



St Thomas' Church  
MELLOR AND MARPLE BRIDGE

# OUTLOOK



January  
2023

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# The Parish of St Thomas Mellor

Registered Charity No. 1130414

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

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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](mailto:melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com)  
The deadline for the February issue is January 15th please.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2023

<b>1 Sun</b>	8.30 am	Morning Prayer
<b>2nd Sunday of Christmas</b>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
4 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
5 Thurs	7.30 pm	Concert Ben Collyer and Tom McGowan (Mellor Church)
<b>8 Sun</b>	8.30 am	Holy Communion
<b>Epiphany</b>	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
9 Mon	10.45-12 noon	Coffee & Chat (Parish Centre)
11 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
<b>15 Sun</b>	8.30 am	Holy Communion
<b>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b>	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Epiphany Carol Service
18 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
<b>22 Sun</b>	8.30 am	Holy Communion
<b>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</b>	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
25 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
28 Sat	7.30 pm	Frank Renshaw with Vintage and the All Stars (Parish Centre)
<b>29 Sun</b>	8.30 am	Holy Communion
<b>4th Sunday of Epiphany</b>	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	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



## A Vicar's Viewpoint

by Rev Angie Stanton

**Like all of you**, this Vicar is beginning a new year - looking forward to it's adventures, anticipating there will be struggles, joys, surprises and sadness, and praying that God's grace will help me through it all.

**Like all of you** I want to live this year well, feel like I am a good person, and bring the peace and love of God into the places I go and the relationships I have.

**Like all of you** I want to do my bit to make the world a better place, a safer place, a more just and caring place.

**Like all of you** I live around here: I walk up to church with my partner Sian, I sit and pray and sing and listen in the pews. In many ways I am just like you. And that has been a joy.

This time last year I could not have anticipated how much I'd love just being someone who worshipped at Mellor Church, and was part of the community. This time last year I was a parish priest in Reddish, and my mind and heart were filled with the joys and challenges of my life there. It had been 14 years - of serving and leading, and loving, and

struggling, and trying to follow the Holy Spirit's prompting as we tried to make the church a welcoming, inclusive, joyful place for worshipping God and serving the community. This time last year God led me from there: I took early retirement, Sian and I packed up our life there, and we came to live full-time in the home we had bought in 2009, on Longhurst Lane. We've settled in properly, become regular worshippers at Church, started to get to know some of the congregation and choir, and delighted in the closeness of the countryside all around us.

So for several months I've looked at the Church and the congregation from my pew – and I have seen so many good things. There's a warmth and a welcome at Mellor Church which is genuine; there's a gratefulness extended to all who come to lead worship; there's a desire to do liturgy well, to read well, to pray thoughtfully; there's a concern for justice, and active support for many who are struggling, at home and abroad; there's a faithfulness amongst the congregation which is wonderful to see.

And then there's the choir and musicians, who not only encourage us to sing along with

them, but who can create moments of such beauty and harmony and stillness that one can be filled with a sense of absolute joy and gratitude.

For several months this has been enough; and the deep awareness that God had something more for me was quietly letting me settle in. Until now.

So as the old year changes to the new, so will my viewpoint change. It is time for me to offer to be part of the ministry team at Church, alongside Barbara and Anne, Chris and Rachel, and all who give their time. With the encouragement of your Wardens I have approached the Diocese for 'Permission to Officiate', and I am excited and strangely nervous about reconnecting with my priestly vocation, presiding and preaching on Sundays, praying with you, visiting you, and encouraging you to live good, thankful and faithful lives – and being alongside you as we hope and pray for a new Vicar and a new chapter for Mellor Church.



*Thank you for these beautiful words and we look forward to your joining the Ministry Team at St Thomas.' and to Sian joining and supporting us in the congregation and its activities.*

*Ed MML*

## **My Christmas Wish To YOU**

By Catherine Pulsifer

If I could wish a wish for you,  
it would be for **peace**, faith,  
and happiness  
not only at Christmas,  
but for the whole year through!

I wish that there always be food on  
your table.

That you always give to those less  
fortunate.

May you always take time to share,  
and thank those who have  
**blessed** you.

I wish for time, so you may reflect  
on the blessings that you have,  
and that you express your **love**  
to those who are dear to you.

