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# Outlook



April  
2022

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## The Parish of St Thomas , Mellor

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[www.mellorchurch.org@stthomasmellor](http://www.mellorchurch.org@stthomasmellor)

### 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 Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Dave Shercliff 56 Ernocroft Road, Marple Bridge 07519931219

### Reader

### Parish Office

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### Administrator

Rachel Howling 3 Dove Bank, Moor End, Mellor 427 5891

### Churchwardens

Chris Mann 55 Clement Road 07850 550333

Julie Elliott 64 Ernocroft Road 427 5981

### Dep.Churchwarden

### PCC Treasurer

Richard Elliott contact via Parish Office

### Assistant

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Julie Elliott 64 Ernocroft Road 427 5981

### Director of Music

Tom Howling (email: [t.howling@nhs.net](mailto:t.howling@nhs.net))

### Outlook Editors

Maggie Williams, Margaret Leng

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Churches Together in Marple Representative Helen Kennedy

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are arranged through the Parish Office

Pastoral Care Group Coordinator Lesley Futcher 449 0977

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

[melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com)

The deadline for May addition is April 14

## Marple choral Society Spring concert

Saturday April 2nd 7:30 pm

St. Paul's Church Compstall

Gabriel Faure's Requiem

Will Todd - Stabat Mater

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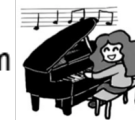
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## Church Rotas Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.00am
<b>3 April</b>	P Cooke	P Forbes & L Forbes
<b>10 April</b>	A Mason	A Allcard & H Ruffell
<b>17 April</b>	J Butterworth	R Elliott & J Elliott
<b>24 April</b>	P Cunningham	D Jelleyman & A Sanders
<b>1 May</b>	P Cooke	S McAllister & C Starling

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

### FLOWER ROTA

3rd April Lent no flowers	1st May Jill Baker
10th April Lent no flowers	8th May Wedding flowers
17th April Easter flowers	15th May Karen Greenough
24th April Easter flowers	22nd May Wedding flowers
	30th May Joan Combey

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

2nd April	<b>The Big Clean Up</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> April	J&R Elliott
17 <sup>th</sup> April	M. Williams & S. McAllister
24 <sup>th</sup> April	A. Mason & C. Starling
1 <sup>st</sup> May	J. Cooper & A. Muller

### Brass Cleaning

April. J. Briggs & H. Carlsson
Any problems contact Anthea Mason 449 9815.

### **Big Clean Up for Easter Saturday 2<sup>rd</sup> April 10am - 3pm**

Once again it is time for 'The Big Clean Up' so please come and help us clean, dust and polish the church ready for Easter. Everyone is welcome of all ages, male and female, to join the Holy Dusters for an hour or two. Refreshments will be available



## Vicar's Viewpoint

Rublev's icon is one of the most familiar icons from the Orthodox Church. As we gaze on it, Rublev invites us to be with the Trinity - at home with them. The scene has a sense of home about it as the three figures sit around the table.

Rublev's icon is based on the story from Genesis 18.1-16. Abraham is visited by three strangers who happen to be angels and to whom Abraham and Sarah offer hospitality.

It's a story of typical Middle Eastern hospitality, both spontaneous and generous. The aim of Middle Eastern hospitality is that strangers should be welcomed as guests and should leave as friends.

The actions of Abraham and Sarah are a reminder of the injunction in the letter to the Hebrews 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.'

The Christian faith is rooted in the practice of hospitality, with a table as a central symbolic image, as we see in Rublev's icon.

The table and the food shared at it are a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that God prepares for all people. No one is excluded and all are treated equally with respect and dignity, and we are called to practice such hospitality on earth as in heaven.

Moreover a table is a symbol of hospitality in a world of migration, and that can hardly be more relevant than at this time, when millions are fleeing the danger and desecration of Ukraine.

How we offer hospitality might vary, but we can all be welcoming. What might it be like to be on the receiving end of your welcome?

Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25.40.



Best Wishes

Tracy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2022

1 Fri	10.30am	Friday Strollers Brabyns
2 Sat	10am – 3pm	Spring Clean Church
<b>3 Sun</b> <b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Compline (Parish Centre)
4 Mon	7.30 pm	FoMPC talk (Parish Centre)
6 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
<b>10 Sun</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	8.30 am 9.30 am  10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Blessing of Palms at Devonshire Arms Car Park and Procession to Church Parish Communion Contemplative Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
11 Mon	10.45-12 noon 7.30pm	Coffee & Chat (Parish Centre) Cunningham Concert (Parish Centre)
12 Tues	7.00 pm	Tenebrae service
13 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
<b>14 Maundy Thursday</b>	7.00pm	Holy Communion and Washing of Feet
<b>15 Good Friday</b>	12 noon-3 pm	Vigil in Churchyard followed by the Cross being carried into church Walk to the Cross from Linnet Clough
<b>16 Easter Sat</b>	5pm	Walk an outdoor 'Stations of the Cross' around Mellor and other family activities
<b>17 Sun</b> <b>Easter Day</b>	6.30 am  10.00 am	Dawn Holy Communion in the Churchyard followed by breakfast in the Parish Centre Easter Parish Communion
20 Wed	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion (Parish Centre) FOMPC Fashion Show (Parish Centre)
23 Sat	10.00am-12.00	Churchyard Tidying.
<b>24 Sun</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b>	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Compline (Parish Centre)
27 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
29 Fri	10.30am	Friday Strollers (Brabyns)
30 Sat	10.00am -12.00	Churchyard Tidy up

