

OUTLOOK



purity . hope . rebirth

February
2023

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The Parish of St Thomas Mellor

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Parish Office The Parish Centre, Church Road, Mellor, Stockport SK65LX

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Phone: 0161 484 5079

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

Reader Dave Shercliff 56 Emocroft Road, Marple Bridge 07519931219

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

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

Chris Mann 55 Clement Road 07850 550333

Dep. Church Warden Judith Shiel 427 4155

PCC Treasurer Richard Elliott contact via Parish Office

Assistant David Butterworth

Treasurers Andrew Sanders

Gift Aid Secretary Karen Greenough

PCC Secretary Julie Elliott 64 Emocroft Road 427 5981

Director of Music Tom Howling (email: t.howling@nhs.net)

Outlook Editors Maggie Williams, Margaret Leng

Elected Member of PCC Ian Dayes, Alison Dowdeswell, Julie Elliott, Richard Elliott, Alex Eggeman, David Horsfall, Clare Jackson, Emma Wilson, Kate Higgins, Kathryn Maxwell, (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

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 March issue is February 15th please.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

5 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
before Lent	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
8 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
12 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
before Lent	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
13 Mon	10.45-12 noon	Coffee & Chat (Parish Centre)
15 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
19 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday next	10.00 am	Parish Communion
before Lent	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong.- St Valentine.
20 Mon	7.30 pm	Cunningham Concert (Parish Centre)
22 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
26 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
1st Sunday of	10.00 am	Parish Communion
Lent	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)

Coffee and Chat second Monday of the month 10.45 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 7.30 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



View from the Hill *Revd. Barbara Webb*

I am writing from my hill: Brabyns Brow. We thought we were happily retired by the Thames close to Oxford, but two of our three offspring moved to jobs in the classical music world of Manchester. They could do with some grand-parental help, so we ended up on one of the noisiest roads in Marple but with easy access to the children's playground in Memorial Park.

The big question: where should we worship? The obvious answer: St Martin's on Brabyns Brow. However, after reacting badly to the generous use of incense, that was not to be! Then on a Saturday in January 2015 a call from your churchwarden. The vicar was ill, could I preside at your Parish Eucharist and the vicar's husband could pick me up in his 4x4. Well, Derry, my husband drove me up passing two abandoned cars on Church Lane.

Before we moved in Alison Allcard had told us about her friendly parish church with a strong choral tradition so we decided to come again as members of the congregation. This time we experienced a howling gale, so that decided us, we were approaching our eighties, St Thomas was not the church for us.

However I have covered for various services over the years, not long ago for your Sung Eucharist when the choir was away. I asked John LeGrove if he would be the cantor, he declined but I managed to persuade him to give me the note. Back home Derry asked who the cantor was..... 'your wife,' I replied.

I could go so far to say that much of our social life in Marple is based on events 'on the hill'. We love coming to all the concerts, whether Peter Cunningham Memorial Concerts, events put on by former members of the choir or organ recitals. And we try to make Choral Evensong.

I regard it a privilege still to be asked to preside on occasion at the 8-30 and midweek Holy Communion services, and in this I value the support of Judith Shiel & Gwen Perks & the friendship of the little congregations. When I say The Office in the early morning I look across from 'my hill' to 'your hill':

May God bless you all in 2023.

Barbara

We are so pleased that both you and Derry have come to join us on 'the hill.' We are already benefitting from your wisdom, preaching and empathy. The Eds.

Marple for Ukraine

This organisation is collecting the following to send to the soldiers in Ukraine.

- tissues, toothbrushes, soap, hand gel, wipes
- flannels, razors
- Paracetamol, plasters, antiseptic cream, sterile wipes
- hats, gloves
- wrapped sweets, coffee in packets, tea bags, energy drinks, packets of dried food
- Sleeping bags
- candle wax
- note books, pens, playing cards
- sandwich bags that will seal

I will be more than happy to pass on any donations to these worthy causes.