May you never feel lonely,  
because there are those who care.  
That you realize: you are special,  
you are unique, you make a  
difference,  
not only at Christmas, but all year!

I wish for your thoughts to be  
positive ones,  
that you never quit, that you never  
give up,  
and that you continue to learn.

**I wish for the love, and peace  
of **God**, to be yours always.**

*I heard this poem at my son-in-law's Carol  
Service this week in St Anne's Church -  
Manchester*

*Ed MML*



## Choir Report

Recently, Mellor Church Choir went on our annual trip to the beautiful Fort Belan, a small fort in the wild countryside of Wales. We put up the Christmas trees, drank mulled wine and broke out the Christmas music in preparation for the Advent Carol Service and the Nine Lessons and Carols.

Everybody arrived on Friday (18th November) for a bedtime story and stargazing. On Saturday we got to work, spending hours rehearsing the music, only stopping for the occasional cake break and a (very windy) walk in the nearby village.

In the evening, we put down our music to eat a delicious meal cooked by the amazing kitchen team and to enjoy the legendary cabaret night! On Sunday everyone, tired as we were, got up to enjoy a full English breakfast cooked, once again, by the kitchen team. We had a short service and practised the music some more. And just like that, it was time for us all to leave. We packed up our stuff and said goodbye to Fort Belan for another year.

A special thanks to everyone who made this trip possible: Rachel Howling - for organising everything; Tom Howling- for selecting the music and conducting the choir; John Le Grove - for accompanying us; The Kitchen Team (Glyn, Kate, Kathryn, Clair, and Helen).

## Mellor War Memorial Gardens

SMBC's Jonathan Headlam, our Neighbourhood Project Officer for Team East, brought us 200 crocus bulbs and 100 Extreme mixed bulbs for volunteers to plant. We do not know what bulbs are in the Extreme bag, so this will be a nice surprise in the Spring for us all.

At the moment we have pink Kaffir Lilies, (*Schizostylis*) flowering and also five huge Mahonias are covered in yellow flowers. The flower bed around the memorial has now been replanted since the lavenders have been replaced. The last plants to go in are some white iris. Thank you to Noula who donated them. These will join the swirls of blue Geranium, *Astrantia*, *Convolvulus*, 'White Carpet' Rose and 'Darwin' Rose and 2 Clematis. As well as Tulip and Allium bulbs.

Volunteers would like to thank

### **The Royal Oak Pub**

for their support of the park.

Volunteers meet on Thursday afternoons at 2ish and our next Saturday monthly work party will be on January 14th, between 10am and 12. We usually have a Christmas lunch sometime around February.

*Maggie Williams*



## Friday Strollers

Here are the dates for Friday Strollers in January. We now have 12 signed up to the WhatsApp group and we usually have 7 or 8 on the walks. We have enjoyed excellent refreshments at The Locks Cafe after our autumn walks where we have been able to reserve a large table in a separate room so that our lively chat does not disturb other diners!

Our next 3 walks will be at Etherow Country Park. Meet 10.15 in the Car Park

Friday 13th January

Friday 27th January

Friday 3rd February

Contact Judy Cooper if you need more information, email  
[judecoopurr@hotmail.com](mailto:judecoopurr@hotmail.com)



## Anna Chaplain

Who was Anna? And why does she matter?

Anna was one of the first people in the Bible to recognise Jesus as Messiah. She is described as a woman of deep faith who was there when the baby Jesus was presented in the Temple at Jerusalem (Luke 2:26-28). The only other fact we know is that she was an elderly widow of “84 years.” So Anna was a senior citizen with a strong love for God. Is it any surprise that she was chosen as a role model for a new ministry to older people?

**That matters to me as I hope to become an “Anna chaplain”.**

I was blessed as a child to know three of my grandparents. The only one I don't remember was my Dad's father who died when I was a baby. I've only heard stories of him doing rounds as an ARP warden with his cat, “Binx”. My Dad's Mum, Grandma, lived with us for several years. She struggled with deafness but shared her love by teaching us how to cook. (See “Baking Day” in my poetry book: “Volume the Fifth”- for sale in aid of church funds.) My Mum's Mum, “Gran”, made breakfast for my sister and me, then walked us to school. She was a very creative person, teaching us how to make flower pictures. When she was 80, she decided to teach herself how to paint with oils! Her husband, my “Grandpa”, seemed formal and a bit intimidating until we went on holiday together. There was no one better at building motor boats on a sandy beach. Plus when we played cards together he had us in stitches with laughter!

