

Outlook



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May
2022

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The Parish of St Thomas , Mellor

Registered Charity No. 1130414

Vicar: Revd Tracy Ward, The Vicarage, 51 Church Road, Mellor
312 9861

Phone 0161 484 5079 (Parish Office)
Email office@mellorchurch.org
www.mellorchurch.org

- 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
- Reader** Dave Shercliff 56 Ernocroft Road, Marple Bridge
07519931219
- Parish Office Administrator** Val Wallace (Mon, Wed & Thurs mornings)
- Churchwardens** Rachel Howling 3 Dove Bank, Moor End, Mellor 427 5891
Chris Mann 55 Clement Road 07850 550333
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- PCC Treasurer** Richard Elliott contact via Parish Office
- Assistant Treasurers** Gordon Johnson (Gift Aid and Envelope Scheme)
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Karen Greenough (Expenditure & Gift Aid)
- PCC Secretary** Julie Elliott 64 Ernocroft Road 427 5981
- Director of Music** Tom Howling (email: t.howling@nhs.net)
- Outlook Editors** Maggie Williams, Margaret Leng
- Elected Members of the PCC** Ben Collier, Ian Dayes, Julie Elliott, Richard Elliott, William Heijbroek Clare Jackson, Emma Wilson, Kathryn Maxwell, [Parish Safeguarding Officer],
- Diocesan/Deanery Representatives** Judith Shiel / Mary Heijbroek
- Churches Together in Marple Representative** Helen Kennedy
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals** are arranged through the Parish Office
- 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 June edition is the 15th of May 2022



One of the many blessings we enjoy at St Thomas' is a strong sense of community. I hear and see many stories of people reaching out to others during good times and also especially during times of need. Offering friendship and fellowship, a listening ear and a kind word. We hold each other in our thoughts and prayers. It's a network of support and care.

That is what community is. It is society on a human scale, where they notice when you are missing and take the trouble to find out why. It is where you are there for other people and they are there for you. It is where your griefs are halved and your celebrations doubled by being shared.

Christianity is a faith that is experienced both personally and also communally. Too often the emphasis though can be on a private communion of the soul with God in an attempt to ascend from earth to heaven.

In communion with our Jewish brothers and sisters we also experience the Divine presence from heaven here on earth and share it with others. That is essentially a collective task and the function of communities.

So we pray together, celebrate together, confess sins together and even mourn together.

There is an enormous body of literature spreading across several disciplines to show how important it is to a person's well

being to be surrounded by friends. Merely having people to talk to makes a difference. We speak of 'unburdening' ourselves to others. There is something about human nature that makes troubles shared easier to bear. We are as Aristotle said, social animals.

One of the researchers who discovered that regular attendance at a place of worship added years to life expectancy, hazarded a guess as to why. People who do so, he said 'have friends and a sense of importance in the scheme of things'.

He is probably right. Faith makes a difference, and the biggest difference it makes is in sustaining the bonds between people. Faith lives in communities. They are the human face of the Divine reality that tells us we are not alone.

On the 15th May 2022 we will be holding our Thanksgiving service in church where we give thanks for all the many blessings that we experience in community with each other. If you are able to come along to the service you would be most welcome. There are very many ways to help support St Thomas Church community as mentioned above but we also need financial support as well to be a continuing presence in Mellor. If you feel this is something you would like to support please see the donations page and may I thank you for your generosity.

*May God bless you,
Tracy. x*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MAY

1 Sun 3rd Sunday of Easter	8:30am 10.00 am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Compline (Parish Centre)
4 Wed 7th Sat	10.00 am 3pm	Holy Communion P.C. Wedding of Andrew Dranfield & Tiah Jones
8 Sun 4th Sunday of Easter	8:30am 10.00 am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Contemplative Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
9 Mon 11 Wed	10:45 am - 12 noon	Coffee and Chat (Parish Centre) Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
15 Sunday 4th Sunday of Easter THANKSGIVING SUNDAY	8:30am 10.00am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion followed by APCM in Parish Centre Choral Evensong
18 Wed 21st	10:00am	Holy Communion (PC) Wedding of James Davenport & Fiona Hilton
22 Sun 6th Sunday of Easter	8:30am 10.00 am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Compline (Parish Centre)
25 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion P.C.
29 Sun 7th Sunday of Easter	8:30am 10.00 am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Compline (Parish Centre)

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

Mellor March on May 1st



The Mellor March has sent a donation to **Ukraine Children with Cancer** and this will be one of the charities supported on May 1st. Everyone is encouraged to join the Mellor March – any distance, anywhere on the route. Hopefully a group will leave the church after the morning service. Donations can be made online via the website.

