

OUTLOOK



November
2022

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The Parish of St Thomas Mellor

Registered Charity No. 1130414

Email office@mellorchurch.org

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For all enquiries and bookings for the Church & Parish Centre

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Diocesan/Deanery Judith Shiel / Mary Heijbroek

Articles for Outlook should be sent to the Editor (preferably by email)
melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com
The deadline for the December issue is November 15th please



Mellor Birds.

Maggie Williams

Three pairs of **goldfinches** have been seen by Church Lane pecking sunflower seeds on John W.'s bird feeders. Also **treecreeper, nuthatch, bluetit** and **chaffinch**.

There was a report from Ray Scally on the Manchester Birding Forum of a lovely **male merlin** flying through the Roman Lakes at lunchtime on 14th October. Merlins are the smallest falcons in Britain being between 27cm to 32cm. So they are smaller than a kestrel being darker and more compact. In winter they like to hunt finches on lowland fields. The male is smaller than the female, is pale rusty below and has a slate grey back, blackish flight feathers, and black terminal tail band. Also seen at the Lakes were **4 mandarin ducks, 5 tufted ducks, 2 teal ducks and 1 chiffchaff**.



The High Peak Group RSPB page tells me there is a resident **kestrel** on the 6th tee at New Mills Golf Club. This would be alongside Castle Edge Road. The Friday Strollers were in that area today but did not notice it (too much talking!).

After yoga at the Parish Centre I was given some good news about **Basil the Budgie** who flew off and briefly went missing last month. Basil has been offered much larger accommodation with lots of fellow birds. Apparently during Covid Basil went to stay with Leoni's mother and they became good friends. Recently Leoni's mother had a fall and is now in a home near Stamford Park in Ashton where there is an Aviary, which has agreed to take Basil in, so that Leoni's mother and all of us will be able to go and visit him! He might wait until Spring before moving.

Recently there have been sightings of **teal, snipe and lapwings** at Waterside, a pond which can be seen from Waterside Road in Hague Bar.





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The Reverend Graham Hawley

One of life's paradoxes is that those people who are truly good are the first to deny any such description of themselves. The Reverend Graham Hawley who died a few weeks ago was a modest and unassuming man. Born in Silsden Yorkshire in 1935 where his niece is now the Methodist minister. He was himself ordained into the Methodist Church. He followed the usual course of a peripatetic ministry including time in a London borough with a population that included many of low income with great social need.

When he retired from stipendiary ministry he moved with Margaret, his wife, to Marple Bridge and took over the leadership of the Ridge chapel.

Not content with what for most people would be the relatively gentle but still committed end to a dedicated career he embarked on a study of faith in those with dementia and in his seventies obtained a Ph.D.

He and Margaret then set up a cafe that provided much needed care for dementia sufferers and their carers. For many years he was a member of the local committee for justice and peace and very active in all their activities; memorably helping to organise an evening about the trafficking of women from abroad to be sex workers in the UK.

Passionate about the plight of all Arabs in the West Bank and Israel he made several trips to the Conferences of Sabeel, the Christian led peace organisation based in Bethlehem. From one of these, on which I accompanied him, we brought back an embroidered banner that hangs in the quiet room of the Parish Centre. Possessed of a rich and resonant voice he would make his views clear in public meetings and would not be reserved in criticising any church goer who tried in anyway to be coercive to others.



He was a reliable friend and enjoyed sport, in particular, his visits to watch Sale Sharks Rugby with Roger Armistead and myself. At times he could be vociferous in his judgements about the referee and the decisions.

His life was not without its times of pain losing both his wife and son to cancer. He and Margaret had perhaps an unexpectedly long happy time together and we offer her our very real condolences.

Twenty first century Protestantism does not create saints but Graham would surely be included if they did.

Peter Harrison



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Ethical Christmas Shopping



I'm delighted to say that the **Stockport Fair Trade Group** is planning to hold the Fair Trade Christmas Fair again this year, after a gap forced upon us by COVID. It will be held on **Saturday November 19th from 10.30am to 3.00pm** in the **Guildhall** in Stockport – right on the A6 opposite Stockport College. Please do come. There will be some lovely presents to buy, and an activity for children. We could also do with some help running the stalls – if anyone can spare an hour or two, please let me know, so that we can arrange the details. Thank you. Judith Shiel – shiel180@btinternet.com or 427 4155.

