Cow and Calf. The resident group were The Wheels, a good imitation of Van Morrison's 'Them'. One night the Steampacket arrived – Brian Auger, Long John Baldry, Julie Driscoll and a very young unknown Rod Stewart, who had just released a doubtful-sounding record,



'Good Morning Little Schoolgirl'. Brian Auger and Julie Driscoll went on to record 'Wheels on Fire', later used as the signature tune for Absolutely Fabulous. We heard Long John Baldry again at Bradford's Dungeon Club, this time with Blues pianist Memphis Slim. I have a distinct memory of Memphis Slim playing a couple of numbers then retreating to the bar. He came back in a while, with a

lot of whiskey inside him, and played for two hours solid. At this time, I was enjoying folk music on record, but in the local clubs it was a bit too 'purist' for me, although I do remember Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick playing at the Wellington pub in Didsbury, well before they formed Steeleye Span. I liked Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul and Mary, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, The Dubliners and the Clancy Brothers. Then, by a fluke, a friend and I spotted that Buffy Sainte-Marie was giving

a concert at Bingley College! A Native American Indian, one of her well-known songs was 'Until it's time for you to go', but her biting protest songs, such as 'Universal Soldier', and astonishing versions of old Blues songs like Bukka White's 'Fixin' to Die' left us open-mouthed. I am still a fan.



Many years later, with teenage children, I cajoled them into coming with me to the annual Alexis Korner Blues Concert in Buxton so they could see Eric Burdon (of Animals fame), then nearly sixty and astonishingly in one piece and in good working order, despite his earlier well-publicised drug abuse. And a few years after that, another trip to see Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis, both of them 78! Even though they made concessions to their age – no 'duck walk' from Chuck Berry, and Jerry Lee Lewis kept his feet off the piano – they could still perform. It must have been nearly their 'last hurrah'.

A different music was on the way. I did not have any real knowledge of classical music. Then in 1967 as a student in Manchester regular trips to the Hallé began. I listened to everything and gradually 'knew what I liked'. My love of classical music has grown over the years, as has my record and CD collection. I am still 'learning' and have had so much enjoyment from the Peter Cunningham concerts given by members of the Halle at the Parish Centre, which have been a wonderful and rare opportunity to hear chamber music. At the Hallé, around 1970, we were privileged to enjoy Barbirolli's final years, and then a fascinating 'interregnum' with lots of visiting conductors. Jascha Horenstein conducting Mahler, Sir Adrian Boult conducting Elgar, Isztvan Kertesz conducting Dvorak. Arvid Jansons came with the Leningrad Philharmonic and played Shostakovich – when the Soviet authorities allowed him to! And some soloists to treasure: Clifford Curzon chuckling his way through the final witty movement of a Beethoven piano concerto, Ida Haendel, small of stature but with such violin power, blitzing her way through Tschaiikovsky, Gina Bachauer memorably playing Rachmaninov, Geza Anda revealing the genius of Mozart, (and then quietly slipping into a seat near us to listen to the second half of the concert!) A few years later, the 'young guns' arrived: Daniel Barenboim, Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman. We heard great cellists: Paul Tortelier, Janos Starker, and of course Jacqueline du Pre. And more great pianists: Alfred Brendel, Radu Lupu, and Vladimir Ashkenazy. With hindsight, these

were heady days for music lovers.

But soon Meg and I found that trips to the Hallé became a rarity....children arrived! The 1980s were years of disturbed nights, very early mornings and the consuming business of bringing up children and, back to my musical starting point, I managed to see Chris Barber a few years ago. He was 85, played a full concert and spent the interval in the foyer chatting to people.

So now its back to the record player or the CD player. (Certainly not a download) Shal I listen to Beethoven or Chris Barber; Bob Dylan or Dvorak? So much pleasure whichever choice I make.

Mellor Church Women's Evening Fellowship

Meg Barley



Our meeting on 9th February was a very interesting talk by Frank Pleszak about his father's journey from Poland to Manchester via the Gulags of Siberia and the Battle of Monte Cassino. And what an epic journey it was! Several guests also came along and everyone who was there was amazed and humbled by this incredible story.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th March, when we will be holding our AGM at the Pack Horse on Mellor Road, New Mills. We are looking forward to a delicious meal followed by the formal proceedings. Please contact Meg Barley on 427 4370 if you haven't booked and you would like to join us.

Mothering Sunday

On the 27th March we celebrate Mothering Sunday at St Thomas. A time when we give thanks to God for all who care for us. This was traditionally a time when people were encouraged to return to their home church to give thanks. Do come and join us at either our 8.30am or 10.00am services where you'll be offered a bunch of daffodils to present to someone you love as a token of your appreciation and thanks.