JUBILEE PEAL



The bellringers are organising a Jubilee Peal on June 3rd with 70 ringers between 11.50 and 12.00. There will be a list in the Parish Centre for those wishing to book a minute of ringing with donations to cancer charities. The Bishop of Stockport has agreed to start the Peal. At 12.00 everyone present will be encouraged to ring a bell of any kind (many children are making bells) for the Festival of Bells. There will be refreshments being sold in support of the defibrillator appeal. Anyone wishing to have a craft stall please contact 0161 449 5935. Same again for anyone keen to offer musical entertainment.

Celebrations for our wonderful Queen.

WELL DRESSING

The Mellor Well Dressing will this year celebrate the Jubilee and be blessed on June 3rd. For the week leading up to this there is an appeal for people to join the dressing team, no previous experience necessary and all welcome. The



Parish Centre has again kindly agreed to be the base for the dressing to be constructed. On the evening of June 2nd at 6.30pm any available muscle would be greatly appreciated for putting the boards in place.

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Email jb.silvester@googlemail.com for more information

Mellor Sports Club, 215 Longhurst Lane, Mellor SK6 5PN

Walk to the Cross

This photograph was taken on the Walk to the Cross from Linnet Clough on Good Friday April 14th. The Bishop of Stockport, Sam Corley, and the Mayor of Stockport, Cllr Adrian Nottingham, were welcomed by Reverend Tracy and Churches Together Marple Area Secretary, Marian Thompson.



Along the way Bible readings were read, hymns sung, children climbed trees and there were plenty of happy dogs.

Mellor War Memorial Gardens

Volunteers are glad to report that we have been given a grant of £600 by SMBC Area Committee to replace the old Lavenders that were edging the path to the Memorial and help make the area tidy. Thanks go to Liala who went to the SMBC meeting to state our case.



The Garden is looking particularly colourful with new blue and white Chionodoxa and Narcissus Hawera, Sun Disc and Topolino, thanks to a variety of bulbs that were donated.

12 or so volunteers enjoyed a Christmas meal in March at the Midland.

Volunteers meet monthly on second Saturday - May 14th
10-12 and on Thursday afternoons 2ish.



Mellor Birds

I have never expected to hear a nightingale in Mellor but on March 26th I did just that. It was in church at the Andrew Dean organ concert. During one of the pieces Andrew Dean asked John LeGrove our church organist to accompany him by playing a 'nightingale' at various times. (photo below) It looks like an ornate metal pipe which John blew into. Inside the pipe was a small amount of water.

Last week Jill B. told me she had been walking up to Robin Hood's Picking Rods and around Far Slack in a circle and came across a field of golden plover. These wading birds have spent the winter at the coast and come up to the moors to breed. I think their breeding plumage is very smart. They have a jet black chest and golden spangly backs; slightly larger than a blackbird; and have this distinctive mournful 'peeoo peeoo'.

To see golden plovers I often go up to the Snake Pass in early June, in the early evening, and walk south on The Pennine Way for about 15 minutes or so and then you start to hear 'peeoo's' and you can see single birds by their nests. It's best to take hat and gloves as it can be cold even in June.



I am reading a book by J.A Baker called *The Hill of Summer*. This is how he described golden plovers "Their black chest shone in the sun below mustard yellow of their backs, like black shoes half covered with buttercup dust." I have not heard of Swallow sightings in Mellor yet. (April 18th). The curlews can be heard bubbling up near Five Lane Ends and near the Brownie Inn at Rowarth. Margaret Lowe on Old Hall Lane took a photo of a greenfinch on her bird feeder.

Maggie Williams

Mellor Art Society

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Manchester Tart

Jill Baker

This is not part of my history but I thought I should research it and my grandson has been delighted.

You need a 22cm baked tart case. Options are to buy one or buy a sheet of shortcrust pastry and make one, probably the most challenging part of this recipe is baking blind a tart case. You can make my recipe given for strawberry tarts and previously for mince pies or your own favourite pastry.