**Coffee and Chat** second Monday of the month 10.30 am to 12 noon (Parish Centre)

**Prayer Group** meets every Monday 10.30 to 11.00 am (Parish Centre)

**Women's Evening Fellowship** meets on the second Wednesday at 8.00 pm (Parish Centre)

**Toddlers Group** meets on Thursday each week 10.00 am to 11.30 am (Parish Centre)

**Knit and Natter** meets on Thursday each week 10.30 am to 12 noon (Parish Centre)

**The Choir** practises each week on Friday at 6.30 pm

Our cousin Ruth Bennet lived next to him and we spent many days there in the garden and looking out across the fields to the reservoir above the Roman Lakes. When the houses on the left ended there were the tennis courts, the Club House and the Conservative Club. There was also, I think, the way into another farm before a small row of cottages and the entrance to a large field.

On the right side were two or more houses set back, then two semi-detached houses right on the edge of the road.

On the left side there was, and still is, a row of terraced houses with a little 'tunnel' through the middle leading to a path and steps going down across the stream and joining the farm lane leading up to Church.

Past this was the row of houses we see today to the next little track and steps also towards Mellor Church. More houses detached and including a bungalow or two before the lane to the 'Cathedral Home' and the shop for the sweets and ice cream, magazines and stationary. There was another small shop further down on the right side which sold cakes and biscuits. On the right side of the road opposite the steps was the track leading up 50 steps to the stables or along the valley bottom to the Golf Club.

Rawcliffe a large house was on the right hand side. It was owned by Uncle Fred McClelland who lived there with his three daughters, Joan, Ruth and Dora. In the winter the tennis court was covered with water and it froze and became their own skating and sliding rink.

The track across the reservoir field led across the fields to join Gibb Lane and on up towards Cobden Edge. The houses above were there - fewer than now I think.

*Editor. You can still find the house names:-  
The Elms and Mon -  
Labore on the gateposts.*



Roman Lakes early 1930's?

From L to R:

Miss Woodhouse, Walter McClelland(Mac) and  
Christine McClelland.

Part 2 of **Let me take you for a walk from Marple Bridge to the Devonshire Arms-starting about 80 years ago.**

*Shirley Molloy nee McClelland*



Near the Royal Oak there were several shops - Harrops the greengrocer, the Co-op and two or three shops on the lane above the War Memorial. A butcher, Mr Hall, was there and a hairdresser I think.

Across the road was a farm with outbuildings, cattle and a milk round. Then came a field on the right side, bushes and hedges on the left before the houses started again. One of the first houses was a home-built extension which took a considerable time to finish. It was called Mon Labore - a most appropriate name - then terraced houses on the left almost to Knowle - ending with two large semi-detached. I remember two girls in one of these, and I am fairly sure that both their names began with 'M' - Monica?

On the right side were mostly semi-detached houses. One of these had an apartment which was used by the then Vicar of Mellor Church.

After Knowle Rd. the left side had mostly family sized semi-detached houses and some names I can remember - Daphne, Barbara and Jane Bray, Gillian and Roger Partridge.

We lived on Cataract Brow until I got married, but not in the same house all the time. As a baby I lived at 'The Dingle' (number 101) next door to my Grandma, Granny McClelland, who taught me to play dominoes when I was about three. Later, we moved into 'The Elms' (123) a bigger house for our growing family of mum, dad and three daughters - Christine, Shirley and Margaret. From there, we moved to 'Heathfield' (118) - which was where Tony Newton had lived with his parents Frank and Nora and brother Guy. It was on the right hand side of the road just below the lower entrance to the park - a house with an attic and a long back garden going up to a hedge and a field. The attic area was home to our cousin Robert who was evacuated to us for a year or two in the war. There we stayed until each of us married and left, and where our mother died.

We had the happiest childhood imaginable, friends, freedom to rove and explore, education at Greek St High School and learning how to make our pocket money stretch to cover 'treats' like going to Marple Pictures or buying sweets from the little confectioners on the left hand side of the road below the War Memorial, Partridge - particular friends of ours.

On the right side lived Neville Watts - another friend. He suffered from many ailments in his youth spending weeks in bed. He must have grown stronger in his adult years, but sadly died only this Christmas on the Isle of Man at the age of 90.