Later, I spent time as a volunteer befriending older people. One was special: Doris was housebound due to a heart condition but she showed tremendous courage and a strong faith. I always found her in a positive and cheerful mood. More recently I became friends with a remarkable lady. She often talked about her war time adventures as a Land Army girl - the “time of her life”. She did not have a conventional faith but had a natural spirituality. This was clear from her creativity as an artist, a writer and a loyal friend. I was privileged to walk beside her during her final weeks of life. I had the honour of speaking at her funeral. I trust that when she reached Heaven she was welcomed for using her “one hundred fold talents”!

I have learnt to respect older people for their wisdom, their courage in adversity and their delight in friendship. I have been impressed by the strength of their faith whatever the circumstances. I enjoy their company and listening to them. I find it natural to love them.

When I heard of “Anna chaplains”, who offer ministry to older people, I realised that God was calling me to follow my vocation. I am grateful for the support of Mellor Church who are funding my training. My course, run by the Bible Reading Fellowship, is to start in February. I would appreciate your support in prayer as I step out in faith. I hope to keep you informed of my progress. I am confident only of this: that our Lord will walk with me.”

**Alison Dowdeswell 077901 40832**





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## For those of us who find finding and pressing the right button a challenge.

If you are wanting to see a Church service on your computer/ ipad/ laptop/ or smart phone this is a link to use:-

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WorshipfromStThomas>

You can either see it livestreamed on Sunday mornings at 10am or anytime afterwards. The great thing is you can go back to bits you like and play them again. Also if you scroll down there are past services to watch too. All those lovely carol concerts. I am told I can save this link in bookmarks but that's a bit beyond me. At least I will know where it is in an Outlook magazine.



### Passports

I was very nervous of renewing my passport as I thought it would take ages. In September, encouraged by Jennie, I got someone to help me take a photo of me on my phone and help me fill in the form on my phone and the new passport arrived within 2 weeks.



### Driving Licence

In October I got a letter from DVLA saying I needed to renew my driving licence. I filled in the form on my phone and it used my passport photo and I got my new driving licence in less than a week.

*MW Ed.*



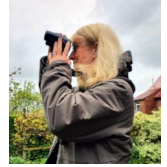
## An Idea For A New Year's Resolution.

On Radio 4 on January 3rd 2022, John Bell of The Iona Community said he affixed a sign to his front door evident to him only on leaving -  
It says:-

'Everyday give something away'

## Mellor Birds

I've had a couple of magical moments birdwatching with my binoculars this month.



Last week I was taking Sprocket from the Royal Oak up to Damsteads, across Linnet Clough and the Golf Course and down and over the railway bridge by Strawberry Hill. At this point I saw a tiny bird flitting about in a tree by the path in the Strawberry Hill meadow behind the house. Eventually I saw the golden yellow stripe on its head to confirm it was a **goldcrest**.

Just before the cold spell arrived on a sunny morning about 11am I saw four **chaffinches** on our drive. Even though they are a common bird I can never remember in forty two years seeing one in our garden before. The white 'T' shape on their wings lets you know its a chaffinch. At the same time a tree creeper (looks like a mouse) started climbing up our alder tree and then a nuthatch started to climb down the tree at the same time.



Looking over the hedge into the War Memorial garden the blackbird was in its usual spot on the apple tree with a robin a few branches down. Then fifteen or so redwings dived into the lowest of the yew trees and three **mistle thrushes** were sitting around the top of the yew together with a greenfinch which seems to like being with the redwings. A single song thrush joined them.



Gold finches joined the chaffinches in the alder tree with a great tit and a coal tit. The telegraph pole by the lower park gate had two starlings on it followed by two jackdaws with a pigeon flying over and some Canada geese doing a flypast. This all happened in about ten minutes and then they were gone. It was a magical moment for me.

*Maggie Williams*

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## 2022 Fundraising Concert Series.

News from Ian Collyer:

I'm pleased to say that the 2022 fundraising concert series has managed to raise a total of £5181 with £3629 going to church funds and £1553 going to the Ukraine fund.