Laughs with Lynda

Inspecting mirrors is a job I could really see myself doing.

I really wanted spaghetti
but the assistant was blocking the door and I could not get past her.

A man sued an airline for losing his luggage.
-He lost his case

Friday Strollers

Here are the winter dates for our Friday Strollers group:-



Friday 11 November
Friday 25 November
Friday 2 December
Friday 16 December



We will meet at 10a.m at Marple Library, have a short stroll then have coffee/lunch in Marple.

Please contact Judy Cooper if you require more information. email: judecoopurr@hotmail.com

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RECIPES

Parkin Pigs

Jill Baker

I was brought up in Bradford and plot night (Guy Fawkes / Fire work night) was associated with these ginger biscuits cut in the shape of pigs. They seem to be particular to the area and the time of year - I have found them for sale in a Skipton bakery but seem to be centred around Leeds Halifax and Bradford.

If you have not got a pig cutter make a card board template to cut round or just use different shape cutters.

100g (4 oz) butter

50g (2 oz) soft brown sugar

150g (6oz) golden syrup

225g (8oz) plain flour

10g bicarb

2tsp ground ginger (an extra tsp if you like them very gingery)

Plump currants for eyes

Pre heat the oven to 200C GM6. Several greased or papered trays – they spread.

Melt the butter, sugar and golden syrup on a low heat stirring to prevent any burning. Sieve the flour ginger and bicarb into a large mixing bowl then mix in the melted mixture. Form a dough and let it chill for half an hour in the fridge.

Roll out on a floured work top to the thickness of £1.00 coin stamp out the pigs and pop in a currant eye. Leave space for them to expand. Bake for 5-6 mins until golden brown. The biscuits will harden as they cool.

(Ed. I found the uncooked dough very yummy. I was not so good with getting pig shapes!) MW



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Captain Ken

There was a very interesting feature on the radio recently regarding the study of the underwater immense noise emitted by fish.

Although I have spent a large part of my life sailing on the surface of the world's oceans, any readers who have been scuba diving, will know far better than me, what it actually sounds like, below the surface.

However, it reminded me of an occasion many years ago, in the port of Belawan in Sumatra, when I was in the main hold of a Blue Funnel cargo liner, from which the entire cargo had been discharged.

There was an extremely loud buzzing noise, which I now know was caused by fish pressing their heads against the ship's hull, and presumably talking to each other. It was not normally audible when sailing, due to the constant noise of the ship's engines.

This reminded me of an incident while serving as a Midshipman on the same ship and while she was idle awaiting a new cargo, with a colleague, borrowing a canoe, and exploring the mangrove covered, river bank .

To our complete amazement, there were fishes diving into the river from

the branches of the mangrove trees. They were of course mud skippers, which are able to slide from the sea, up the mud bank, and along the sloping tree trunks, where they rest in the sun.



As if that wasn't interest enough, we were suddenly very alarmed when a large creature appeared out of the undergrowth scaring us into an emergency back paddle, as we thought it was a tiger.

From a safer distance, we were able



to realize it was an orang-utan, which had been silently watching us.

It's sad to think that both those creatures are now very rare, even in Sumatra.

On a subsequent voyage, after loading bulk sunflower seeds in North China we were accompanied by flocks of small seed eating birds, attracted by the vast amount of spilled seed still all over the ship.

I had noticed that we were accompanied by a remarkable large hawk which perched on top of the main mast. and feeding on the smaller birds.



I had shown my interest in this bird to one of our Chinese crew members, and was surprised when he presented me with a large wire cage he had made, containing this wonderful hawk. He had climbed the mast and simply caught the bird, which he explained, thought it was up a tree and therefore perfectly safe. I politely asked the Chief Steward if he could spare some meat for my cage bird, and he said 'It can have as much as it likes'.

It was remarkably tame but, to the Chief Steward's and Chef's horror, would only eat up to a pound of best beef steak per day!

Unfortunately the seaman who had climbed the mast to catch the bird had also clipped its wings to prevent escape.

As one of our destinations was Hamburg and we did have some creatures bound for a zoo there, I thought I would offer the hawk to the same zoo.

Sadly another well meaning member of the crew felt sorry for the hawk, and let it out of its cage. He didn't realize its wings

were clipped and so it could no longer fly properly and was equally sad when it drowned in the sea.