Filling Option one.

575ml/1 pt whole milk
3 tbsp custard powder
3 tbsp caster sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract

Make custard in your usual way (follow packet instructions) and leave to cool with cling film covering the surface (touching to stop a skin forming)

To complete your tart with either option

200g / 7 oz raspberry jam
6 tbsp desiccated coconut
Optional fresh raspberries
Spread the base of your tart with a thick layer of jam and then 3tbsp of coconut.
Spoon the custard over in an even layer. Sprinkle with remaining coconut (which can be toasted in a dry pan) and serve with raspberries if liked - they can be used to decorate the tart too.



Filling Option two

5 egg yolks
Vanilla pod or 1 tsp vanilla extract
500ml / 17 fl oz whole milk
125g / 4 ½ oz caster sugar
4 tablespoons cornflour
300ml double cream whipped into soft peaks.

To make this custard heat the milk and vanilla pod to just below boiling and simmer for 2 mins then remove vanilla pod. Beat egg and sugar together and then beat in cornflour slowly add the hot milk to this mixture whisking all the time until it is smooth. Pour back in the pan and heat until it thickens stirring continuously. Set aside to cool then chill for 30 minutes in a clean bowl in the fridge, cover with cling film to prevent a skin forming. When cool whisk the cream into the thick custard.

Ed. This is another very yummy recipe. The Manchester tarts I ate at school (probably once a week for ten years) had cornflakes on top.



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If it is not okay then it is not the end.”

Fernando Sabino

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15-21 May 2022

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid together with many other agencies are actively working to support Ukrainian refugees. However as well as this important work, they are continuing to support those many other people across the world who go hungry daily.

For the first time in a generation, global hunger and poverty are rising.

Covid 19, conflict, and the climate crisis are pushing vulnerable communities like Jessica's into a struggle for survival.



Like many women in rural Zimbabwe - 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food - she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land. Drought starves, and intensified by the climate crisis, drives families into hunger. Jessica recalls that 'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.'

This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can eat today: 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry'. Can you imagine how it feels for her to know her children are hungry, but have nothing left to give?

It's unjust that drought robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give. But Jessica is anything but helpless. In the face of drought, her love

for her family gives her courage to stand strong - and we, Christian Aid, stand with Jessica.

Could you give and help this loving mum and others like her to provide food and hope?

Your gift could help Jessica to grow drought-resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm, learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. Her dry, dusty land could transform into a garden of hope, abundant with fresh food like tomatoes, beans and cucumbers.

Christian Aid week takes place in May each year to raise money to help create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Churches Together in the Marple area have set up a number of ways you can donate.

- Support the PLANT SALE on Saturday May 21st 10 – 12 in the garden of Jubilee Methodist Church Cote Green Lane, Marple Bridge SK6 5EB

- The familiar red envelopes will be delivered to some houses with details of donation collection points in your local area. We will NOT be collecting from your house.

- Donate on - line by either follow this link:

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/marple-area-churches>
or you can scan this QR code.



- Support the PLANT SALE on Saturday May 21st 10 – 12 in the garden of Jubilee Methodist Church Cote Green Lane, Marple Bridge SK6 5EB

We thank you and hope that you will be able to support our fundraising by giving generously to help people like Jessica.



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Save The Date Mellor Church Fete Saturday 25th June



We are delighted our Rose Queen for
2022-2023 is to be

Daisy Henderson.

In the Evening we will be entertained by

Frank Renshaw plus

Oscar Qualtar's new band that had a very
successful debut at the Parish Centre in February.
There will be refreshments in the Parish Centre
and on the field teddy parachuting, cakes, jams,
biscuits for sale in the Women's Evening
Fellowship tent, bric a brac stall, book stall etc.

Angus Wilson

has kindly offered to be in charge of the fete committee.
Please save the date. We will be needing lots of
volunteers as usual.



Prayer entered by Judith Shiel

Beyond Easter

Beyond Easter
We go singing.

Having been grabbed
By resurrection
We are full of tears and laughter.

The way ahead is unknown,
It will always be like that.

But having danced in the light
We will look for glory everywhere.