This has allowed us to purchase the equipment needed for live streaming over the year and secure it as a service as well as contribute to overall church income. It has been a pleasure to welcome the diverse array of musicians and volunteers who have freely and generously given up their time to support this project and I am extremely grateful to them. A big thank you to all those who came along to listen and support the series. Happily there is one further recital to announce:-

We see the return of Ben Collyer and Tom McGowan.  
Thursday 5th January  
Twelfth Night  
Performing some German music and song.  
7.30pm  
Mellor Church  
Free entry  
Free drink!

What better way is there to celebrate the end of Christmas!

Ed: A big thank you to Ian and all his team for putting on such wonderful Concerts throughout the year.





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## Seville Orange Curd

Jill Baker

I like to buy Seville oranges - a truly seasonal product only available in January. As well as making marmalade they also make a delicious orange curd to spread on your toast, fill a tart or a cake, stir into plain yogurt.

Do not worry if you would like to make this and cannot get Seville oranges simply use 3 normal oranges preferably unwaxed and 2 lemons.

5 Seville oranges  
150g caster sugar  
250g cold butter diced  
3 whole eggs beaten



Finely grate the rind from the oranges. Squeeze the oranges to give 220mls of juice (pass through a sieve to avoid the many pips in these oranges).

Put all the ingredients into a small heavy base saucepan. Over a very low heat stir the mixture until it has thickened enough so that it thickly coats the back of a wooden spoon. It will set further when it cools

Pour into clean jars. This makes 2 smallish jars. Keep in the refrigerator and eat within a couple of weeks.



### Rose Queen News

We have had two great nights starting with the Lantern Walk. What a lovely night it was, very magical and thank you to everyone who helped and everyone who came along.

Also we had a great evening making wreaths with The Little Green Flower Company in Marple Bridge. Thank you to everyone who made the event a success.

Watch out for more events to come in the  
New Year

Love Rose Queen Daisy xxx





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My sea life has certainly been full of surprises.

But I must say that last week was certainly one of the nicest. My wife Allwyn and I, were invited by Princess Anne to attend a Reception at St James's Palace. The occasion was the seventy fifth birthday of the Royal Institute of Navigation, of which her father, Prince Philip, was a leading light, I am privileged to be a Fellow.

St James's Palace is a magnificent building, and was of course the Sovereign's residence until Buckingham Palace was built. We were shown how a window was removed, to enable King Charles III, to give his Proclamation following the Queen's death. The reception was held in the Queen Anne room, and was a most friendly and relaxed gathering, with the Princess Royal taking the trouble to personally greet virtually all the some 150 guests, individually.

I was reminded of a very different surprise, when I was 4th Officer on the Blue Funnel ship 'Eurybates' in 1956'. We were bound from U.K. to Indonesia, and before we reached there, the combined forces of Britain, France and Israel had invaded Egypt, to control the Suez Canal. Consequently, the various ports in Indonesia, had been instructed to harass British and French ships calling there.

Our first port of call was Balikpapan in Borneo. We had run out of fresh water, at the end of our passage, and found to our surprise, when we anchored, that the port Authority refused to supply us with any.

In those days, ships were unable to de-salinate sea water, and relied on supply by barge from ashore. We were fortunate to have extra life boats on 'Eurybates' as it was customary to carry pilgrims from Indonesia to Jeddah in the Hajj season.

But although it was inconvenient to drink the life boat fresh water, cook with sea water and wash using salt-water soap, what really worried us, was that we needed the fresh water for the engine room boiler, without which the ship's engine could not be used.

Eurybates' had originally been built with a combined steam and diesel engine, but later converted to pure diesel, due to the double number of qualified engineers required, when both steam and motor. Eventually, the harbour master took pity on us, and afraid we might die of thirst, supplied us with about fifty tonnes.



Our Chief Engineer, immediately put it all in the boiler, and we heaved up the anchor, started the engines and made off to friendly Singapore, where we could have as much water as we wanted.