When we eventually berthed in London, on my way home, I called at the Natural History Museum in Kensington, and there well displayed, was a stuffed example of our hawk.

It was a Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle from North China.



Much later, on a fast container ship speeding home from the Far East, via the Cape of Good Hope, a homing pigeon landed on the bridge and made himself comfortable on the Bridge wings, being well fed by the watch officer, and occasionally entering the wheel house and perching on the radar.

To our surprise, as soon as we entered the English Channel, he simply flew off and landed on a similar ship going back the way we had just come.

Ken Owen

Thank you from all the readers to your granddaughter for helping sort out the Computer, Ken. x




**Oboe and Organ
Recital**

With Zoe Glossop and John LeGrove

**Saturday 12th November
7:30pm**

Mellor Church, SK6 5LX

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CHOIR REPORT

What has the choir been up to recently?

Mellor Church choir is back from the summer break and as busy as ever. Most recently, we held a choral evensong in honour of the Queen's life, and celebrated the Harvest festival when we sang some choir favourites such as 'Paintbox' and 'The Harvest Samba.' There has also been another pizza rehearsal where some new faces came to try singing with us and experience what it is like to be in the choir.

It is now not long until our annual weekend in Fort Belan, when we dig out

and start practising all the Christmas favourites! We are all very excited to start singing carols and celebrating the Christmas season with services, carol singing and more.... *Head Chorister Emily*

News of former St Thomas' Choristers

- Eleanor Jarvis is Director of Music for Steel City Choristers.
- Ben Collyer is now organist at St John's Hyde Park.
- Marc Hall is directing the Take Note Community Choir at Marple Sports Club.



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AS SEEN FROM COW CORNER

The village cricket ground has now moved into its semi dormant phase, and with the drop in temperature, there is no need to cut the square as short as in the playing season. Indeed, the ground maintenance equipment can be taken for its annual service. The sight screens, scoreboard and boundary rope have been securely stored, and the presentation to all players deemed worthy of an award, which there were many, has been made. There were a further two fixtures in late September to conclude the senior's playing season. The first of those was away at Lindow, who won the toss and invited Mellor to take first knock, which Mellor were happy to do. The Mellor batsmen enjoyed themselves against some mediocre bowling, but at times were frivolous with their shot selection, and thus ended their innings in the allotted 40 overs on 249 for the loss of five wickets. Whilst this appears to be a mammoth total, it should have been surmountable on the good batting strip; however, the Mellor bowlers presented many difficulties for the home batsmen as all the five bowlers used took two wickets apiece, resulting in the home side being all out for 102 runs.

The last match of the season was a home fixture against Styal, who Mellor had beaten easily earlier on in July. Late on in the season, bad light can play a part in any cricket match, and it was no surprise when the Styal skipper, on winning the toss, chose to bat first. This match was to prove a closer encounter than the previous game. Despite using many of the available permutations of the bowlers, Mellor had difficulty in dislodging the stubborn Styal batsmen, with the result that they remained resolutely at the crease and the innings ended at 138 for the loss of eight wickets. In reply, Mellor's opening batsmen knuckled down well against some accurate and swift bowling and put on 50 for the first wicket when, a sudden rush of blood to the head, was the undoing of one of the openers. Whilst wickets remained intact, the run rate was getting slower and slower, thus putting pressure on the later batsmen. Although wickets began to fall in the urgent quest for runs, the target was getting closer, and when the final over came there were just six runs required with two wickets remaining. The Styal skipper brought back the opening quick bowler to try to settle the issue. The first two deliveries were 'dot' balls, two runs were scrambled off the next two balls. The penultimate ball was slightly over pitched; the batsman swung lustily and the ball sailed towards? Yes! Cow Corner, for four runs. Mellor had won by two wickets and could now claim to be the official champion team of the league. Who knows what next year will bring, but safe to say that cricket will, once again, be played at Longhurst Lane.

Silly Point

Ten years ago

“Come ye
thankful people come”

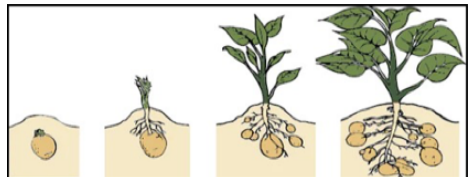


to the day..