"The light of
Christ shining
into the Mellor
countryside"

William Whittam



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Captain Ken

Ken Owen

Sailing home from the Far East through the Suez canal was nearly always a pleasant experience. Though I'm sure that it's not at all how the officers and crew of the mega sized container ship, 'Ever Given' felt last year when, for six days, their grounding simply stopped round the world container traffic. An incident that is still being felt to this very day.

One homeward passage that I clearly remember would be in 1954. I was a twenty year old Midshipman, on a Blue Funnel cargo/passenger liner. I was assisting the bridge team, as a lookout, and totally surprised when I spotted a person swimming in the canal, very close to the ship.

When I drew the Captain's attention to this, I was amazed that he seemed immediately to know the reason why.

The ship in front of us was a French Troop ship, and he was aware that the world renowned French Foreign Legion was being transferred from Vietnam, or Indo China as we then knew it, to Algeria where a war of independence had broken out.

The only way that legionnaire troops could desert was to jump overboard as their ship transited the Suez Canal, and surrender to the Egyptian Army and hopefully get transferred back to Europe. The French Foreign Legion was renowned as one of toughest armies in the world, and would readily enlist men of any nationality. They had fought for many years enabling France to control her colonies, but had finally been defeated by the Viet Minh at the battle of Dien Bien Phu.

As the French reluctantly pulled out the Americans replaced them and the truly terrible war continued for several more years.

So in 1954 they were transferred by troop-ships to Algeria until 1962, when Algeria gained it's independence, and the Legion was greatly reduced. Our pilot told us that in order to try and prevent intended deserters jumping overboard during the Canal transit, no legionnaires were allowed near the ship's rails, and military police were stationed at the ship's side, prepared to shoot

any intended deserter. This made it necessary for any deserter to dive over the side, directly into the water.

As we proceeded along, we saw dozens of these strong fit and bronzed soldiers climbing up the canal banks and



The French Foreign Legion

surrendering to the Egyptian armed police, and many of our crew gave them a cheer, and they waved goodbye to us.



The new French Foreign Legion planning to fight in Ukraine

It was known that many of the Foreign Legion had joined directly from the German Army at the end of World War 2 and so would be anxious to return to Germany. In the Suez Canal great Bitter Lake, we spotted a navigation buoy with six deserters clinging to it. This was before we had

VHF radio communication and our only way of notifying the Canal Authorities of the necessary rescue, was for our Radio Officer to send out a Morse code message. We were pleased to learn later from our Agents in Port Said, that they had been rescued.

Motto of French Foreign Legion "Honneur et Fidélité"

Captain Ken Owen

Literary uplift for a soggy spring day - Kareen Dayes

I have come across another one, a delightful little book that is perfect to lift the mood on those not such cheery days. Neither too long nor too taxing, just enough to give food for thought and pass a pleasant half-hour with.



In *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* author Charlie Mackesy creates an intriguing world, one we will have all experienced parts of at times. It is decorated throughout by his accompanying drawings which enhance each page.

I cannot say that I agree with Mole's frequent dietary recommendations, but we are all entitled to a special treat every now and then. My favourite line comes right at the beginning. However, since the pages are not numbered you will need to make an inspired guess and I will not spoil it for you by quoting it. What I will say is it conveys a theme which is prevalent throughout the whole book.

£16.99 from Marple Bookshop

Cow Corner



At last the sun has appeared, to give us hope of a glorious cricket season. The national side did nothing to help us through the dark winter months, as they retreated back to the instruction manuals, their tails firmly between their legs.

However, on the home front, the preparation of the ground is well under way, with many hours of rolling the square, the seeding and sanding of the outfield, the checking of the machinery, and making an inventory of

the playing equipment, and replacing as appropriate.

The call has also gone out for the usual suspects to attend working parties and net practice. This brings out a dribble of those interested, and who look to have had a very relaxing few winter months. They are in need of a lot of exercise, but the erecting of the practice nets does not constitute anything like enough exertion.

Fortunately, there was sufficient playing equipment available, so that the practice could take place, although there was just one serviceable ball, two others which appeared on the scene had split seams and were therefore of no use and were discarded on the floor. This was not a good idea as a bowler, in running in to bowl, trod on one, and twisted his ankle. He lay there in agony. Luckily, the groundsman was on hand with his wheelbarrow, and the unfortunate was loaded up and taken to his car. After an X-ray, it was announced that the injury would keep him out of action for about four weeks. This was not a good start!