## A Tribute to Gordon Johnson



Gordon's death which occurred on February 17th was announced in last months Outlook. His commemoration service at which Jenny spoke movingly was held on March 8th.

He was a good man of great integrity. He spoke as he thought and acted as he spoke. Calm and restrained he never sought to overwhelm by argument or personality but gave his opinion clearly when required. A modest man; it was only after a long acquaintance that he would reveal much about himself or admit to one of his many achievements.

He lived a life of commitment, to his family, his church, his work and the community, but paramount was his life with Jenny, Martin and Brigitte and his grandchildren.

His church work began very early in his life with Jenny in Coventry as treasurer and included being church warden at Mellor. He was still supervising the Covenanted Giving at Mellor up to his last illness, a job in which like all others he maintained absolute confidentiality.

Gordon worked for many years, including a period in Germany, for a large firm, Courthaulds, and when he left it worked independently in various fields.

His long term work for the Citizens Advice Bureau was outstanding.

He and Jenny had known each other for over fifty five years in a mutually loving and trusting relationship that shared much but allowed one another their individuality.

They would travel widely to hear opera, especially Wagner and regularly attended BBC Philharmonic concerts at the Bridgewater Hall, particularly enjoying the works of Gustav Mahler.

A widely read man Gordon enjoyed talk about books with his friends.

He had a fine analytical mind and was a regular Bridge player at Marple and in the higher leagues of the Manchester Bridge Association. His much preferred form of physical activity was fell walking and mountain climbing but he did enjoy televised golf and rugby. Each evening in July he would watch the Tour de France summary avidly.

Latterly he had several episodes of ill health making an almost complete recovery from a stroke eleven years ago and coming through two major arterial operations to his legs.

His last illness was faced with bravery and fortitude. He was very grateful to be devotedly nursed at home by his family and professional carers.

In Gordon we have lost one of life's true gentlemen and extend our prayers, love and support to Jenny and their family. Peter Harrison

### A Note of Thanks .....

Jenny, Martin, Brigitte and all the family wish to thank you for the very many kind expressions of sympathy, beautiful flowers, cards and messages of condolence. We much appreciated and were touched by the number of people who joined us for his Service of Thanksgiving on the 8th of March. Thank you for that particular support.

Gordon will be missed by us all.

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## Mellor Church Women's Evening Fellowship

Meg Barley

36 members of the Fellowship met for a delicious meal at the Pack Horse on March 9th, followed by the AGM. Over the past two years the Fellowship has continued to thrive and we have 46 paid up members this year, several of whom have joined for the first time. In the Chair's report she emphasised the strength of the group. Over £2,500.00 has been raised towards the upkeep of the church, including over £630.00 at the Fete Shower in July and £330.00 at the Church Fete in October. When the church put out an appeal at the beginning of the pandemic Fellowship members donated over £1,500.00. This included donations from non-church goers, people who attend other churches and, of course, members of the St Thomas congregation. In addition £570.00 was raised for our charity, Stockport Without Abuse. Thank you to all members for their contributions and generosity. During the pandemic members have kept in contact by email and by letters delivered to people who do not use email. Since September 2021 we have been able to meet face to face – and how happy we were to do so! We have enjoyed a variety of talks including one about the history of Swizzels sweet factory in New Mills and a harrowing account of Frank Pleszak's father's journey from Poland to Manchester. Mellor Church Women's Evening Fellowship is the oldest group attached to the church, having been established in 1959. It is a lively and active group and we always welcome new members. You are never too young to join us! The next meeting is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April and is a presentation about the History of Greggs Bakery. Visitors are welcome.



**The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.**



From an initiative started in the belfry of Mellor Church,

### **Festivals of Bells The Platinum Peel**



At 12 noon on Friday, the 3rd of June ring any kind of bells 70 times to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and show support for cancer patients and charities

There will be an opportunity for 70 people to ring the church bells for one minute in return for a donation to Cancer Charities. There will be a form to book a time in the Parish Centre

## Churches Together Easter events.

The Good Friday walk to the cross will take place this year, our annual walk of witness. Meet at Linnet Clough scout camp at 5.00pm. Wear suitable clothing!

Easter Sunday early morning service: 6.30pm in Mellor Church churchyard. A very special way to greet Easter Sunday morning.

## City of Trees.

On a bitterly cold and snowy day, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February,



'City of Trees' came out of Manchester with a coach of volunteers to plant trees on the Rec next to the Devonshire pub (who provided free hot drinks). They were joined by Liala Wilde

and Hilary Humphrey-Taylor from Mellor. Fortunately they did not get frostbite. They planted a mix of native broadleaf species:- Alder, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn, hazel, hornbeam, pedunculate oak, rowan, sessile oak, silver birch, spindle and wild cherry.

## The Mellor March

Sunday 1st of May.

A group will be leaving from the church after the morning service. The Mellor March hopes to make a substantial donation to War in Ukraine Children With Cancer.