“For everything there is a season.... A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.” We have been passing through the period of grieving - as the Queen said, “The price we pay for love” and now on a beautiful Sunday morning we moved on to Harvest Time. The return of Alex and Nick brought joy to the Church especially when she told us that it was 10 years ago to the week since she had become Vicar of St.Thomas’. It certainly was a “Good Morning!” shared by us all - a full church of all ages to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. We had a rousing start with the hymn ‘*We plough the fields and scatter*’ which accompanied those carrying the harvest gifts to the front. The beautiful reading from Deuteronomy reminded the people and us to keep their feasts whilst still caring for the fatherless and the widows in the town. The reading from Matthew hit on the Pharisees telling them that the Son of Man was the Lord of the Sabbath not their

restrictive laws. For “*This is the day that the Lord has made and we shall rejoice in it.*” Our consciences were pricked when, amongst all the beauty of creation, we were told, ‘*We should be sorry for the times when we have used God’s gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.*’ The choir and John LeGrove, as always, made the service special. Nick did not let us down with the start of his talk when the parrot’s need for peanuts caught our attention immediately. He (Nick not the parrot) did admit, though, that the story had nothing to do with the theme of his talk!! The seed potato was the visual aid showing us that if it was planted well and cared for in the soil with sun and rain the crop would produce a good harvest for us and eventually the fork and the wellies could be abandoned.



NOTICES

So too, all things in our own lives come from God and we, in return, have a responsibility, even a duty, to give back to God. We can do it through the way we live our lives, the way we look after each other, our communities and the planet. Five symbolic gifts were taken to the altar:- soil, a symbol of all God created and where the harvests of our fields and gardens come from; seeds to show next year's planting which will become our daily bread; water, a symbol of our dependence on God and in our baptisms and finally the bread and wine - symbol of our spiritual food. This was a very moving part of the service. No Harvest Service could be without '*singing Fluffy cauliflowers*' This returned us to part of the service of **Holy Communion** to which everyone was made welcome. What other better song to choose in a Harvest Service than *The Harvest Samba*. Finally we concluded with a blessing after the rousing hymn 'Great is thy Faithfulness'

.....
Libbys baker, Harry Clegg made this beautiful loaf for St.Thomas' altar for Harvest Festival. Here is the loaf being handed over by Libby's

manager, Sarah Hiddleston (on Rt) and Demi Donaldson.

Special birthdays for Chris, Lucy and the Rose Queen, Daisy, were acknowledged with the singing of '*Happy Birthday.*' Also the return of the Birthday Chocolates was greatly appreciated with applause.

Thank you to all those who provided savouries and desserts for the delicious Bring and Share lunch after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. In particular thanks to Judith Shiel, the Duckworths and all those who helped before and after the Meal. Once again, thanks to the



florists who made the church look spectacular with all the Harvest/ Autumn shades.



Mellor Art Society

We are a self-help group of amateur artists who meet every Wednesday
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Report on PCC meeting in September

Julie Elliott

This was our first meeting since the summer break, and members of the PCC expressed their sincere thanks to Tom Howling (Director of Music), Nathan Monks and Eleanor Rosser (Organ scholars) for their work on the special Holy Communion service which was held shortly after the death of Her Majesty the Queen.

Thereafter, the meeting was dominated by the discussion about the recruitment of a new vicar, since Tracy left at the end of July. Church of England procedure is quite strict on how this is done, and the process cannot begin until after the previous vicar has left. However, the time had been used for preparing a Parish Fact Sheet, which gives all the factual information about our parish, and a Parish Profile, describing our church family and our worship, etc., which are required by the Diocese.

These had been drafted and were discussed and approved. The next step was for the PCC to have a formal meeting with the Rural Dean, which was set for 20th September. The vacancy, for a full-time vicar, would be advertised shortly after that meeting.



The other matter discussed was to involve parishioners in choosing the three charities which will be supported by the church's charitable giving scheme, over the coming year. The scheme supports four charities, but the PCC confirmed that we will continue to support Educaid, a charity we have established a special link with, but members of the congregation can nominate other charities. It was agreed that people could either nominate charities by email to the PCC Secretary, Julie Elliott, at jools.elliott@ntlworld.com, or by joining the zoom link to the next PCC meeting, at 7.45pm on Monday 31st October. Please contact Julie, for the zoom link, if you wish to attend.