Sue McAlister

Care4Calais

The refugee crisis is said to be one of the greatest humanitarian issues of our generation. Care4Calais is an organisation which helps refugees stranded in Calais but also refugee/asylum seekers here in this country. The charity provides support, clothing and basic essentials to the refugees. The 'Hub' is based here in Stockport at Vernon Mill where we collect clothing and toiletries amongst other things and distribute them all over the country according to need. Often the refugees have arrived with nothing. Most of the refugees/asylum seekers come from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and South Sudan. (In the Global Peace Index these are the top four countries listed as the worst and most dangerous on the planet). These people are escaping war, torture, and persecution in their home countries. The list of deserving charities from Food Banks, The Wellspring, Francis House and St Anne's Hospice goes on and on. In these difficult times it is impossible to help everyone but please spare a thought for those who have had to leave their homeland and risk their lives on a perilous journey to reach a place of safety. Donations of clothing, toiletries and of course, money are always needed.

Sue McAlister

THE FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE HOPE & REBIRTH - THE SNOWDROP

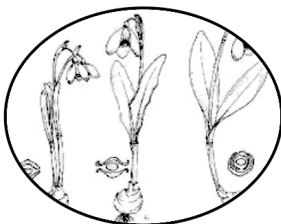
The Charge of the Light Brigade

Alfred Lord Tennyson



Panorama - Museum Sevastopol

*Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of
Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light
Brigade!
Charge for the guns!"
he said.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and*



Galanthus plicatus

English snowdrop



*Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of hell
Rode the six hundred
Flashed as they turned in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
All the world wondered.
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reeled from the sabre
stroke
Shattered and
sundered.
Then they rode back,
but not
Not the six hundred.
Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell.
They that had fought so well
Came through the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.
When can their glory fade
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wondered.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred!*

I hope you read on the cover that Snowdrops have a very deep meaning behind them. As one of the first flowers of spring, they often symbolise **new beginnings, hope, rebirth** and the **ability to overcome challenges**. This makes it a very positive flower to give someone who might be going through a challenge and need some extra support and encouragement as Ukrainians need at present. “In the jaws of death and the mouth of hell” the British army fought in The Crimea in 1854, followed by a harsh winter at the end of January in the following year. In a curious parallel of the flush of blood red poppies that would paint the fields of Flanders in another foreign war only 65 years later, the hills of Crimea brought forth a huge beautiful display of tiny snow white flowers. They covered the countryside so thickly that they could have easily been confused as a fall of fresh snow. The British soldiers that survived were amazed to see the battlefields covered in the little, frail snowdrops. The flowers were, in fact the Crimean snowdrop (***Galanthus plicatus***) ← Many of the British soldiers took the tiny bulbs home with them, some even put the bulbs — little bigger than a grain of wheat — into letters to their wives and sweethearts at home.



The heritage of these Crimean snowdrops lives on today. You find them planted on the graves of soldiers of the Crimean war. Huge naturalised swathes of the tiny flowers are found in areas with rich military history and traditions. How beautiful, also, the churchyard looks with our snowdrops. We can, but hope, that the flowers in Ukraine will no longer grow from a war zone but from a land of hope and rebirth.

Editor M.M.L.

Colouring page.

Children's Page

Word Game

If you are not going sledding try and find how many words you can make from LETYOURLIGHTSHINE eg tree:hour:this:try: tight. Small prize for winner. Hand in to Vestry Group in February





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WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Jesus answered that question by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan. To me it is as relevant as ever. So many are in need due to war, famine, natural disasters and poverty. In our own community people struggle to make ends meet. How can they be reached by our love - or by charity?

Many of you already give to charity on a regular basis and respond to emergency appeals. But are you aware that Mellor Church gives as a community to four charities each year?

Last year the charities we supported were:

EDUCAID - helping education projects in Sierra Leone



UNHCR- the United Nations refugee agency

MISSION TO SEAFARERS - a charity we've sponsored before

HAEMATOLOGY & TRANSPLANT UNIT - Christie's hospital

These charities, all proposed by people at Church and voted for by PCC members, will receive an equal share of the Charity Fund.