Fair Trade Fortnight

This year, FT Fortnight is from February 21st to March 6th. The theme this year is 'Choose the world you want' and it gives us the chance to think about our choices and shopping habits and how they impact on producers. The price paid for commodities such as tea, coffee and chocolate varies greatly on the open market and small producers have little bargaining power when up against multinational corporations. Fair Trade certification, as administered by the Fair Trade Foundation ensures that not only are farmers paid the Fair Trade Minimum Price but that they also receive a premium, an extra sum of money for them to invest in their local community in the way they choose. The premium is calculated as a percentage of the volume of produce sold, and is reviewed every few years as the local financial situation changes. The premium can fund better equipment as well as education or health care. In addition to the financial support the FT Foundation works in the areas of workers' rights and good environmental practice with reference to the climate change situation. Small farmers are more adversely affected by rising

temperatures and unpredictable rainfall and the Foundation works to enable sustainable practices such as using bio-fertilisers instead of imported chemical products. Another area of interest is gender equality. Some 25% of FT farmers are women but they might not have the decision-making influence that they need. Improvements in water supply, childcare provision or transport can improve the opportunities for women to be leaders in their communities and co-operatives and build better futures for their children. There is mass of information and entertainment in the on-line 'Choose the World you Want' festival on the FT Foundation website – look at www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want, particularly the art-work and poems by children. It's also worth looking at the Traidcraft website (www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) to see the range of goods they sell – it's not just all about tea, coffee and chocolate. FT Fortnight gives us the chance to review what we buy, whether on-line or in the shops – look for the FT icon as you browse.

Judith Shiel

**MAKE IT HAPPEN
CHOOSE FAIRTRADE**

Anthea Nicholls - a Thank you

Guy Nicholls

I decided to write this article to thank all the wonderful people who expressed the most amazing kindness on hearing of the sudden death of my beloved Anthea. The doorbell never stopped ringing with people expressing shock, disbelief and sadness and bringing flowers, food and offering help, companionship and generosity. Every morning piles of cards would come through the letterbox. Mostly delivered by hand by neighbours but also many by post. My life, of course, will never be the same again, but as I have had the major part of it and 52 years was spent with the most wonderful woman on the planet. Well my planet anyway. I consider myself blessed. We also have our four wonderful children, who are holding me together.



Anglia Television

Anthea really was a wonderful lady. She was very bright. She was clever.. She had great concern for others and she had an infectiously happy personality. In all I considered her a gift from God. I must admit I fell out with Him when I felt He took his gift from me when He did, but as long as he gets us together again, I'll let Him off.

I could go on but I won't. I end this item with an email from my youngest son Edward:- *"Hi Pa. No problem. We are making good progress, I think. Just look after yourself and Bold (cat). Keep up Mum's standards at home and keep meeting your friends. As I said the other day, if I have a supportive community around me at your age as you do, then I will be doing very well. Looking forward to the next meanderings too. Cheers, Edward."*

As I received over 250 cards for my beloved Anthea, I thought that this was the best way to reply.

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Jaunts with Judy

Railway Walk no.2 Strines Station to Brookbottom. 1½ to 2 hours. Approx 3 miles

This walk is on wide lanes most of them with good surfaces. There are some short moderate uphill stretches. At the station there is an opportunity to read the information boards about the areas link to Edith Nesbit- author of the Railway Children. Also a diversion can be made to look at Strines Hall and the Victorian Dove Cote on the mill pond that is a grade 2 listed building.

Getting there Check the train timetable from Marple to Strines as not many trains stop at the station. The 358 bus from Stockport to Hayfield will stop near the station. There is some car parking at the station and by the mill pond.

Facilities en route There are no toilet facilities on this walk. However if you are lucky The Fox Inn at Brookbottom may be open for refreshments.