When the gloom of the evening descends, it is time to wrap up the practice session and retire for a drink. No more accidents were wanted.

Discussion between the players eventually turns to cricket teas, which were disrupted over the last two seasons because of covid, and whether there can be a return to previous years. It is certainly hoped they can, as they are an essential part of the afternoon's entertainment. There is nothing like a cup of tea to refresh oneself and to accompany the tea there is the obligatory piece of cake. Of course different players have their own ideas of which flavour they prefer. Some favour chocolate, whilst others like jam roly-poly, but by far the most popular is lemon drizzle. Cream horns don't go amiss either.

It is pointed out that it can be very chilly at the start of the season. Soup anyone?

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Birthdays

Marjorie Hobson had her 100
Birthday on Easter Sunday.
(She is friends with **Barbara
Booth** aged 101 which keeps
her feeling young.)

Also in Holy Week

Elizabeth Whittam was 90.
Congratulations to you all.



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The latest from the PCC

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

Matters Arising

Tom Howling, Director of Music, visited the PCC meeting, to discuss the fact that John LeGrove, Organ Master, has only been on a 75% contract, whilst he was still working at Cheetham's College of Music. But since he retired from that post in September 2021, he will now be able to take up a 100% contract, and this was agreed. The PCC thanked Tom and John for all their exceptional work with the choir, including their recent visits to Westminster and St Paul's Cathedrals, an achievement St Thomas' can be proud of.

Finance report – There was nothing to report this month, but next month's meeting should be able to receive the end of year accounts, once they've been audited by Kate Scott, Independent Auditor.

Safeguarding – Emma Wilson and Kathy Maxwell are the church's Safeguarding officers, and want to review everyone's safeguarding training, who work with children or vulnerable adults within our church. They recommended that all volunteers should visit the Diocese of Chester website and look for policies and procedures, and then training

needs. All PCC members, and all volunteers now need to complete both the Basic and Foundation training (online). Also, all volunteers should have DBS checks completed, including those who visit vulnerable adults in their own homes. A list of volunteers is being compiled, for that reason, so that proper records are kept, of checks and training completed. Kathy and Emma will be publicising this, in and around church, and posters are up.

Church fabric – William Heijbroek and his team, 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 are a number of pieces of work needed, which vary in their price tags and level of necessity. William is carrying out a short survey, to consult people on their views as to which should take priority. There will then be feedback given, and a decision made at the next PCC meeting.

William wishes to retire from his role on the Fabric committee, following the APCM, and David Horsfall (team member) has kindly offered to take over.

Support for charities - There was a meeting between members of the

PCC and the Parish Centre Management committee, to discuss ways in which Mellor may be able to assist in the appeal for aid for the Ukraine. It became clear that the best way for people to help, rather than practical means such as collections of goods, is to donate money to the Disasters Emergency Committee. However, Tracy agreed to consult Malcolm Allan, local councillor, as to what SMBC are doing and whether there may be any other ways we could offer assistance.



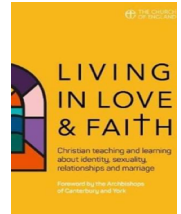
St Thomas' has always supported other charities, and currently supports Educaid, Shuktara, Water

Aid and Stockport Food Bank. New charities are usually nominated, for support, on a yearly basis. This didn't happen last year, due to pandemic restrictions, but it was agreed that this year we would hope to hold an open PCC meeting, in June or July, to which people would be welcome to come and nominate a charity they would like to see supported. This will be publicised in May.

Annual Fête – The fête team are currently consulting on a date for this year's fete, but asked for someone to take on a role in

coordinating the event. Angus Wilson has kindly agreed to step in and step up !

Inclusive church – Following the successful running of the 'Living in Love and Faith' course, the PCC is considering joining the 'Inclusive Church' movement, which aims to promote the inclusive values of the church in its widest sense. It was agreed that an open discussion should take place, but rather than do this at the APCM, an open PCC meeting may be a better vehicle for this discussion.



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 still need candidates for new Church Wardens, who will be voted in at the APCM. We're still canvassing for volunteers !

Julie Elliott, PCC Secretary.

Mellor W.I.