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**The Friends of Mellor Parish Centre  
invite you to an evening of lively music  
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**\*\*\*\*\***

## **Vintage and the All Stars**

---

**\*\*Rearranged date**

**Saturday January 28th, 7.30pm**

**Adults £10 Youngsters £5**

**Bar**

**Mellor Parish Centre, Church Road, Mellor,  
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## Women's Evening Fellowship

*Lesley Fatcher.*



Bergen

This month we have the pleasure of welcoming one of our own members to be our Speaker. **Meg Barley** will be inviting us to accompany her on her textile journey over the last 12 years and will be sharing some of her wonderful creations with us. Meg's talk is called

### 'My Quilting Journey'

Meg has had a long interest in textile art, but it was on retirement, twelve years ago, that she took a City and Guilds Patchwork and Quilting course. This led to quilting becoming an absorbing and rewarding part of her life. Her talk will cover the wide range of styles and techniques she uses, and the inspiration for



On the edge

many of them. Meg's work has been exhibited at a number of shows, and a colourful, fascinating and enjoyable evening is guaranteed.



Hollyhocks

Put the date in your diaries now.  
Wednesday  
11th January  
at 7.30pm  
Parish Centre.



Loch Lomond

## Outlook report on PCC meeting in November



This was our last meeting of the year, and we began with a small celebration (which involved cake), of the end of Chris Mann's 22 years of running the Christmas Eve Crib Service. He was thanked for all the magic it has brought to the start of Christmas, for so many people.

We then had some visitors to the meeting. First were Peter Lowe and Mike Barley, from the Parish Centre Management Committee. They came to plead for support in trying to recruit people to the management committee, and to the Friends of the Parish Centre, as the membership of these groups has dwindled to very few over the last number of years. We agreed there needed to be a publicity campaign in church but also in the community, to raise awareness of how valuable the Centre is, but that people are needed to help with the running of it, if it is to continue.

Secondly, we welcomed Angie Stanton, recently retired vicar of St Elizabeth's in Reddish, who has joined our congregation. She hopes to get her official go-ahead to lead services, from the beginning of 2023, and is kindly offering to start helping us to cover services at St Thomas', until we recruit a new vicar of our own. We were also very glad to hear she would like to help us to do more work with children.



We also discussed the fire safety survey that has been done in church recently, to look at ways of improving our level of safety precautions. A fire safety plan was agreed, which will involve some training of the stewards on the doors at services, to ensure the church could be evacuated as quickly as possible in the event of a fire.

Finally, as Secretary of the PCC, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Julie Elliott*

## Gastropods : Ammonites : Crinoids : Orthocones

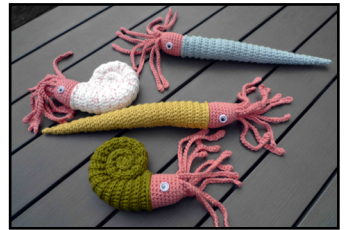
At the interval of the November Church concert I asked Joh Rosser (an alto in our Church choir) what she was knitting at the moment and to my surprise she said 'I am crocheting fossils for the Buxton Museum'!

To explain, here are a few words from Katie Potter, Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust Education Manager:-

*Did you know that most of the Peak District was once a tropical sea? Buxton Museum and Art Gallery have a collection of intriguing and unique objects telling 350 million years of Peak District history. The collection includes some fascinating fossils. Keen to help children understand what the fossilised creatures would have looked like when they were alive - the museum commissioned Joh Rosser to research, design and crochet colourful creatures for the new Geology Object Handling Box. The box of rock specimens, crocheted creatures and fossils will be available for schools to use, for free, from January. Ros Westwood, Derbyshire Museums Manager describes Joh as "a very clever crocheter!".*

Joh writes:-

It's amazing what you can whip up using a hook, yarn and a bag of stuffing. Bringing fossils to life has been a diverting departure from the usual snoods, hats and mitts



*Ammonites and Orthocones* most often associated with the craft of crochet. The spiralling shells of ammonites and gastropods, and the symmetry rules of brachiopods and crinoids have a pleasing mathematical appeal to me.



*Chrissy the Crinoid*

These delightful critters have been created using Peruvian cotton; its long fibres give this robust yarn a silky lustre. Short stitches (UK double crochet and half-triple crochet) create a compact body that securely envelops the stuffing and, by working in the back-loops only, the "ribbed" texture is created on the shells. The longer feather-like stitches on the "arms" of the crinoid are created using a form of Tunisian crochet, where many stitches are gathered on the hook, secured and then "dropped off" the hook

a couple at a time, somewhat akin to knitting. These arms are crocheted around plastic tubing to provide some structure and prevent them from simply curling up on themselves.