Directions

1. At the car park proceed on to the platform to read the information about Edith Nesbit. Both platforms have the same info. Leave the car park and turn left downhill.
2. Strines Hall will appear on the left and on the right is a red Goyt Way sign. Take this path. *Should you wish to explore Strines and the Dove Cote continue further down the road. Retrace steps back to the footpath.*
3. Continue ahead on this track, you will walk up a gentle gradient. Cross over the railway, follow the road round to the left. Pass a house called Greenclough and then continue along the road with the No Through Road sign. Continue onto a well maintained road. Pass Greyclough Cottage on the right. Continue ahead (ignore a footpath sign on the right.) You should pass Gable End Cottage on the left.
4. Follow the road round to the right and onto a rougher track. Continue ahead and pass through two gate posts with red triangles on them. The track now becomes pleasantly tree lined. Continue up a steep track.
5. At the top turn right and you will walk past the hamlet called The Banks. The Banks is where John Wesley preached in 1745. Continue along this road. You will see good views of The Cage at Lyme Park.
6. At the end of the track - ahead of you is a house called The Cottage. Turn left and continue uphill, this will lead you to the tiny Hamlet of Brookbottom. Not so long ago it was classed as a Village as it had a church, a pub and a post office. The converted Primitive Methodist Chapel is on the right. Go through Brookbottom and pass The Fox pub on the right. Just past the beer garden is a track with a 'restricted byway' sign. Head down this track back to Strines station. The top section of this track is uneven but it does become easier.



Judy Cooper

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The latest from the PCC

The PCC (Parochial Church Council), helps the vicar to run the church, and meets every month. As the Secretary of the PCC, I hope to write a short report every month, to inform people about what was discussed. Our last meeting was on 31st January, and here is a summary of the main points ;

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) This is the annual meeting which takes place, in the Parish Centre, and takes reports on all the various activities of the church during the last year. Parishioners who are on the Electoral Roll of the church can also vote for new members of the PCC and for new Church Wardens. The PCC agreed the date of this year's APCM will be 15 May 2022.

The Electoral Roll has to be updated before the APCM, and Anthea Nicholls (now sadly no longer with us) used to be the Electoral Roll Officer, who would carry out this task. So I offered to do this, for the purposes of this APCM.

Finance report This is one of the standing items on the agenda, so the church Treasurer, Richard Elliott, gives a report at every meeting. Richard provided us with the year-end figures, and a proposed budget for 2022. The full accounts will be inspected by our Independent Auditor, in time for the APCM. There is an ongoing issue for us regarding the Parish Share. This is the amount of money levied on every parish church in the Diocese of Chester, to pay for the general running of the Church in the Diocese, salaries of vicars and other staff and charitable work. Each church is assessed, with the intention that wealthier parishes pay more, in order to subsidise the running of churches in less wealthy parts of the Diocese. We have long been challenging the amount St Thomas' is expected to pay to the Diocese, and the way this is calculated. The full amount, for 2021, should have been

£93,000, but this was the first year ever, when we've been unable to pay the full amount, due to not being able to carry out normal fund-raising. So we paid the Diocese a slightly reduced amount for 2021, and the PCC agreed to continue paying at that level, but to review it in June.

Charity Fund St Thomas' has a separate Charity fund, which parishioners can donate to, and the money is then sent to the nominated charities. For this year, these are Water Aid, Stockport Food Bank, Educaid and Shuktara. Each were sent about £600. There was a discussion about how we might nominate charities for this year, and this is to go on the agenda for February.

Pilgrim Porch The Diocese have informed us that a new porch is to be built onto Chester cathedral, which is to be surrounded by etchings depicting each parish church in the Diocese. We discussed who might work together on St Thomas'.

Fabric of the church William Heijbroek and his colleagues look after the fabric of the church, and recently organised the repainting of all the external ironwork – drainpipes etc., which was the reason for the scaffolding. Part of the front wall of the columbarium – where ashes are buried in the churchyard – has fallen away and William has been making arrangements for this to be repaired.

Churchyard upkeep A party of volunteers had cleared up the churchyard and the intention is to do this every month (this will be publicised). **Promotional survey** Ben Collier suggested a survey of parishioners, in terms of their views of our church, and it was agreed a group of people would meet to discuss this.

Any other business It was agreed, in principle, that the church will work with



the Parish Centre on funding a defibrillator. There was also a request that, as an inclusive church, St Thomas' should mark February as LGBTQ history month by flying the Pride rainbow flag. This vote was carried by a majority at the meeting.

Oaty Fruit Loaf

Jill Baker

A plainish bake for Lent (it is full of dried fruit!) this recipe gives 10 servings but it freezes well.

325g /11oz plain flour

100g/4oz rolled oats

½ tsp cinnamon

2tsp bicarbonate of soda

125g/4.5oz sulta

125g/4.5oz raisins

50g/2oz caster sugar

500g/18 floz natural yogurt

40g/1½ oz melted butter



Heat the oven to 200C gas mark 6. In a large bowl place all the dry ingredients. Pour in the yogurt and melted butter. Mix into a thick sticky dough. Place in the middle of a greased baking sheet. Using a wooden spoon handle press a large cross into the top of the dough. Bake for 45 minutes until risen and golden (cover with foil if the surface looks to browning too much).