In March we were delighted to welcome Sergei Nikitin, former head of Amnesty International in Moscow who on his retirement in 2017 moved to the UK. Sergei gave us an absorbing, and at times moving, account of the history of the humanitarian work of the British and American Quakers in Russia - a topic which he has studied in detail at first hand. Quakers came to Russia, not as missionaries but as volunteers offering practical help and expertise. In these disturbing times it was reassuring to hear of good news coming from that country!

In April our speaker was Katie Hill, a local sheep farmer, and Rowarth's answer to Amanda Owen, the Yorkshire Shepherdess!

WI Outings -

Last month we had a wonderful tour of the Buxton Crescent Heritage Experience, accompanied by a very knowledgeable guide and some sunny weather! This was followed by lunch at the Thai Restaurant close by.

In May, a trip to Shibden Hall (of 'Gentleman Jack' TV fame) and the Piece Hall in Halifax is planned.



At our Resolution and Social evening in May, we are incorporating celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We look forward to a memorable evening!

We also anticipate our monthly coffee mornings and our monthly luncheon meetings to continue.

Please contact any committee members for more information about our WI. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Mellor Parish Centre at 7.30pm. All are welcome!

Pauline Hutchins (01663 745105)

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 10.30am by the Children's Play Park in Brabyn's Park. Date for next Spring Walk will be **Friday 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

Jaunts with Judy

Railway Walk No 4 Whaley Bridge Circular 3 miles allow 2 ½ hours

This is a pleasant walk that steadily ascends past Toddbrook Reservoir and into the hills above Whaley Bridge and returns along the canal. There are two tricky stiles. An OS map would be useful.

Getting there There is an hourly train from Hazel Grove, Disley or New Mills Newtown stations. These stations are on the Manchester to Buxton Line. There is a free car park in the centre of Whaley Bridge near to the canal.

Facilities en route Plenty of cafes in Whaley Bridge. There are toilets at the Tesco Store.

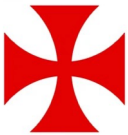
Directions

1. From the car park at Whaley Bridge Station turn right and under the railway bridge. Cross over the road and head up Reservoir Road. The reservoir will be on your left. Continue ahead, ignoring two footpath signs on the right. Continue past an interesting house called Kishfield. Look for a sign for Glebe Cottage that is high up on a tree. Go through the stone gateway and on the right is a footpath with a yellow way marker.
2. Follow this path up hill through a wood. You will pass a bench on the right. This is a good place to stop and admire the view.
3. When you meet a fence at the top turn right and take care going over a stile and follow a path by a house which will bring you out onto a lane.
4. At the lane turn left, you will go past a garage with Croft Cottage on it. Bear right at the footpath which is opposite Slatersbank. Keeping the stone wall on your right follow it up the hill. Continue through a wooden gate and continue ahead with the stone wall on your right. You will cross a small stream with a large concrete pipe as a bridge. Fantastic views at this point.
5. Continue to a track. Here there is a green footpath sign. To the right of this is a concealed stone stile. Go over this stile, the stone wall should now be on your left. When the wall ends continue on the track round to a road.
6. Cross the road and look for the footpath sign next to the Boarding Kennels. Go through onto the footpath.
7. Keeping the stone wall on your left continue ahead through a stone stile and a metal gate. You will come to an open field.
8. Go across the field bearing slightly left. Caravans should come into view. Go through a wide gap in the stone wall the caravan site can now be clearly seen. Follow the wall on the left. You will cross a stream and go through a metal gate, the caravan site is on the left.

9. Walk up the track to the site entrance. On your right is a footpath sign with a small gate. This is a tricky stone stile to scramble down. Head straight down this marshy field, a small wood is on the right. A small reservoir will come into view. Head for the small wooden gate.

10. Go through the gate and follow the track down to a metal gate at an industrial yard. Go across the yard and head down under the railway bridge.

11. Continue straight ahead to the A6. Cross over by the traffic island. Cross the canal footbridge and follow the towpath under the road. Cross another footbridge at the canal junction and follow the towpath back to Whaley Bridge.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

An UnHoly War



In 1095 Pope Urban 11 launched the age of crusades “Assail and drive out the Turks, more execrable than the Jebusites, who are in this land, and may you deem it a beautiful thing to die for Christ in that city in which he died for us.”