All welcome to support by raising money on the March or direct donation via the Marple MM website

## Mellor Art Society

We are a self help group of amateur artist who made every Wednesday 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Saint Martin's Church Hall, Brabyns Brow, Marple Bridge. We also have speakers and workshops in many diverse and inspirational technique



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## Simnel cakelets

Jill Baker

This is a recipe from River Cottage handbook. It is ideal if you do not want a large simnel cake.

250g mixed dried fruit

Finely grated rind and juice of 1 orange

250g self raising flour

1 tsp ground mixed spice

½ tsp grated nutmeg

175g caster sugar

175g butter softened and cut into small pieces

3 eggs

75ml milk

150g marzipan



Put the dried fruit in a bowl with the orange juice to soak for around an hour. Put 12 muffin cases in a muffin tin. Pre heat the oven to 180C gas Mark 4 Sift the flour, mixed spice and nutmeg into a bowl, add the caster sugar and mix. Add the butter eggs and milk and beat until light and fluffy mix. Fold in the fruit and orange juice. Half fill the muffin cases. Divide the marzipan into 12 pieces flatten each piece into a disc and place on top of the mixture in the muffin cases. Spoon the remaining mixture over the marzipan. Bake for around 25 mins until golden. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes before putting on a wire rack.

### To decorate.

150g marzipan

Or

250g glacé icing (250g icing sugar mixed with 2tbsp water or orange juice)

Small Chocolate eggs. When the cakes are cool decorate with the icing and eggs or cut shapes from the marzipan such as a small flower or chick. You could put a disc of marzipan and top with a crystallized primrose (easily made by brushing fresh flowers, with green calyx removed, with lightly beaten egg white and drenching with caster sugar and then leaving to dry on some baking parchment.





## Jaunts with Judy

**Railway Walk no. 3.** A short walk around Chinley 3 miles 1 ½ Hours

This is an easy walk for days when rain is forecast. The walk passes plenty of places to shelter and have a coffee. Suitable for push chairs and dogs but the last stretch is on a road with narrow pavements.

### Getting there

There is an hourly train from Marple Station. Some on-street parking near the station in Chinley.

### Directions

1. From the station turn left and make your way to the main road called Green Lane. There are two cafes here for after the walk: Tea on the Green and The Green Lane Social. You should also see the Post Office. The Chinley Post Office sells excellent wine and has a good selection of local cheeses (it also sells stamps). Continue downhill crossing over a road towards Jacksons Carpets.
2. Continue downhill. You will need to keep crossing over the road to remain on a pavement. Cross over at Forge Road. Continue ahead and pass between two 'Except for Access' road signs.
3. Cross over to the right hand side and turn right onto the Peak Forest Tramway Trail. There is a purple Trail sign. Information board to read.
4. Continue along the trail. As it begins to open out take the left hand track to bring you into the car park of the Navigation Inn at Buxworth Basin. This is a good place to look around.
5. Turn right as you leave the pub car park and walk uphill past the school. Turn right onto the road which takes you back into Chinley.
6. As you walk back take care on the stretches of road that do not have a pavement. Look out for a cottage with two Blue Plaques these make interesting reading.
7. As you reach the end of this road you will be back on Green lane. Turn left to return back to the station and choose where to have some refreshment.



## Colin Johnson M.Sc., F.R.E.S.

30 April 1943 - 25 August 2021

### Keeper of Entomology at the Manchester Museum 1982-2003

Colin came to Mellor Church with his wife Clare and son Andrew for many years. Clare said, "It was looking at beetles through microscopes and seeing their perfection and beauty that was one of the things which brought Colin to Christianity". Roger Dennis recently wrote Colin's Obituary for the Entomologist's Magazine and we are including some excerpts here.

"Colin was known worldwide as an expert on beetles particularly the Ptiliidae. Colin described an astonishing number of new taxa (405). His research occupied some 282 papers.

He developed techniques for dissection and mounting these tiny beetles (0.5-3mm), and is known for his unerring generous help given to others.

Thanks to his enthusiasm and energy Manchester Museum became the third most important entomological deposition after The Natural History Museum and Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Colin extended the collection of

Coleoptera from 180 drawers to 360 drawers.

He also tackled larger beetles such as the enormous and intimidating *Cerambyx cerdo* he found on a tree in Sorrento.

Colin was born in Ashton-under-Lyne attended Hyde Grammar School and Ashton-under-Lyne Technical College. He started as a school boy collecting butterflies and moths and reared caterpillars and pupae. By age 18 he discovered his first beetle new to Britain (*Rhizophagus parvulus*) near Glen Affric. In 1967 he described his first beetle new to science, - *Atomaria strandi*. His work in Dunham Massey led to its recognition as the most important site in the NW for saproxylic beetles. He had 18 species named after him, Clare four species and Andrew and Phil one each.