Perhaps you may be thinking that you give enough already? Or that your own income is being stretched? Be assured those thoughts haunt me. But our Lord gently reminds me that I am blessed to have a home, an income to meet bills for food, water and heating. How dare I complain when thousands flee their homes with nothing?

“Nobody chooses to be a refugee but we can all choose to contribute to their protection.” (UNHCR). If you CHOOSE to give to the Church charities scheme this is what to do:

Name of account: Mellor PCC Charity Fund

Sort Code: 01-05-51

Account number: 40698998



You can make payments monthly, quarterly or annually. If you are a UK taxpayer, please contact the Parish Centre or Richard Elliott (our Church Treasurer) to obtain a Gift Aid form: r.m.elliott@ntlworld.com

In the words of a modern hymn:

'When I needed a neighbour were you there?'

The choice is ours.

Alison Dowdeswell



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Mellor Birds

Maggie Williams

The Friday Strollers strolled off around Etherow Park last Friday (Jan 13th). Sue was asking if there were any signs about Avian Flu. There were no signs, but before we got to the Weir we met a couple hurling bird food across and down 30 feet into the river to feed a lonesome white goose. (They were using one of those dog ball hurling things.) They were very knowledgeable as they belong to Friends of Etherow Park.

Etherow has and is being affected by the Avian Flu and they have found dead Canadian and Greylag geese.

Last year there were eight swans but only one survived, which they now call Grace. The advice is not to touch a dead bird and especially their poo. Then tell the Friends of Etherow or the Warden who contacts DEFRA to take them away.

The couple were feeding the birds to try and keep them healthy in the cold weather to give them a better chance of recovering from the flu if they got infected, which they find some birds can do.

If a human gets bird flu it does not transmit to other humans.

They find the mallards ducks and herons have not been affected. There still seem plenty of Mandarin ducks and some Muscovy ducks too. On the bird feeders near the weir were blue tits, cole tits plus two robins.

At the moment they have four visiting swans and they hope one will stay to be with Grace.

After walking a circuit we had a very nice lunch in the little nursery before you get to the main cafe.

In Mellor Peter E reports of a woodpecker drumming in the wood down Old Hall Lane. Up at Moor End Jean C saw for the first time a mistle thrush in her front garden eating cotoneaster berries.

Varieties of woodpeckers





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Christmas at the Oddie with Mellor Church Choir

Thank you

£192 raised

For

Stage4 Deserves More
GEM Foundation

A charity giving support to those with stage four breast cancer

Thank you

Church Christmas Card

Many thanks to all those who signed the giant Church Christmas card in December. Thanks for your donations which have enabled us to send **£54.47** to the **Salvation Army**. Your gifts will help others in practical ways for many months to come.



**Giving
Hope
Today**

Alison Dowdeswell



From the Registers



Funerals

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

Monday 12th December – burial of Elvira Zadoroshnyj.

Wednesday 21st December – funeral of Paul Cochrane.



Magazine Subscriptions.



Readers of *Outlook* are reminded that subscriptions for the year 2023 are now due and should be paid to the person who delivers your magazine. The annual subscription which is £10, should be paid as cash or by cheque payable to Mellor PCC. This annual subscription represents a saving of £2 compared with 12 copies at the cover price of £1.

The editors hope you have enjoyed reading *Outlook* over the last year and have found it useful.

We welcome letters to the editor and ideas. Maggie and Margaret.

While we are committed to supporting local businesses, the inclusion of advertisements in Outlook does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of the services advertised.

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On the 23rd of this month it will be 80 years since the Convoy Rescue

ship S.S. 'Stockport' was torpedoed, and sunk with the entire crew of 64 souls.