Edale Weekend 23rd September 2022

I have been going to The Edale trip for 5 years now, along with my friends. It is something I look forward to every year. The community and atmosphere of the trip is one of the best



parts and the group leaders/staff are super nice. It is such a great experience (for young and older children) as the days are packed with activities from things such as sports to arts and crafts to teamwork activities- there is never a

dull moment. I think it's also a really great place for forming friendships with people you would never meet elsewhere, I hardly ever see my friends from my old school anymore but this trip each year means I can see them and just have a really good time. Some of things that happen every year has been: the nightline, pizza



making, climbing, the disco night,

and of course the Sunday walk. But there are so many more things that happen in the one weekend – it often feels like more than one weekend though. What I think is really great is that phones are handed in at the start meaning nobody is distracted and you just sort of



forgot about things like school and stuff, it is just so relaxing to be there. There is always a theme of some sort, in previous years it has been water, mountains, the environment and the most recent 'all creatures great and small' and many of the activities are related to those topics. Overall I would say it is an experience that I will never forgot and it is just a lovely thing to do instead of being bored at home, doing nothing. **HT**

Update on our Churchyard

Julie Elliott

As anyone who lives near, or visits, St Thomas' knows, our beautiful churchyard is a special place. The PCC (Parochial Church Council) is responsible for its care and upkeep, as it belongs to the church, but we would like everyone in the community

who cares about it to feel they can contribute. Just to let you know about a few things that are happening and being planned ;



1 The church needed a new septic tank, so this has been installed, at great expense! This involved laying narrow plastic piping along the back of the church. The soil and stones removed during the work have been placed on the rough area at the entrance to the 'new churchyard', and the top pathway has been re-seeded with grass seed.

2 We urgently need to improve the safety of the pathways down into the new churchyard, and are taking advice on how best to do this, consulting the funeral directors and the grave digger, who need to access the graveyard for work purposes.

3 We're also looking into ways to expand the columbarium, which is the area in which ashes are buried.

4 We're intending to put up some signage to advise visitors on 'dos and don'ts' in the churchyard. For example, people need to remember it belongs to the church and no memorials or ashes may be placed there without permission. The Church of England has strict rules on how graves and memorial should look, but we also wish to become an 'Eco Church', and to look after the graveyard in such a way that we cherish it as a natural habitat and encourage biodiversity. And last but not least, we have a small team of volunteers who regularly trim and tidy in the churchyard, but we would like to open this up to the community. So, if anyone is interested in offering to help the 'churchyard team', please contact me; Julie Elliott (PCC Secretary), at jools.elliott@ntlworld.com

Next workparty Saturday November 26th 10am.



Rose Queen Daisy's Lantern Hike.
Saturday 12th November 6pm
£4 per child

Back by popular demand, our magical musical ramble (0.8 miles) through Knowle Wood will depart from Mellor School at 6:30pm. Hikers will be rewarded with hot chocolate when they get to the top of the hill (included in child ticket price).



Bring a lantern or something twinkly to light your way.

This was a real spectacle last year - don't miss it!



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/>

Mellor Rose Queen Event

Monday 28th November
 At the Parish Centre

Wreath making with the Little Green Flower Company
 from Marple Bridge



7.30pm - 9.30pm

£46.00 a ticket



Please contact me on 07595044952 (Rose Queen Daisy's Mum Sam) or ask any our our team for tickets
 (supporting our charities RNLI and Seashell trust)

From The Registers

Baptisms

We welcomed into God's family

25th September Heidi Sarah Bailey

The Things that Matter

Now that I've nearly done my days,
And grown too stiff to sweep or sew,
I sit and think, till I'm amazed,
About what lots of things I know:
Things as I've found out one by one -
And when I'm fast down in the clay,
My knowing things and how they're done
Will all be lost and thrown away.

There's things, I know, as won't be lost,
Things as folks write and talk about:
The way to keep your roots from frost,
And how to get your ink spots out.
What medicine's good for sores and
sprains
What way to salt your butter down,
What charms will cure your different
pains,
And what will bright your faded gown.

But more important things than these,
They can't be written in a book:
How fast to boil your greens and peas,
And how good bacon ought to look;
The feel of real good wearing stuff,
The kind of apple as will keep,
The look of bread that's rose enough,
And how to get a child asleep.