Serve warm or cold with or without butter. Will keep for two days in an airtight container.

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Andrew Dean
performs a springtime
Organ Recital at Twilight



Saturday 26th March, 6:30pm
Mellor Church

Free entry, free drink with retiring collection




**Will you help us and your neighbours?
Will you give us your views
about where you live?**

Neighbourhood planning allows local people to set down a framework of rules which determine how development and future land-use can take place in an area. Mellor, Mill Brow, Compstall and Marple Bridge have joined together to write one of these plans and formed the MMMC neighbourhood forum. Most of you reading this will shortly either get a paper questionnaire for completion or be asked to go online to do so. Your views are of vital importance and the more people that fill in these questionnaires, the more accurate will be the views we get. Even answering a single question will help! Or just stop when you're bored! If the survey stimulates some fresh or valuable ideas, or if any of you feel particularly enthusiastic, or you have strong views about this we would welcome you joining our committee or just helping us with the questionnaires and the analysis

You can contact one of our Management Committee Members: Kathryn Davies, Janet Graves, Steve Hall, Hilda Heald, Mary Heijbroek, Ann Papageorgiou, Becky Senior, Malcolm Allan.



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Captain Ken



In 1966, I was serving as Second Officer on one of Blue Funnel's finest cargo/passenger liners, S.S. 'Peleus'.

One of a series of four fast ships, which ran between U.K. and the Far East on a very accurate schedule. I noted that 'Peleus' had berthed in Liverpool at 12.00 on the same day for the previous four years.

However on this particular occasion, at the pre voyage interview with the Nautical Advisor, in India Buildings, Liverpool, I as main Navigating Officer, was asked to plan a sight-seeing cruise of the Japanese Inland Sea. (The enclosed sea between Kyushu, Shikoku and Honshu.)

This seemed to me, to be a rather unusual request, as although we would move heaven and earth to enter any port to discharge or load items of freight, our bread and butter, beautiful scenery was not a normal consideration of our passage planning. The planned sight-seeing trip became even more mysterious, when I was told to commence the route from the industrial city of Nagasaki.

Gradually the reason for these strange requirements came to light.

The Japanese were just building a new ship for us. The first since the end of World War II, and she was going to be launched by none other than Her Imperial Highness, Princess Chichibu. (The Sister in Law of the Emperor.)

What a great occasion this little cruise turned out to be. The launch of the 'Glenalmond' in Nagasaki went ahead as planned and some thirty high ranking people from the Launch Party joined our ship. This included, besides the Princess and her Lady in Waiting, Mr Yoshitomo Tokugawa of the old Shogun family, the British Ambassador to Japan, the chairmen of British and Japanese shipping and Agency Companies and their wives, and hosted by Sir John and Lady Nicholson, from Mottistone Manor on the Isle of Wight.

The cruise started brilliantly as we entered the Inland Sea, and steamed through one of the most beautiful seas in the whole world. It was hard to believe that we were steaming only a few miles from the remains of Hiroshima, devastated by the atomic bomb. Then shortly past the port of Kure, last port of 'Yamato' the world's most powerful battle ship, and later, the British and United Nations' base during the Korean War. All was going well when we anchored towards the east end of the Sea to enable all our guests to proceed in a

Coastguard launch, and visit a particular Holy Island (Miyajima). The wind began to blow, and to the extreme concern of Captain Charlie Collet, Master of 'Peleus', and a wartime veteran himself, it became unsafe for the coastguard launch to come alongside and allow the passengers to re-board our ship.

We arranged for the launch to land the party in Shikoku, and take taxis several miles to the nearest ferry port, where they could take a ferry to Honshu and we could then take them all back on board in a much more sheltered anchorage.

With much relief we proceeded on to Tokyo, and resumed our normal voyage. Princess Chichibu who was actually born in England, when her father was the Japanese ambassador, said she had thoroughly enjoyed the excitement, as it was the first time in her life that the Japanese authorities didn't know exactly where she was. I was very pleased that she liked my painting of 'Peleus', which we presented to her as she disembarked.

It was many years later, when I was attending a management seminar, when the speaker, Sir Lindsey Alexander, then Chairman of OTT and Lloyds Bank, and who had been on the Cruise, told us that it was then, when the Japanese and British ship owners agreed to gradually change world trade from Cargo liners to container ships. And at sea, our world changed, as did the Global Economy

From The Register

Baptisms

Marley Rose Ogden.
6th February

Funerals

Rosita Pashley Monday 7th
February
Gordon Johnson
Tuesday 8th March
Crematorium -
Immediate Family only
followed by a Service of
Thanksgiving at 12 noon
at St. Thomas Church
All are welcome

A Prayer...