I have always been most impressed by the way the Hazel Grove branch of the Royal Naval Association has organised memorial Services at Norbury Parish Church, and Parades, to mark each anniversary of the terrible disaster. The art award winning Memorial railings on the Mersey river bank, at Knightsbridge, are a tribute to both the RNA, and to Stockport Council. Some indication of the Council's involvement was evident when at the RNA's Trafalgar Night dinner at Alma Lodge, last year, no less than t



Merchant
Navy
Veteran's
Badge

the current Mayor of Stockport, and six former Mayors were Guests at the Dinner.

The tragic loss of the 'Stockport' seemed to coincide with the turning point in the War when, within months, the U-boat that had sunk her was herself

destroyed with all hands.



I was only a small boy at Ludworth school when these events took place, but not many years later I was a teenage Midshipman on 'Glenbeg', a former Liberty ship, run by Alfred Holt's Glen Line, and carrying munitions for our forces in the Korean War. To us young cadets it was just good fun, but to the Captain and senior officers it must have been quite terrifying as they had already suffered the worst of war, and were now supplying our troops in Korea and then loading in China, whose troops were fighting us in Korea.

All had gone reasonably well and homeward bound we were bound for Amsterdam, and whilst steaming up the Channel, all efforts were being made to paint the ship before arrival. To encourage us to hurry up with the painting, we were given 'job and Finish', which meant in those days, knock off as soon as

you've completed the work. That's where I came to grief. I was painting the ventilators by the after mast. My ladder wasn't properly secured, and I fell 15 feet on to the steel deck. I woke up to discover I had damaged my face which was covered in blood, but my right wrist was very seriously broken.

Of course we had no doctor on board, and the Captain and Chief Officer, guided by the Ship Captain's Medical Guide, thought my wrist was simply dislocated, and were attempting to pull in place when fortunately the Chief Engineer's wife, who had joined him for the voyage and was a former Nurse, took charge, realising it was a severe break. I was landed ashore to hospital when the ship docked in to IJmuiden in Holland, but they'd been treating so much worse wounds during the long war years, simply plastered my arm and put it in a sling, leaving my face covered in dried blood. Then simply transferred me back to the ship, by this time berthed in Amsterdam. The Captain thought I should get home as soon as possible, and sent another Midshipman to accompany me home on the

The Ferry was packed and there was no accommodation available, but the kind thoughtful stewards made me a bed with bags of laundry in the alleyway. It was the worst journey in the world and followed by an eight hour rail journey from Harwich to Manchester. There, I was met by my father, and escorted home to Marple, and to the luxury of my own bed.

The next morning my sister, who was a teacher at Woodley School, fell off her bike, and my Mother sent for the Doctor. When he had applied a couple of plasters and declared her OK, Mother said 'Do you think you could look at my son while you're



still here'. He was quite astounded at my condition and rushed me to the lovely old Stockport Infirmary. There, they re-set my arm and were quite amazed at the former treatment.

Eventually I was made fit again by attending Rehabilitation at Stockport Lads' Club, which was attended by injured Army, Royal Navy and coal miners. All together a most satisfying experience, and within six months I was happily back at sea.



Mellor Rose Queen presents...



MELLOR'S GOT T★LENT

The RETURN

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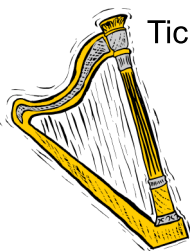
by February 14th

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Mellor Church Women's Evening Fellowship

I am writing this article just a couple of days after our January meeting. We anticipated that this would be attractive to many people but it exceeded our expectations. Meg's talk together with its stunning exhibition of quilts drew in 24 visitors as well as a large number of members and kept the whole audience enthralled. Thank you, Meg. We are grateful too to all those who donated prizes or bought tickets for the raffle which raised **£140 for Christie's**.

This month, on **February 8th**, our speaker is **Kay Kelly from Walthew House** which was our chosen charity last year. This is a local charity based in Stockport which supports people with a sight or hearing loss and we look forward to hearing more about their work and handing over the proceeds of our year's fundraising.

Our charity for this year is **St Anne's Hospice Building Appeal** which needs to raise £2 million for new buildings and facilities. St Anne's has cared for our community for half a century and we are pleased to be doing our bit to help them.