Whether the jam is fit to pot,
Whether the milk is going to turn,
Whether a hen will lay or not,
Is things as some folks never learn.
I know the weather by the sky,
I know what herbs grow in what lane;
And if sick men are going to die,

Edith Nesbit (1905)

Young wives come in, a-smiling, grave,
With secrets that they itch to tell:
I know what sort of times they'll have,
And if they'll have a boy or gell.
And if a lad is ill to bind,
Or some young maid is hard to lead,
I know when you should speak 'em kind,
And when it's scolding as they need.

I used to know where birds ud set,
And likely spots for trout or hare,
And God may want me to forget
The way to set a line or snare;
But not the way to truss a chick,
To fry a fish, or baste a roast,
Nor how to tell, when folks are sick,
What kind of herb will ease them most!

Forgetting seems such silly waste!
I know so many little things,
And now the Angels will make haste
To dust it all away with wings!
O God, you made me like to know,
You kept the things straight in my head,
Please God, if you can make it so,
Let me know something when I'm dead.



*Ed Thank you to Peter Forbes
for sending this poem.*

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The Festival of Bells.

The Festival of Bells started in the belfry of Mellor Church and has now raised thousands of pounds for cancer charities.

Festival of Bells

RING A BELL FOR SOMEONE WITH CANCER

A simple idea of using bells of all kinds as

facilitators for fundraising. 'Jingle bells' is arguably the best-known Christmas song, written by an American with different versions sung across the globe.

A plea is going out for people to organise Jingle bells events of any kind this Christmas (Concerts, walks, quizzes, coffee mornings, tea parties or any other ideas). Either send donations directly to a chosen cancer charity mentioning Festival of Bells or give them directly to one of the church bell ringers to be sent on to one of the charities already supported.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Search your money boxes and see if you can find the 7 coins which show the United Kingdom Shield.

Working together makes us stronger

PLEASE WILL ANYONE WHO IS PUTTING ON OR TAKING OFF THE ALTAR DUST COVER PLEASE READ THIS AND TAKE NOTE. Christine Hamilton

As many readers will know, I have been responsible for looking after the church altar cloths for many years. It takes a lot of time and energy to wash, starch and iron 5 yards of altar linen as any of my team of helpers will tell you. Because of this we have a dust cover to go over the main altar to help to keep the cloth clean and reduce the number of times it has to be washed.

If we are in church for the 10.00am service and there are no other services in church that day, Ian and I usually put the cover on before we leave. Recently we have been finding the cover screwed up in a ball and placed anywhere under the altar, which means that it is considerably creased when it goes back on.

This does not give a good impression to anyone visiting the church. I think the problem is that people find very difficult to handle 5 yards of fabric single handed and keep it neat at the same time.

It is not difficult however, providing you go about it the right way. We would therefore urge anyone who finds themselves having to deal with the cover to follow the following method.

TO TAKE OFF THE COVER

After removing the cross and candlesticks and anything else that is on the altar, begin by taking hold of one end of the cover and bringing it into the centre of the altar. This position is easily judged by looking for the central cross on the altar frontal. Smooth it out to reduce creasing.

Repeat with the opposite end of the cover, so you have the two ends together in the centre of the altar. Pick up the folded end of one of the sides and take it into the middle again.

Repeat with the other side. Again, try to smooth out the creases.

Repeat this manoeuvre a third time, and after this each side of the centre should be about eighteen inches.

Fold the left half over on top of the right half, to give a long rectangle.

Then fold up the short sides to form roughly a square shape.

You should find, under the vestry end of the altar, a clear plastic bag with a zip round three sides. Place the folded cloth in this, zip it up and leave it beneath the altar.

TO PUT THE CLOTH BACK ON

Take the cloth out of the plastic bag and unfold to the long rectangle stage. Place the folded edge across the middle of the altar, in line with the cross on the altar frontal, so that it hangs down equally in front and behind the altar. All you have to do now is to unfold each half carefully towards the ends of the altar and you should find that the cloth is now in the right place, with the trailing ends about equidistant from the floor at each end of the altar. If care is taken to fold up the cloth properly in the first place, it is simplicity itself to put it back on the altar.

If anyone would like a demonstration, please ask Ian or myself.



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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Chris Mann

One evening I was walking in central Athens planning a film shoot. To my surprise, excited children were running up and tapping me on the head with squeaking plastic hammers and then, full of laughter, running up to the next adult.