In 2009 Colin was diagnosed with Huntington's disease which he bore uncomplainingly remaining positive and taking one day at a time. If the world was made up of Colin Johnsons we may feel assured it would be a much happier and more contented world."





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### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH – APRIL 2022

Lent is a special time set aside by the church for us to look for and reconnect with God and to rediscover His all-pervading loving presence.

May a lesson of Lent be that we, as God's children, are needed for this "all-pervading loving presence" to translate into actions and manifest his love for the suffering world.



We see this nightly on our TV screens showing the response to the appalling events in Eastern Europe.

So let us end this thought for the month with a prayer:

Dear loving God, help us to respond to your call and extend our loving arms to bring your love to a world in turmoil.

### Kneeling by R. S. Thomas

Moments of great calm,

Kneeling before an altar

Of wood in a stone church

In summer, waiting for the God

To speak; the air a staircase

For silence; the sun's light

Ring me, as though I acted

A great role. And the audiences

Still; all that close throng

Of spirits waiting, as I,

For the message.

Prompt me, God,

But not yet. When I speak,

Though it be you who speak

Through me, something is lost,

The meaning is in the waiting.



R. S. Thomas. *Selected Poems 1946-1968*. Bloodaxe Books,

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## Buxton International Festival Mellor Roadshow

Thursday 28 April From 7 - 8pm £10 (you can win a £50 voucher).  
It is a tour of music, song, jazz and words to give a taste of the  
summer festival in Buxton July 7 - 24.  
Please support this event at the Parish Centre.  
[www.buxtonfestival.co.uk](http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk)

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## The latest from the PCC

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) had its last meeting on 28th February 2022, and here is a summary of the main points:

### Matters arising

The PCC agreed to fly the Pride rainbow flag on the church flagpole to mark the end of LGBT+ History week. The flag was flown over the weekend of 26th/ 27th February and this was very well received. The Sunday service, which focussed on valuing everyone for who they are, was well attended and we've received many supportive comments on the church's Facebook page. The wall of the Columbarium was unsafe. This is the area in the churchyard where the ashes of those who've died are buried and commemorated, and this has now been repaired. Clare Jackson undertook an exercise to canvas people's opinion on three possible options for a design, to represent St Thomas' Mellor, in the etching to surround the new Pilgrim Porch at Chester cathedral. Clare informed us that the winning design was the one that featured the Bill Whittam window, which is behind the font in church. Queen's Jubilee celebrations – the bell ringers have an event planned, for 3rd June, when the church bells will be rung for 70 minutes, to mark the 70 years of the

Queen's reign. People will be able to pay to ring the bell for one minute, with the money to go to charity, and refreshments will be provided. It is hoped this will be a family event.

Promotional survey – this was a suggestion at the last PCC meeting, and Tracy will be meeting to discuss this further, with some willing volunteers.  
Churchyard working party – another churchyard clear-up will take place on the morning of Saturday 26th March (last Saturday of every month) and all volunteers are welcome.

**Finance report** – The Treasurer told us that the church's annual accounts are now being independently examined for the year end. Richard intends to write some simple financial guidelines for groups that run within the church to ensure that accounting for any money they raise is straightforward, given Charity Commission requirements, etc.

**Safeguarding** – Emma Wilson and Kathy Maxwell are the church's Safeguarding officers. They told us how they plan to update and increase the security around keeping the required records of volunteers for the church who work with young people and vulnerable elderly, etc. This involves keeping records of DBS carried out. Lists of

An email from St Paul's Cathedral.

Dear Tom,

The Cathedral Clergy and the Director of Music have asked me to pass on their sincere thanks and appreciation to you and Mellor Church Choir for singing Evensong here on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

We are very grateful to you and all of the singers, and we were delighted that Ben Collyer was able to accompany the choir on the day, along with John LeGrove.

It has been wonderful for our visitors to be able to experience again sung worship each day, and we hope the choir and supporting congregation had an enjoyable visit.

We hope to be able to welcome you again in the future, please do get in touch if you would like to discuss future dates to sing here at St Paul's.

With thanks and very best wishes,

Gemma Winpenny

Deputy Events Coordinator

 St PAUL'S  
CATHEDRAL



St Thomas' Church  
MELLOR AND MARPLE BRIDGE

# Platinum Jubilee Concert



**St. Thomas' Church, Mellor**  
7:30pm Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Coronation Music

**Mellor Church Choir with Orchestra**  
Parry, Handel, Mozart, Wesley, Wood, Vaughan Williams,  
Purcell, Elgar, Tallis

Admission £10 by ticket available from  
[www.mellorchurchchoir.co.uk/tickets](http://www.mellorchurchchoir.co.uk/tickets)

A message on our church website. I attended the Choral Evensong on Monday at Saint Paul's and was bowled over by the standard of your cchoral singing which was exceptional for a parish choir. So impressive – well done. Really good Parish choirs are becoming a rarity and it was wonderful to hear your music making.