Lesley Fitcher

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Chocolate Crunch Torte

Jill Baker

A no bake cake that is really special, I made it for a birthday cake. If you want to make it extra special soak the prunes in Armagnac. A treat before lent!

225g good quality dark chocolate

110g soft prunes (3 tbsp Armagnac or similar to soak if desired)

110g hazelnuts halved

50g butter

150ml double cream

225g sweet oat biscuits such as rustics or plain hobnobs roughly chopped

Cocoa powder for dusting

Line a 20cm cake tin with a loose base

If you are soaking the prunes begin a day ahead and leave overnight.

The flavour is greatly improved if you toast the hazelnuts in the oven at 180C GM 4 for around 8 mins. Keep a close eye! (spread on a baking sheet)

Once the hazelnuts are cool break up the chocolate and butter into a large bowl and melt either carefully in the microwave or over a pan of simmering water. Slowly melt the two together and then cool for a couple of minutes whilst you whip the cream. Fold the cream and chocolate butter mix together then stir in prunes, hazelnuts and biscuits. Mix well and then spoon into the tin spreading it as evenly as possible. Cover with cling film and chill for a minimum of 4 hours.

Remove from the fridge an hour before you serve.

Ed. This is easy to make and was well received.



Did you think the church looked wonderful at Christmas? And did you notice how all the debris of pine needles, straw from the Crib service, beautiful window-sill arrangements etc. all disappeared as if by magic? Were you able to watch any of those lovely Christmas services on-line? Can you imagine how much work went into making this all happen? We have a huge number of people who freely, and willingly, give up their time to keep the church running, both inside and out. They are far too many to mention, and they work all year round, not just at Christmas. There are also the people who have the unenviable task of running services and keeping things going in the interregnum, while we have no vicar. They are far too many to mention by name, but the PCC just wanted all of those willing workers and helpers to know you're not taken for granted. You are our unsung heroes and we offer you our enormous thanks.



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by candlelight**



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Laughs with Lynda

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes.

It's all about raisin awareness.

Did you know the inventor of the Knock Knock joke has just won an award?

He won the no bell prize.

A priest, a pastor and a rabbit entered a clinic to donate bloods. The nurse asked the rabbit

“What is your blood type?”

“I'm probably type O”, said the rabbit.

Please ask Maggie to explain the last one if necessary

Lost Ring

A gold jewelled ring was found on Parkside after Christmas. If it might be yours contact an editor 427 2406 or contact the police.

Friday Strollers

Our next walk will be at Etherow Country Park.
Meet 10.15 in the Car Park

Friday 3rd February

Friday 10th February

Friday 24th February.

Contact Judy Cooper if you need more information, email judeecoopurr@hotmail.com

A World Champion Penny Farthing Hill Climber in Mellor

It is very impressive to watch Paul Gwyther cycle up the hills in Mellor or whizz past you on his Penny Farthing. I was interested to know how he got started.

The first time he got on a Penny Farthing was with the Burgess family at the Knutsford 'Great Race' that took place every ten years. Even though he had fallen off and broken his arm before the 2010 Great Race, it did not stop him buying his own bike. He went to a bike builder in London. (There is a shop in Eastbourne.)

Now he has two Penny Farthings.

The bigger the wheel, the faster one goes. Paul chose a 54 inch wheel for road racing and a 48 inch wheel for hill climbing.

There is an annual Penny Farthing Hill Climb championship in Eastbourne. Six years ago Paul became World Champion Penny Farthing Hill Climber. (Mellor roads must be a good training ground.)

Paul also goes to Belgium and Holland racing.

His favourite ride is the Christie Manchester to Blackpool bike ride, when he raises lots of money for the Christie Hospital. He enjoys looking over the hedges and riding past cyclists pushing their bikes up hills.

The heyday of Penny Farthings was in the 1880's. It was only wealthy people who could afford to have one, they were like the red Ferraris of the day. These old bikes are now too brittle to ride. Paul says even now the modern gatherings of Penny Farthing riders are usually at Stately Homes.