God of all seasons,
You guide us through the
'letting goes' and new
beginnings of our lives.
We confess to you our
weakness in doing so
fully, and we ask that we
can let go of all
impediments to our
journey
towards "life and life more
abundantly" so that we
can begin anew in grace.
Amen.



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PETER CUNNINGHAM MEMORIAL CONCERT

Mellor Parish Centre
Monday March 14th at 7.30 pm

Mozart Quartet in E
Schumann Cello Concerto (arranged for quartet)
Special guest soloist Nick Trygstad
Ravel String Quartet



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Paddi Cunningham 427 4088

FRIENDS OF MELLOR PARISH CENTRE

The Friends are looking forward to a fuller programme of events to support the upkeep of our Centre now that things are getting back to something like normal.

There are two in the pipeline:-

Saturday, March 5th, from 7.30pm – a lively evening of music and dance with popular local group ‘**The Impostors**’. Tickets £12.50 to include food. There will be a bar.

Tickets from the Centre office 484 5079

Monday, April 4th, 7.30pm – ‘**The Tiller Girls**’, a lively talk from a previous member of this famous dance troupe. More information shortly





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Mellor National Women's Register

Here, in Mellor, there are a number of social networks which exist. Women's Fellowship, WI, Knit and Natter, Friends of Mellor Parish Centre, to name but a few. Mellor National Women's Register group is perhaps not so well known, but has been in existence for a good forty years and is part of a nationwide organisation which has been subject to much change during the pandemic.

Our meetings take place in each other's homes and are aimed at the profile of being "Lively Minded Women". Although there are guest speakers and organised visits, the format is mainly one of discussion.... A recent session, which was well attended, gave consideration to what each of us would do to help "Save the Planet" in the context of the global discussions on Climate Change. We had a lively debate and there were varying views ranging from "We're wasting our time - nothing can be done" to "Every little action helps."

At the end of the session we decided that we should undertake some form of action, and it was agreed to gather together local knowledge on recycling to provide some "joined up" information that we could share with you.

Regarding one-off recyclable items, we approached local charity shops to ascertain which items are accepted and which items are rejected. More or

less all accept clothes, books, and bric a brac, and often put a three bag limit on donations. Many accept small furniture items and small electrical appliances. If in doubt, give them a ring first....their volunteer staff are very helpful and welcoming.

We then shared some diverse information about recycling / collection of very specific items from bras to blister packs and discovered some niche services, which we give below:

Refresh Marple, on Hollins Lane will take some Nursery equipment e.g pushchairs, children's car seats(if they are Isofix), electrical goods in working order(they test them), wet suits and buoyancy aids, children's crash helmets, small mobility items (e.g trolleys). They also take microfibre duvets which are donated to Dogs and Cats homes and are used for animal bedding.



Lighthouse, in New Mills, has a Facebook page and regularly updates their requirements. Additionally they place a sign in their shop window daily for items they need.

Whilst practically all the local charity stores will not accept large furniture items, the **Blythe House Store** in Whaley Bridge (01663 735328) is the exception, and donations can be delivered to the yard at the rear of the store. They will also collect from Mellor, by arrangement, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Blister packs, which are used to pack pills and supplements, can be recycled at The **United Reform Church** at Hibbert Lane in

Marple (collection box inside the door). Bras, which are too small/big or uncomfortable can find a new life, via High Lane Garage, SK6 5DX, opposite the **Red Lion**. Some go abroad, some to women's prisons and some to children's homes.

Old spectacles are accepted at both **Ridings and Roger Fishers**



opticians in Marple, and will be recycled.

The Wellspring in Stockport, (01614776344) is pleased to take towels and sleeping bags as well as clothing.

One of the most pertinent discussion points was " if you don't need it, don't buy it". In this age of throw away culture, pretty much all of us confessed to acquiring "stuff" that we didn't really need. One of our members has recently discovered the no-waste shop situated on Market Street in New Mills and is very

inspired by the contents within. There is a wide range of products from Shampoo bars, dry goods (e.g coffee beans, pasta and baking ingredients, which can be loose purchased), and customers are also able to refill their own containers with liquids such as laundry and cleaning products, olive and cooking oils and fruit juices. Additionally, there is a "Just Add" range which has inspired her culinary activities!The **Recycle for Greater Manchester** website is very informative and answers many specific questions. There is a bookable tour available to visit the main recycling centre and that could well appear on our agenda for 2022!We hope you've found this article useful, and if you would like any information about the NWR organisation, then contact :-

Angela Stead on 0161 427 3571 or Jan Calder on 0161 449 0072



Mellor Church bell-ringers

are organising a
SPECIAL ring for
Her Majesty's 70th celebrations
on the Bank Holiday Weekend of
Friday June 3rd
when parishioners and Sports Club
members would be able to participate
and enjoy their world-renowned
hospitality. All proceeds to charity.