### From The Registers.

#### The Departed

We remember before God and commend to his love and mercy

#### Charles Meyer

We offer love and sympathy to all who mourn.

#### Baptism

Rupert Henry Dutson  
March 6th



## EVENSONG AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

On 21st  
February 2022  
Mellor Church  
Choir got the  
once in a  
lifetime  
opportunity to  
sing a Choral

Evensong in St. Paul's Cathedral,  
in London!

The choir had an early start on the  
day, with the coach arriving at 6:30  
in the morning. It was a long  
journey, but everyone was very  
excited, and they took part in an  
all-things St. Paul's quiz to help  
pass the time.

Some of us were already in London  
so waited for the coach on the  
Cathedral steps which are famous  
from the 'Feed the Birds' scene in  
Mary Poppins.

Straight after some lunch we had a  
rehearsal in a practice room beneath  
the Cathedral. Our first opportunity to  
see the inside, with its dizzying  
heights and spectacular artwork, was  
during a tour. As I walked into the  
cathedral, I couldn't believe that I had  
the opportunity to sing there, I was  
completely blown away .

During the break, Nathan Monk  
and Eleanor Rosser, two budding  
organists, were able to play the St.  
Paul's organ and sounded  
incredible.

The service took place at 5 pm, and  
the choir was lucky enough to have  
support from the community of St.  
Thomas' in the congregation.  
Furthermore, we were accompanied  
by Ben Collyer who is a former  
member of the choir and now Organ  
Scholar at St. Paul's. We sang many  
beautiful pieces including choir  
favourite 'Do Not Be Afraid' by Phillip  
Stopford. A young chorister in the  
choir even said, "The best bit was  
singing Do Not Be Afraid in the  
cathedral!" I felt overwhelmed that it  
was finally happening and amazed  
at the sound we made.

Most of the choir travelled home on  
the coach which didn't arrive home  
until around 11:30 pm. Everybody  
was worn out, but it was worth it for  
such an unbelievable opportunity.  
A massive thank you to Mellor  
Church's director of music, Dr Tom  
Howling, for all his hard work in  
making it happen, and to Ben  
Collyer who supported our  
application to sing in the cathedral.  
*Head Chorister Emily Britton*

Here is a link to the St Paul's  
playlist - the recording from St  
Paul's:

[https://soundcloud.com/  
user-167265388-809238539/  
sets/music-from-st-pauls-  
cathedral?  
utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_med  
ium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_](https://soundcloud.com/user-167265388-809238539/sets/music-from-st-pauls-cathedral?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_)

all volunteers are needed, so that  
Kathy and Emma can make sure  
proper records are kept, checks  
carried out, and training needs  
identified.

**Church fabric** – William Heijbroek and  
his team, who look after the fabric of  
the church, have been working for  
some time on plans to improve the  
inside of the church porch and the  
welcome it gives to people entering the  
church. There was a discussion about  
the various pieces of work needed,  
and how it may be funded. This will be  
discussed again at the next meeting.  
There is also a large and expensive  
piece of work needed to replace the  
church cesspit. As with everything at  
the present time, the cost of this has  
risen since originally quoted, and  
William is renegotiating this.

**Inclusive church** – Dave Shercliff  
gave the PCC some feedback on the  
Living in Love and Faith course he ran  
a few weeks ago, which is part of the  
Church of England's consultation  
process, intended to inform decision-  
making at the General Synod, about  
same-sex marriage in the Church. The  
large majority of the feedback was  
positive. Dave is also suggesting St  
Thomas' considers joining the  
'Inclusive Church' movement, the  
principles of which are to promote the  
inclusive values of the church in its  
widest sense. It was agreed that  
joining the Inclusive Church movement  
could be an item to go on the agenda

for the APCM in May, for members of  
the congregation to discuss, following  
publicity and information beforehand.

**Rev Ann Hyde** – Ann  
will be no stranger to.



members of the  
congregation at  
Thomas', as she  
covers when our own vicar, Tracy, is  
away. Ann had asked to transfer her  
Permission to Officiate from the parish  
of St Martin's to St Thomas'. The PCC  
were very pleased to hear that Ann  
wished to do join us in this way. The  
Archdeacon had already been  
consulted but the PCC needed to agree  
the move, which they did unanimously.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
(APCM) This is the annual meeting  
which takes place, in the Parish Centre,  
and is planned for 15th May 2022. We  
will need new Church Wardens and  
members of the PCC, who will be voted  
in at the APCM. We're still canvassing for  
volunteers !Any other business – Tom  
Howling, Director of Music, and his team  
from the choir, have been enthusiastically  
organising a series of concerts, in aid of  
raising church funds. The concerts have  
been going down extremely well, and the  
PCC wanted to thank the team for their  
hard work. Ian Collyer had requested  
that some of the money raised could be  
spent on buying a new camera, to be  
used for live-streaming from church, as  
this has been done on a mobile phone  
which is now defunct. The PCC agreed  
this expenditure. *Julie Elliot*



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## Peter Cunningham Concert.