In 2022 Patriarch Kirill, Head of the Russian Orthodox Church blessed Putin’s “special operation” in Ukraine to oust the monsters and Nazis polluting “Holy Rus”. “Holy Wars” have an element of holy cover for underlying political power – Putin’s nostalgia for the old USSR for example. Putin has a mindset that is unshakable – and he uses the media to get this to permeate the whole of Russia.

On the other hand, Ukraine has a completely different mindset – equally unshakable – a free-thinking, liberal democracy more aligned with western thinking.

When two opposite mindsets collide as in the case of Russia’s invasion on February 24th the result is spontaneous combustion – war - the flames of which – as we have seen - are pure evil. This is why all leaders did their best to keep them apart.

With two Christian countries at war, where is Jesus in all this? Time to apply “The Jesus Test”

I feel sure He would be at one of the border train stations, helping exhausted evacuees off the trains and caring for them at a reception centre – that’s my Jesus.

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Please turn the page ▀ to see the details on the Lacrosse Mural more clearly - before you go and visit the real thing which can be seen at the far end of the Sports Club car park.

Lacrosse

With the village lacrosse club approaching its centenary year in three years time, it is as strong as ever!

The club currently has three senior mens' teams, a senior ladies' team and eight boys' and girls' teams that all compete at a high level.

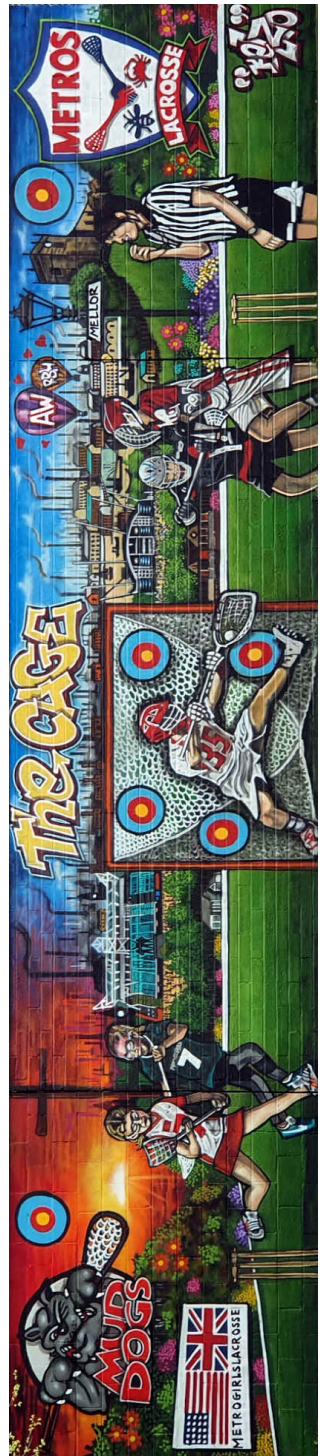
As a club we have always 'punched above our weight' winning national titles and producing international players over the years!

Both the boys and girls have provided players to tour the USA with Stockport Metros on a bi-annual basis since 1976. This year about 10 from Mellor are going to the USA.

We would like to keep the club's proud tradition going way beyond its centenary year and boys and girls are always welcome from 5 years upwards.

More details can be found on the club website, Facebook page or directly via Andy Hussey (07702 565 096).

Ed. This year the Under 19's won their League. In August the World under 21 Champions is being played in Limerick, Ireland and 5 players from Mellor will be playing there representing their country. We look forward to hearing how they get on and wish them well.



Mellor Church Women's Evening Fellowship

We are thrilled to announce that Lesley Futchter has become the Chair of Women's Fellowship. She will be supported by Maggie Williams as co-chair.

Lynda Gwyther has very kindly offered to host the **Fête Shower** again this year at her house, 31 Townscliffe Lane. It will be on **May 11th**, starting at 7.00pm. The entry fee is £5.00 and all



proceeds are added to the proceeds from the Church Fête; the money raised supports the upkeep of the church.



As many of you will know parking is not easy on Townscliffe, so if possible, arrange shared lifts, walk, or park on Clement Road safely and considerately, and walk through the snicket which comes out right by Lynda's house.

The entrance fee includes strawberries and cream, homemade shortbread biscuits and a glass of wine. There will be a raffle, a bric a brac stall, and plants & books for sale. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Meg Barley

Laughs with Lynda

What do you call a cheese that is not yours?
Nacho Cheese.