I asked a passer-by what was going on; they smiled and told me today was the festival of Dionysia, a celebration of the Greek god Dionysus – the two-faced wicked god of misrule whose main hiding place was in wine. How extraordinary, I thought, that a myth from ancient Greece has perpetuated down countless generations of kids to this very day. It seems certain ideas are so embedded in the human experience they refuse to go away.



Likewise, in this country the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain powerfully resurfaces each year as Halloween. Samhain marks the halfway point between the Autumn Equinox and the mid-winter festival, and the orientation of some stone sites dates this back as far as Neolithic times. On this day livestock were brought in from their spent pastures and slaughtered. Their meat was then salted to provide for the winter ahead. Death was in the air and there grew a strong feeling that has become embedded in our mythology, that at this time, the membrane between the living and the dead became very thin, and countless generations of children strongly feel this, and relish the now dark night of Halloween with as many spooky get-ups as they can muster.

The Christian Church, and we at St Thomas' feel this closeness with the departed too. We have made it in to the most beautiful candle-lit service of All Souls in which a sea of twinkling tea-lights – each recalling the memory of a departed loved one - fill the chancel with a warm glow.

In prayers and poetry we re-new the gratitude we feel for those who have shaped our lives. On this night, we feel especially close to their departed souls reminding ourselves, "Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord."



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

We have had a request to include this prayer which The Rev. Steven Benson used in the service on Sunday.

*“Lord, I thank you for your faithfulness to generation after generation. I acknowledge your call in the life of countless people – saints and sinners - who have responded to your grace and your love. Thank you for your continuing offer to be **my** God and for me to be **your** child. Help me to hear your voice; give me grace to respond, confidence to act, conviction to share, and energy to go out, living, breathing and proclaiming your word and your love. I ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.* *Rev Steven Benson*

Women's Evening Fellowship November Meeting

This month our meeting on November 9th is a fundraising event for our chosen charity **Walthew House** which is a local charity providing practical and emotional support to people with sight or hearing loss. We will be holding a **Pudding Party** at which the menu is made up entirely of tempting desserts. £7.50 entitles you to two desserts plus tea or coffee and gives you the opportunity for a little indulgence whilst helping a good cause. There will also be a Christmas Sales Stall, a Quiz on "British Desserts" and a Raffle. The date and time of the next meeting is **Wednesday November 9th at 7.30pm**. Come and join us at the Parish Centre.



All are welcome.

L. F.

Our speaker at the **October Womens' Evening Fellowship Meeting** was Simon Dunn who gave a very interesting talk on the history of his business – Simon Dunn Chocolates. Starting in a very small way, he progressed through running several shops in the area which fast became chocolate themed cafes which he found took him away from his real love of actually making the chocolates. He now has a unit in High Lane where he, his wife and son run a very successful business with outlets far and wide. He had recently taken a trip to Ghana where his raw product originates and has written and illustrated a book on the complete process from bean to chocolate box. Members took advantage of the products he had brought along to do some early Christmas shopping.

A.A.



Does anyone recognise this bungalow?

Glynis Craig is looking for the whereabouts of her Aunt's home she has a photo of. It is believed that the photo was taken in the 1950's. The residents at the time were a Mr 'Alfred' and Mrs Connie Williams (nee Kitson). Sadly the couple split up. They never had any children and Connie moved on to live in Heaton Moor. Connie was probably in her 40s at that time, she was a private sort of person and tended to keep very much to herself. Little is known about her husband, we are not even certain that his Christian name was Alfred.

It is thought that the bungalow was situated near to the Royal Oak pub, and it is possible that it was demolished and a new, larger property built on the site. Any replies please address to the editor at melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com or Tel. 0161 427 2406



**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 MMHC 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

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CHURCH ROTAS

Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.00am	6.30pm
6 Nov	P Cooke	P Forbes & L Forbes	R Holt
13 Nov	A Mason	A Allcard & H Ruffell	J Shiel
20 Nov	J Butterworth	R Elliott & J Elliott	R. Holt
27 Nov	P Cunningham	I Hamilton & C Hamilton	A. Shah
4 Dec	P Cooke	D Jelleyman & A Sanders	J Shiel

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

Flower Rota

6 Nov	Clare Jackson
13 Nov	Cathie Lowe Remembrance Sunday
20 Nov	Margaret Lowe
27 Nov	Advent no flowers
4 Dec	Advent no flowers
11 Dec	Advent no flowers
18 Dec	Christmas Flowers
25 Dec	Christmas 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

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