Mellor Church Toddler Group



We continue to meet and have fun on Thursday mornings between 10 and 11:30 am. Numbers are not yet back to their pre-Covid levels but those who attend seem to really appreciate the morning. The toys snacks and singsong are all very popular. Mums,

Dads, Carers and grandparents are all welcome with children of course! Helen Ruffell, one of our team of valiant helpers, took this photo when the room was set out ready for the invasion!

Moor End WI

After a break over Christmas, the committee of Moor End WI have prepared a full programme for 2022. Our January meeting was presented by Ann Jackson- 'one of our own ladies'.

As a guide at Manchester Art Gallery, she offered a very informative insight into Children In Art.

Our February meeting was another successful evening with members of Blood Bikers Manchester Group, who are part of a national network. It's a charity set up in Greater M/cr that transports blood, plasma, platelets, samples, vaccines, donor breast milk etc etc and any other urgently required medical items. This marvellous service is provided completely free of charge by volunteers— thus allowing the NHS to divert funds where needed most.

March 17th- Sergei Nikitin discusses Quaker Relief in Russia.

April 21st- Kate Hill will talk about her experiences in Sheep Farming.

As Spring approaches we anticipate day trips out, alongside our regular coffee mornings and pub lunches. To find out more about our group, please contact any committee member. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Parish Centre and all are welcome. Pauline Hutchins(01663 745105)

SIGNS OF HOPE

Could you find the grave of John and Mary Annie Hadfield? A clue: it's covered with snowdrops in bloom! I have long been a lover of snowdrops, those delicate signals that Spring will return. They were my Gran's favourite flower and we always used to give her bunches of them on her birthday which was 2nd February, also known as Candlemas. She was a keen gardener and I wonder if Mary Annie was a lover of gardening too? For her husband died before her, so I imagine her planting his grave with snowdrops "in the green". She now lies beside him and every year I say a blessing on them both when I see a drift of snowdrops on their grave.

Here is a poem that tries to capture my Gran's personality:

For Linda

The Gardener

Today I shall sow seeds of hope for a luminous Spring,
And cultivate scented blooms for balmy Summer days.

Tomorrow I'll plant a rag-rug of autumnal colours,
And charm snowdrops to hibernate til Winter wanes.

If you remain to witness the first green shoots
Burst forth from the sleeping earth

Then remember the fragrant essence of me:

"I lived as a child, forever young,
Dancing in the sunlight of the Lord."

Alison Dowdeswell



Friday Strollers

I am offering a monthly walk on a Friday for anyone who would like to join me. The walks will be taken at a leisurely pace and last a couple of hours. A refreshment stop with facilities will be a priority! We will meet on Fridays at 10.30 by the Children's Play Park in Brabyn's Park.

Dates for Spring Walks will be Friday 1st April, April 29th. May 20th.

Comfy shoes and a waterproof is all you need.

If you require more information contact Judy Cooper. 01663 746

579 email judeecoopurr@hotmail.com

Thought for the Month

On 17th of the month we celebrate St Patrick's day who brought Christianity to Celtic Ireland. He famously explained the Trinity using the three-leaved Shamrock. The hymn known as St Patrick's Breastplate is thought to have been written by him and combines the wonder of the Celtic world with the good news of Jesus. Two verses serve to reinforce our thoughts on creation:

I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and
lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay,
his ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach,
his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,



I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay,
his ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach,
his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,
his heavenly host to be my guard.

Gordon Johnson

I have not known Gordon as long as many of you may have but my love and respect for such a wonderful person cannot be any less than from everyone at Church and the Village. His beautiful prayers on a Sunday; his duty to the Church as part of the Treasury Team; his love of music and the written word; and his courage through all the diversities of life were all second to none. The last time I saw him was at a family birthday party where his love for those around him and from them was so clearly evident. The devotion shone out from him as a burning lantern on the dark night.

Although such an intelligent person he was the perfect 'gentleman' listening to everything you had to say. He will be missed greatly by us all. To Jenny, Brigitte, Phil, Martin, Julie, Olivia, Harry, Guy and Claire we send our love. A fuller tribute will be paid by Peter Harrison in April. Editor

A walk from Marple Bridge to the Devonshire Arms with Shirley Molloy - starting about 80 years ago.