My Dad used to say "Always fight fire with fire."
Which is probably why he got thrown out of the Fire Brigade.

So what if I can't spell "Armageddon".
It's not the end of the world.

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Clowning around

Once, as a student, I had a very unusual holiday job. The Moscow State Circus came to Belle Vue for a four week period, and hired twelve ringhands. I was one of them. We carried apparatus



on and off, rolled and unrolled carpets, swept up thousands of fragments of glitter after every performance and, alarmingly, had to collect a Cossack horse as it galloped riderless out of the ring. Watching rehearsals, and learning our tasks, I was fascinated by Oleg Popov, the clown. He watched all the acts, which had been picked from all over the Soviet Union, and then ‘spoofed’ each one. He could do everything – juggle, walk a tightrope, tumble – and I realised that in Russia the clown is not a slapstick idiot, but someone who holds a mirror up to our own foolishness. So, with us, he watched a man and wife act which involved the man climbing a vertical ladder with his wife



on his head. At the top, she did a one-handed headstand as he swung to the other side of the ladder and precariously descended. Popov sought us out and indicated that he wanted a pair of step ladders and a sweeping brush. With great deliberation and much show of careful positioning, he put the ladders in the centre of

the ring, then *balanced the brush on his head* and climbed the ladders. At the top he did a Buster Keaton-like step into space, pretended panic, then shambolically descended, *still with the brush on his head*. He did this with every act. The Volzhansky family tightrope act was followed by Popov with a washing line and a basket of washing. This led to him performing a ridiculously clever slack wire act as his attempts to peg out the washing turned to chaos. And so it went on; every act followed by clowning genius. He was not an easy man; aloof, he did not mix with the other circus folk who were very much ‘a family’. But he was a genius, and for me it was a holiday job with a difference.

Mike Barley

Donations to Mellor Church

Mellor Church depends on voluntary donations from members of the congregation, members of the local community, supporters and visitors. We are fortunate in that a significant number of people make regular donations by standing order from their bank but, to maintain our ability to support the local and wider community, we are also very grateful for one-off donations.

To make a donation, you can

1. Send a cheque – payable to Mellor PCC – to the Parish Office, Church Road, Mellor SK6 5LX (please write your name and address on the back of the cheque), or
2. Make a donation online to the church bank account:- Mellor PCC, a/c 47943076, Sort Code 01-05-51 (please put your house number and postcode as a reference), or
3. Make a donation through the church website – click ‘home’ and then ‘donate’, or
4. Scan the QR code below on your smartphone for an easy way to donate (do please click ‘gift aid’ if you are eligible).



If you would like to make a regular donation, please contact the Parish Office (0161 484 5079) to ask for a standing order form.

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcomed into God’s family
Elijah James Gifford on 3rd April.

Funerals

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

Michael Ogden on 28th March

Joan Boden on 29th March

Edward Duliba on 13th April

Church Rotas

Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.30am.	6.30pm
1 May	P Cooke	S McAllister & C Starling	R Holt
8 May	A Mason	P Long & A Muller	J Shiel
15 May	J Butterworth	M Lowe & M Williams.	A Shah
22 May	P Cunningham	P Forbes & L Forbes	R Holt
29 May	A Mason	A Allcard & H Ruffell	J Shiel
5 June	P Cooke	R Elliott & J Elliott	R Holt

Please arrange your own substitute. If necessary email Rachel: rededwards@nhs.net

Flower Rota

1 May	Jill Baker	4 June	Wedding
7 May	Wedding	11. June	Wedding
15May	Karen Greenough	18. June	Rose Queen service
21May	Wedding	25. June	Fete
30May	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

1 May	J Cooper & A Muller.
8 May	P Cunningham & I Morris
15 May	A Allcard & J Jones
22 May	M Lowe & H Kennedy
29 May	J Burrows & E Wilson.

Brass Cleaning

May	S Norbury & S Edmundson
	Please arrange your own substitute
	Any problems contact

Thankyou to all of you who contribute such interesting articles to Outlook especially those who do so each month. We are new to the production of the magazine, as you know, and are tremendously impressed by those who give their time and efforts to create, print and deliver hundreds of copies near and far. If we name them we might miss one out which would be awful but THANK YOU to you all. M & M

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