Riding a Penny Farthing looks very dangerous to me especially when they lean over going round corners but Paul says, - 'It's easy, just like riding a bike'.

Thank you Paul and congratulations on being a World Champion.

Maggie Williams.



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A NEW KIND OF MINISTRY

How do you feel about getting older? Do you look forward to a care-free retirement? Do you hope for the joy of grandchildren? Or do you fear physical or mental frailty? Do you worry about coping on a smaller income? Does the prospect of losing good friends or your home terrify you? And what about your faith - are you confident you can maintain this if you face a sea of troubles?

One thing I am sure of: none of us can escape getting older. But can we get wiser? Can we maintain belief in our compassionate God if we are unable to worship with others? Could we derive comfort and courage from our faith? Who could we turn to to support us on our journey with God?

That is the aim of Anna chaplains. This network was set up only 12 years ago by the former broadcaster Debbie Thrower. Yet already the Bible Reading Fellowship has trained more than 200 people to work in this ministry. Anna chaplains support communities from the Isle of Wight to the Scottish islands! This is an ecumenical movement so chaplains work with people from all faith backgrounds and none! Some chaplains are paid; others unpaid.

Some are linked to specific churches; others work with organisations such as Churches Together. Some have special ministry with Care Homes or other community hubs; others may focus on serving those with dementia. Whatever their background, all chaplains need to have good listening skills, empathy and faith in the immense love of God.

This month I begin training as an Anna chaplain. Please remember me in your prayers as I seek to listen and learn new ways of service. I cherish this prayer:-

“ Trust the Past to the mercy of God,
the Present to His love,
and the Future to His providence.”



Alison Dowdeswell

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I've always been moved by Candlemas – the annual blessing of our altar candles reminding us that their light is an echo of the first image of light that was used to represent the Good News of Jesus as He was presented to the temple in Jerusalem.

Here is the story I wrote for the Vestry children on Candlemas in which a child seems to understand the event better than his father.

The Candle-maker's Night to Remember

It was the night before Candlemas, and in a snow-covered mountain village in Austria a poor candle-maker was making a new set of candles for the church. Tomorrow the priest would bless them, and after they'd been lit they would be carried in procession to the altar, where they would be placed in the newly polished candle-stick holders. A boy in ragged clothes was helping him stir the molten wax and lay out the moulds and wicks. It was the candle-maker's son, Johan; he had lived alone with his father since his mother had died in the bitter winter of two years ago.

The wind was blowing the snow into

drifts outside, and as Johan worked he could see through the window the old lady who lived nearby. Her house was dark and lonely, and he could see she was shivering as she paced up and down to keep warm." Father", said Johan, "as we've just made these new candles, can I take some next door to light our neighbour's house?"

"If it was up to you we'd be lighting the whole village for free and have no candles to sell for food" snapped his father. "We're so poor we haven't even got any matches left! - Now get on with stirring that wax!"

But the boy persisted and finally his father gave in. Johan picked up some candles, found a last match, opened the door and went out into the freezing night. Checking his father wasn't looking, he grabbed a few logs from their log pile, and rushed to the neighbour's house. Maria was so pleased to see Johan's bright shiny face – and even more pleased when Johan filled the room with light, and got a cheery fire going. "I must get back" he said "we've got lots of candles to prepare for tomorrow, and father will be getting angry"

As he was half way back he stopped in horror – ahead was their house – but something was wrong.

It was in complete darkness and his

father was wringing his hands at the door. Later that night when their work was finished, they sat together having a cup of cocoa. The candle-maker put his arm round Johan's shoulder. "You know, son, you and the candles have taught me something this evening." "There I was just worrying about myself and where our next shilling was coming from – and you, you were determined to care for our

"You stupid boy, Johan! When you left, you flung open the door so wide the wind blew all the candles **and** the burner out! Now we're in a mess – we've no matches and the wax is going hard – how will we ever get ready for tomorrow! Why don't you ever listen to me!"