Uncle Jack Smith had the Post Office. That was handy because I could depend on earning extra pocket money - delivering the Christmas Post. Mrs Hadfield had her own bookshop next door but one. There were bread and cake shops, a shoe mender and a shop for sweets and chocolates. This one sold sweet cigarettes that looked like the real grown up ones. On the corner of Low Lea Road there was a Blacksmiths to get your horse shod.

Up the hill the first house on the right hand side (now 32), was Devonshire House School, - *Miss Woodhouse's School* - two classrooms. The one downstairs was for beginners, aged 5 to 7 years. The upstairs room was for the 7 – 11 yearolds. The older children all had their own desks.

On the other side of the road was the Police House – accommodation for the two or three policemen of Marple Bridge and Mellor. Also one cell. Then came *St Sebastian's Church*. This contained a very useful little library of children's books. I made

my way through most of them.

Next to St Sebastian's was the field where the Summer Fete was held. - Rose Queen crowning, fancy dress competition, stalls for cakes and ice cream. The then new *Parish Hall* which hosted meetings, dancing lessons, local events and meetings. There was a large house next, which, over time was developed into flats.

Off to the left came Townscliffe Lane and Clement Rd – new comfortable and rather expensive houses – leading up to Townscliffe Farm.

Continuing up Longhurst Lane we pass *Miss Watson's Dancing School*, now 49, my best friend's house, the *dentist's surgery* – Mr Appleton. Then some larger houses and the little footpath going up to Townscliffe Lane.

If you look across the road to the hillside on the left you could see the *Tanpits* - the favourite sledging slope of the district, crowded with children every winter.

On the left is the *Mill* a series of workshops for manufacture of cotton wool and wadding. On the right was Highfield Road - a cul-de-sac in those days. Then on up

the steep Cataract Brow. We all knew the dangers of that brow. We had been brought up in the knowledge that a young girl had gone too fast down the hill on her bike, lost her steering and use of her brakes, had hit the kerb and been thrown over the wall and killed by a fall down in the valley below.

I have my own memory of falling on the hill from a bike. I broke my cheek bone. But I was on my way to school so I went on and got bandaged by Miss Woodhouse and my mother warned about my injuries. For several years afterwards the slightest bump would give me another black eye. I revelled in the thought that I had nearly as many black eyes as Stanley Harrop - the local tearaway lad.

Bob Humphrey Taylor gave an interesting talk about The Roman Lakes in January to the Women's Evening Fellowship . Afterwards Shirley Molloy found this photograph below.

Frozen Roman Lakes

Early 1940's?

Nine people, from R to L:

Spencer Bancroft on motorbike pulling Spenci Bancroft?, ?, Gordon (Jim) Bennison, Christine McClelland, ?, Shirley Molloy nee McClelland, ?.

The Bancrofts lived at 122 Longhurst Lane and McClelland's at 118.



Ideas for Visiting Gardens this March

Diana Cole

Just a few further ideas of gardens you might like to visit to see early Spring flowers. Do check before travel though to ensure the gardens are open - many gardens do ask for visitors to book tickets in advance these days too. Enjoy your visits!

Lowther Castle and Gardens, Penrith lowthercastle.org

As I recommended this garden last time but didn't give details I thought I would mention that highlights at Lowther Castle include drifts of snowdrops and, in the Dan Pearson designed Garden-in-the-Ruins, early flowers of Hamamelis x intermedia 'Aurora' AGM and Helleborus x hybrids 'Yellow Lady'. In the rock garden, the mosses, snowdrops and hellebores make a lovely feature. Also a parterre which adds winter interest.

Tatton Park Gardens, tattonpark.org.uk

Indoors!! there is a fernery which provides lush, exotic foliage and the Conservatory which smells of orange blossom. Also pink/white petals of Japanese apricot along with early season primulas and Senecio in the Show House. Outdoors, there are daffodils in abundance and you can find early species of cherry flowering the Japanese Garden. If you wish to keep warm you can also take a walk in the parklands surrounding the Gardens.

Abbeywood Gardens, Delamere abbeywoodestate.co.uk

Another opportunity for indoor visiting! - The Glasshouse will be filled with tender plants, cuttings and seedlings ready for planting out in May. Outside, daffodils will be beginning to flower. Also, a new design for the Pool Garden replaces the former box hedging. It includes yew, purple beech and various herbaceous plants and grasses. It opened in 2019 so will be maturing nicely now.