Mellor Parish Centre

Monday April 11 Doors open 7pm

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## Laughs with Lynda

Edam is the only cheese that is made backwards.

I was arguing with my wife and she threw a lump of cheese at me.

I said, "That's not very mature!"

What did the left eye say to the right eye?

"Between you and me something smells"

## Flower memorial cards for display on the altar.

If you are giving flowers in memory of someone, please feel free to enter their name on a card from the box kept under the altar and leave it beside the flowers.

We are looking for new people to give altar flowers. You would only be asked once a year. If you would like to join the rota please contact Jill Baker, Cathie Lowe, Alison Allcard or Angela Muller.

## Signs of the Seasons - Plant Phrenology

*Diana Cole*

Nature is full of clues to the changing seasons. Plant phrenology is the study of phenomena or happenings in nature. It is applied to the recording and study of dates of recurrent natural events such as the flowering of a plant (or the first or last appearance of a migrant bird) in relation to seasonal climatic changes.

Recording for the Woodland Trust will help them to see what effect recent weather has had on wildlife. It will help their research into whether climate change affects timings in nature from leaf buds bursting to blackberries ripening. You will be contributing to a long biological record that dates back as far as 1736!

The Trust are asking you to let them know what is happening near you, from emerging butterflies and baby birds to ripe berries. Your records will help scientists monitor the effects of weather and climate change on wildlife. To help them, you are asked to take part in 'Nature's Calendar', found on their website. You can tell them what you have spotted in three easy steps:

- Choose a species and behaviour you would like to look out for;
- Locate a spot where you would like to record e.g. your garden; and
- Keep your eyes peeled and let us know any key dates. You can view your record instantly on the live maps.

To join the Woodland Trust's Nature's Calendar and help scientists discover answers to climate change, log into their website, [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk), click on the link *visit Nature's Calendar*



**WOODLAND**  
TRUST



## Flower Donations.

The glorious festival of Easter is upon us.

The flower team are looking forward to decorating the church on Easter Saturday once again in celebration. They will welcome any donation you may like to make towards the cost of fresh flowers. The Flower Fund is separate from church funds and it relies on our donations, either in joyful appreciation or in memory of someone close to you. Any gift will be most welcome.

Please contact either Cathie Lowe 4271563 or Jill Baker 427 5970. Your involvement will be appreciated. Thank you.



## Resistance

It's war again: a family  
carries its family out of a pranged house  
under a burning thatch.

The next scene smacks  
of archive newsreel: platforms and trains  
(never again, never again),

toddlers passed  
over heads and shoulders, lifetimes stowed  
in luggage racks.

It's war again: unmistakable smoke  
on the near horizon mistaken  
for thick fog. Fingers crossed.

An old blue tractor  
tows an armoured tank  
into no-man's land.

It's the ceasefire hour: godspeed the columns  
of winter coats and fur-lined hoods,  
the high-wire walk

over buckled bridges  
managing cases and bags,  
balancing west and east - godspeed.

It's war again: the woman in black  
gives sunflower seeds to the soldier, insists  
his marrow will nourish

the national flower. In dreams  
let bullets be birds, let cluster bombs  
burst into flocks.

False news is news with the pity  
edited out. It's war again:

**an air-raid siren can't fully mute  
the cathedral bells -  
let's call that hope.**

copyright Simon Armitage (poet laureate)



## Praying for Ukraine

God of peace and justice.  
We pray for the people of  
Ukraine today.

We pray for the peace and the  
laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for  
tomorrow,  
that your spirit of comfort would  
draw near to them.

We pray for those with power  
over war and peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and  
compassion  
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for your precious  
children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect  
them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the  
Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

**Archbishop Justin Welby  
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell.**



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## Mellor Birds April 2022



### Easter Chicks

Being Easter time I thought I would look for some eggs in Mellor. 18 months ago I heard that Harriet on Townscliffe Lane had got some chickens. Thankfully Harriet still has her chicken called Chickenpox, who



is cute, fluffy and likes to be cuddled. Harriet feeds the chickens with corn and layers pellets. They love scraps like carrot peelings. (Chickenpox and Stella are in the photo.)



Each hen lays about one egg a day. Alice likes to collect the eggs. Which I think are huge. George tells me the hens favourite pastime is having a dust bath. The hens run around in a big wired pen that Daddy made. Inside is a chicken swing Goldie likes to



be on. Goldie is a handsome Wyandotte chicken who was hatched on Clement Road 16 weeks ago.



Thank you Kathryn and Edward for letting Harriet, Alice and George show me Goldie, Stella, Lulu, Annie and Chickenpox - your very sociable hens



## Friday Strollers

Judy Cooper

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 1<sup>st</sup> April, April 29<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Comfy shoes and a waterproof is all you need.