I've learnt such a lot about fossils by taking part in this project (and that I find crocheting much easier than photographing the results!).  
Joh Rosser, Very Clever Crocheter



*Gary the gastropod*

---

For a glimpse into the museum's collection, The Wonders of the Peak website [wondersofthepeak.org.uk](http://wondersofthepeak.org.uk) is a treasure trove of images and photos. You can even search Wonders of the Peak by location too and discover objects found near Mellor.

Email [Buxton.museumeducation@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Buxton.museumeducation@derbyshire.gov.uk) to enquire about booking a FREE school visit.

To find out more about the museum's offer for schools (which also includes Roman Britain and Stone Age handling boxes) take a look at the Buxton Museum Padlet: [padlet.com/BuxtonMuseumandArtGalleryEducation](http://padlet.com/BuxtonMuseumandArtGalleryEducation)



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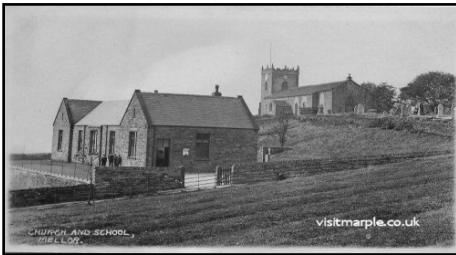
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## Youthful Days in Mellor 1910-26 Part 4 Tom Oldham

When I was five I started at Mellor School, just below the Church, and went along with Norman on the first morning. He, being slightly older than I, had started a month or so earlier, and he was able to help me in surviving my first day. It was a somewhat frightening experience to be



flung into such a large crowd of strange children, and I think the noisy, rough games in the playground were the worst part of it. I didn't mind the work in the classroom, where everything was quiet and orderly. Although so long ago, I can remember several features of that infant room quite clearly - a counting frame on a stand with different coloured balls that slid along wires, some slates, almost discarded and obsolete by that time, but still a little used, copperplate handwriting copy books, words chalked on

the blackboard by Miss Pike, the infant mistress, - cat, mat, rat, etc.

bat	cat
chat	fat
hat	mat
pat	sat
rat	scat
that	tat

The school was centrally heated with a boiler in the basement which was attended to by Mr Hambleton who lived at the farm just down the lane, opposite Lower Hall gates. He came in periodically to stoke it up and clear out the ashes. There was a fireplace in the infant room which was often lit for warming up dinners, and for boosting up the temperature as this room was furthest away from the boiler. Many of the children came from the farms, and a large number wore clogs. I envied those that did as they were able to strike sparks with their clog irons on the stones, and also they were more to be feared in the rough games of football, as the clogs were very hard, with brass toecaps. The 1914 - 1918 war was in progress in my first years, and I remember the whole school being let out into the playground to see a flight of four aeroplanes go over. All the children, whatever their age and wherever they lived, walked to and from school, and there

were three brothers of the name of McNaughton who lived at “Three Chimneys” near Soldiers Knob, at the top of Cobden Edge. Nothing whatever was thought of this, and no one would ever, at that time, have considered a walk of two miles to school in all weathers for children of 5 to be a hardship. Those living too far away to walk home at midday would bring their meals to school, and eat them in the classrooms. Pies, basins of stew, and bottles of tea and cocoa were stood round the infant room fire to warm up in the late morning, and I remember a cork blowing out of a bottle of tea with a loud bang.

I doubt if anyone was unable to read or write or do simple sums by the time they passed up into the next form room at the age of seven. The teacher in this room was Miss Marsland, or “Aunt Maggie” as she was called. She had the reputation of being somewhat of a tartar, and she punished by rapping ones knuckles with a wooden ruler. In her class I remember more than anything else learning multiplication tables by constant repetition, an exercise which I believe is now scorned and ridiculed by modern teaching, but which has proved of great and constant use to me throughout life.

## **Laughs with Lynda**

I stayed up all night recently to find out where the sun had gone.

It dawned on me in the morning....

My neighbour went to buy a mouse trap. He asked the assistant to hurry as he had a bus to catch.

“Our traps don’t catch buses,” came the reply.

How much does a roof cost?.....

Nothing, it’s on the house.

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the following advice is still worth noting.....

‘Winning is great, sure, but if you are really going to do something in life, the secret is learning how to lose. *Wilma Rudolph.*  
*This was the key lesson given to any school team or sports person by a teacher Ed*

‘Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose .’