Lowther Castle and Gardens, Penrith

Taking care of our churchyard.

One of the most unique and wonderful things about our church, at St Thomas', is our churchyard and its setting. Not only is it special for its beauty, but also as the final resting place of many members of our community over generations. It is also a valuable place for wildlife and nature. It's our responsibility to maintain it so everyone can continue to enjoy it over the years to come.

How we want our churchyard to look

We want to preserve the natural beauty of our churchyard, for all the community to enjoy, and maintain it so it's as unspoilt as possible. We also want to maintain it as a valuable habitat for wild flowers and nature. For that reason, we're making a churchyard plan, which will set out which areas are to be left wild and which are to have the grass kept down, to keep it looking tidy. When it's done, we'll put up some notices so everyone is aware of the plan, and why some areas may be left to grow wild.

Regular upkeep The churchyard is well-used and needs regular attention, especially during the growing season - strimming of the grass, weeding, etc., and so in addition to regular strimming we're arranging for regular monthly clear-ups. We have a core team of people to do this, but everyone is welcome to join in - the more the merrier. We're planning to meet on the last Saturday of every month, from about 10am. Hot drinks are usually provided. Please bring strong gardening gloves to protect your hands, and strong footwear as the ground is extremely

uneven!

Memorial garden There are many people who have had strong links to Mellor and Marple Bridge but then moved on, and so no longer qualify to be buried in the churchyard. For this reason, we've kindly been donated some money to make a memorial garden, within the churchyard. This will be a place where those who had an attachment to our church can be remembered and their families can come to visit.

Graves and memorials A memorial is very precious to the family of the person who's passed,



and the way people wish to remember their loved ones is personal and individual. But it's important to have some rules about how memorials should look and be kept, and there are some clear rules, set out by the Church of England, Chester Diocese and in our own churchyard rules. These are that fresh flowers and wreaths may be placed on graves, but not trees, shrubs or other plants, and no plastic flowers. In fact, we'd rather not have any plastic in the churchyard, due to the damage it causes to our environment, and potentially to livestock nearby. Containers on graves should be made of either metal or stone, as glass or ceramic ones

can smash. Wreaths and flowers need to be removed, once they've withered, but we know not everyone lives close enough to visit often, so the monthly clear-up groups will remove any dead flowers, old wreaths etc. Finally, we ask people to remember that ours is an Anglican churchyard, and so graves are to be treated as memorials, not shrines. This means that we ask for no pictures, photographs, sentimental or

personal items to be placed on the graves, or on the plaques in the columbarium. We realise that people often want to remember anniversaries, etc., but any longer lasting items may be removed. We really hope you understand and will join uselping to keep our churchyard a special place.

Juliet Elliot PCC Secretary

Laughs with Lynda

What does Dickens keep in his spice rack?
The best of thymes,
The worst of thymes.

What is the difference between a cat and a comma?
A cat has claws at the end of its paws.
A comma is a pause at the end of a clause.

What did the buffalo say when his son left for college?
Bison.

Kath Phillips 90th birthday.

From Helen Kennedy and Steph Armistead.

Some of you will remember Kath who used to come to church regularly before becoming rather frail. She moved from Marple Bridge just over a year ago to be near her daughter in Scotland, where she seems to have settled quite well. Steph is regularly in touch with her and visited her last year. She celebrated her 90 birthday on January 22. We have her address i

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Church Rotas

Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.00am	6:30 pm
6 March	P Cooke	D Jelleyman & A Sanders	
13 March	A Mason	S McAllister & C Starling	
20 March	J Butterworth	M Lowe & M Williams	A Shah
27 March	P Cunningham	P Long & A Muller	
4 April	P Cooke	P Forbes & L Forbes	

Please arrange your own substitute. If this is not possible email
Rachel- redwards@nhs.net

Flower Rota

6 th March Lent no flowers	3rd April Lent no flowers
13 th March Lent no flowers	10 th April Lent no flowers
20 th March Lent no flowers	17 th Easter Flowers
27 th March Lent no flowers Mothers Day	24 th Easter flowers

If you wish to change a date, need a key or have any query, please contact Jill Baker (07881 902533 or jillbaker427@hotmail.com).
The church key is also available from the Parish Office(484 5079)
Monday to Thursday mornings only.

Holy Dusters

Brasses

6th March	J. Burrows & E. Wilson.	L. Driver & M. Heijbroek
13th March	L & J. Fatcher	
20th March.	J.& D. Butterworth	
27th March.	M. & R. Leng	
3rd March	M. Williams & S. McAllister	

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