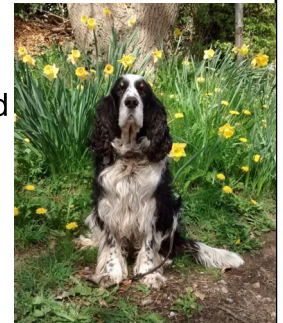
If you require more information contact Judy Cooper, 01663 746 579  
email judecoopurr@hotmail.com

## Walk all over Cancer

Mary Hoult is taking part in the Cancer Research Challenge: **Walk All Over Cancer**, which involves walking at least 10,000 steps every day for the whole of March.

She is doing this with her dog, **Dyson**, who is a loyal, loving and very large English Springer Spaniel. He is 12 years old, with cloudy eyes and is completely deaf. However, his spirit is undimmed and his nose is simply terrific!

If you would like to help Mary and Dyson complete the challenge by giving a donation to support Cancer Research UK and view their progress go to this website:



<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/dyson-the-devoted-dog>

## Gordon Ramsay Future Food Stars BBC One 9pm Thursday 31st March

Just a little item about this forthcoming programme on BBC One. It is about some young people who have started businesses of their own in the Food and Drink industry. Many were considered and 12 were chosen to be interviewed for the programme. The star of the show, of course, is Gordon Ramsay. It is going out in America at the same time. One of the chosen entrepreneurs is my son's partner, Stephanie with her non-alcoholic drink Chu-Lo. More information to come next month.

Hot off the press



## Captain Ken

There have been so many changes at sea, through the ages, and of course most of them technical. But I was thinking the other day about a change that few people recall, and that is the loss of the ship's cat. I was always fascinated by this very special animal which, from time immemorial, almost all ships carried. They were of course appreciated for their control of the rodents on board, so were usually very well cared for. And in common with most of the crew when we reached a foreign port, they valued their shore leave. Unfortunately, although the crew were well notified of the intended ship's departure time, there was no way of advising the cat. So the true ship's cat far from feeling stranded in a foreign port, if the ship had sailed without it, simply joined a different ship, where the chances were it would be equally welcome.

In 1956 I was 4th Mate on the 'Eurybates' a fascinating ship built in 1929 which was, together with two sister ships, fitted with an engine that was half diesel motor, and half steam. It had been converted to complete diesel, simply

because the current rules required twice the number of qualified engineer officers. Anyway she had a lovely cat that everybody loved. One day while we were discharging cargo in Amsterdam, she jumped up onto what she thought was the hatch top, only to discover that the hatch covers had been removed to discharge the cargo, and she fell into a large deep tank of heated up palm oil. We managed to rescue her, but she was totally soaked in the palm oil. We asked the ship's agent to rush her to the vet's hospital, and at great cost they managed to save her life. All the crew chipped in to pay the vet's bill, which totally amazed the Agent.

Only a few years before this, another of our ships, the 'Menestheus' had a serious engine-room fire and as the fire could not be extinguished it was necessary to abandon ship. As everybody climbed into the life boats, nobody could find the ship's cat, so they had to leave her while the entire ship burned out. When tug boats from Los Angeles arrived to tow the burnt out vessel, they were surprised to find a very scorched cat still alive and well, clinging to the only bit of the wooden deck on the poop deck.

It made headlines in the American press, and the cat was taken care of by an animal charity.

There seem to be so many stories of famous ship's cats and with the current news item of discovering Ernest Shackleton's ship 'Endurance' at the bottom of the Weddell Sea. The 'Endurance' cat was known as Mrs Chippy, as he, always followed the



Ship's Carpenter about. (despite her name she was found to be a tom

cat). The cat became famous as Caroline Alexander wrote a book about the Expedition from the cat's view point. In a former article I told of my being privileged to have known the Surgeon of the Shackleton Expedition, Dr James McIlroy, and how I asked Maggie Williams, while on her Antarctic sea bird cruise, to take a photograph of McIlroy Peak, on South Georgia, which had since been named after him. So I thought it appropriate to include the photo of her kindly pointing it out. Finally I must mention Simon, the ship's cat of HMS 'Amythest', who was wounded when the ship was under fire in the Yangtse Incident in 1949. Twenty five of the crew including

the Captain, were killed, but Simon survived, and was the only cat to be awarded the Dickin medal, the animals' VC. He was given the Naval rank of Able Sea Cat.

In 1981 I was promoted to Captain of the 'Bengal Enterprise' a small geared container ship introducing containers between Calcutta and Colombo. By this time the ship could be fined for having a cat on board. One came on board in Calcutta and I asked all the crew not to feed it on our way to Colombo so that it would then be anxious to get ashore for a good meal. However one evening while sitting in my cabin, I felt sorry for the cat, hiding amongst the containers, and took down a saucer of milk to where the last place the cat had been observed. To my surprise there were several other saucers of milk already there. So much for my instructions being observed where a cat was concerned.



Endurance

*Ken Owen*