*Lyndon B Johnson*

*Ed*

## Mellor Lacrosse Results December 3rd in 2022

Sat 03	Boys U16 [A] SheffieldU16	1 0	W
	Boys U14 [A] Heaton Mersey U14	10 8	W
	Boys U12 [A] Timperley U12	13 4	W
	Mens B Team [H] Wacsbury	8 7	W
	Ladies [A] Heaton Mersey	22 7	W
	Mens A Team [A] Heaton Mersey A	2 25	L
	Mens 1st Team [A] Wacsbury	13 5	W

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## Prayer of the Month

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

by Minnie Louise Haskins      1875-1957

*It was Queen Elizabeth, the Queen mother, who brought this poem [of which only part of it is shown here] to her husband's attention. As a result, King George VI quoted it in his 1939 Christmas broadcast - that first December of the Second World War. It was also used in her funeral service in 2002. Ed.*

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms



We welcomed into God's family

Finley River Wildman and

Fern Grace Winter Wildman

on 20th November 2022

### Perpetual Choirs

I've always been fascinated by reading that some Abbeys (Glastonbury for example) had perpetual choirs. These had shifts of choristers taking over every hour of the day and night in rotation, perpetuating the praise and adoration of God without rest or intermission.



*Glastonbury as it may  
have looked*

The reason it comes to mind is that in December, St Thomas' had its own perpetual choir. This is how it came about: in the absence of a vicar we have a rota of volunteers to lock and unlock the church. To create a Christmas atmosphere, it was decided to play quiet carols continuously - but what do you do when you lock the church for the night? When it was my turn in the past, I always recited the ancient Celtic prayer for closing a church for the night:

*“Lord God, may the prayers offered up to you in this church today be acceptable in Thy sight and we ask for Your blessing and protection during the night hours both for this church and all its worshippers.”*

In the end, to circumvent the unlocking and locking cycle, it was decided to run carols perpetually for the whole of December and the church's electronic Einstein, Peter Williams, created a perpetual choir in a little black box and hid it in the pulpit! So we had a perpetual choir and I imagined evening dog walkers passing through the churchyard, hearing worshipful sounds emanating from the church. In Medieval times Glastonbury Abbey was joined by Old Sarum (Salisbury) and perhaps Bangor where for year after year singing would never cease. These perpetual choirs wanted to show undying adulation of God and they even felt that by their chanting they were supporting the dome of heaven with harmony and peace – what a wonderful thought!

I wonder what today we should aspire to be our perpetual offering to God? I think I know what would please Him today: working tirelessly and perpetually to protect and restore the beautiful world He created and has entrusted to us.

What Does the Bible Say about the wise men?

Mark each statement yes (true) or no (false). Then check your answers are below - Just turn the page upside down.

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus	True	False
There were three wise men.	True	False
The wise men brought three gifts to Jesus.	True	False
The wise men saw Baby Jesus in the manger.	True	False
The wise men worshipped Jesus.	True	False



5. The wise men worshipped Jesus. True
4. The wise men saw Baby Jesus in the manger. False
3. The wise men brought three gifts to Jesus. True
2. There were three wise men. False
1. The wise men followed a star to find Jesus. True
- They said, "We saw his star when it came up in the east." Matthew 2:2
- The Bible says "some men" came. Matthew 2:2
- They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11
- The wise men came a long way, and it took a long time. Jesus was probably 1 or 2 years old when the wise men came.
- They knelt down and worshipped him. Matthew 2:11

What does the bible say about the wise men ?



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# Church Rotas

## Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.00am	6.30pm
1 Jan	P Cooke	A Allcard & M Lowe	J Shiel
8 Jan	A Mason	I. Hamilton & C Hamilton	R. Holt
15 Jan	J Butterworth	D Jelleyman & A Sanders	J Shiel
22 Jan	P Cunningham	S McAllister & C Starling	A Shah
29 Jan	A Mason	P Long & A Muller	R Holt
5 Feb	P Cooke	P Forbes & L Forbes	J Shiel

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

## Flower Rota

1 Jan	Christmas flowers	5 Feb	Clare Jackson
8 Jan	Lesley Fatcher	12 Feb	Maggie Williams
15 Jan	Louise Driver	19 Feb	Jenny Johnson
22 Jan	Emma Houghton	26 Feb	No Flowers Lent
29 Jan	Gwenn Perks		

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 Rota

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