As his father sat trembling with rage, Johan hung his head and wondered what he could do. As he thought, his eyes looked out through the window. "Of course", he thought, "all is not lost! Moments later he was running back through the snow to Maria's house. Their last match had been used to make Maria's house bright and warm, and soon she had lit an extra candle and found a glass lampshade to shield its flickering flame from the wind. "Back you go now" said Maria "walk slowly and the wind won't blow it out." As Johan walked steadily back through the snow he almost felt as if he was in the candle lit procession he would be taking part in the next day. He made it! And soon their house was glowing again, with the cauldron of wax bubbling away once more.



neighbour. Yes, it caused a bit of a disaster – but the spreading of our candle light enabled that light to come back into our house – so now there are two houses aglow and more happiness all round!

I used to think it was me drumming the lessons of life into stubborn old you – but tonight you have taught me something very precious. For me this year, the message of Candlemas is to use what light we have to care for others and not worry too much about the consequences. Good night, son"

Chris Mann

Painting
"Boy with a Candle"
Svitlana Duvanova

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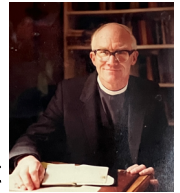
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LETTER FROM REV. ROBIN PHILLIPS

My Dear Friends,

It was really lovely to receive the card which you had signed, and all the individual cards from you for my 90th birthday, Thank you so much for remembering me, I find it hard to believe that I have reached this milestone in my life. I have so very many happy memories my time in Mellor, At this present time as you await another new vicar, I recall that it is also at this time of year that I first visited Mellor 55 years ago.

The then Bishop of Derby had offered me the possibility of being the next vicar, so I came up from Sussex to have a look! Ethelda with Richard (only 4 months old) also came. We stayed with the Bishop overnight then journeyed up to Mellor in the Bishop's chauffeur driven car to meet the Rural Dean. We arrived in snow and a bitter wind, we couldn't see inside the vicarage because the previous vicar had recently died and on going over to the church found it locked! While the Rural Dean went off to find a key, Ethelda with Richard in her arms and I tried to shelter in the corner of the porch against the church wall. Later after a brief visit to meet the church wardens across a field to the Buzzard, where one of them lived, I accepted the Bishop's invitation and we moved in to the vicarage (which we hadn't seen inside before!) on a lovely sunny day in May. So began a wonderful time in a lovely place amongst lovely people. I can honestly say that the 60, 70 & 80's were the happiest years of my life. May God bless you all.



Prayer of the Month. Candlemas.



Creator of light

The blessing of light be upon us

The blessing of daylight

The blessing of sunlight

The blessing of Christ light

Scatter the darkness from before us

That we may walk as children of light.

(from Landscapes of Light by David Adam)

Church Rotas

Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.00am	6.30pm
5 Feb	P Cooke	P Forbes & L Forbes	R Holt
12 Feb	A Mason	A Allcard & M. Lowe	J Shiel
19 Feb	J Butterworth	R Elliott & J Elliott	A Shah
26 Feb	P Cunningham	I Hamilton & C Hamilton	R. Holt
5 March	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

5 Feb	Clare Jackson
12 Feb	Maggie Williams
19 Feb	Jenny Johnson
26 Feb	no flowers Lent
5 March	Lent
12 March	Lent
19 March	Mothering Sunday
26 March	Lent

If you wish to change a date, need a key or have any query, please contact Jill Baker (07881 902533 or jillbaker427@hotmail.com).

Holy Dusters

Brass Cleaning

5 Feb	J & R Elliot	S Norbury & S Edmundson
12 Feb	A MMason & C Starling	
19 Feb	P. Cunningham & I Morris	
26 Feb	M Williams & S. McAlister	
5 March	J Cooper & A Muller	

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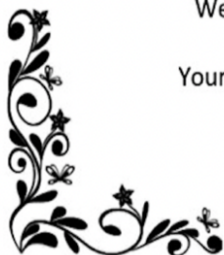
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