

OUTLOOK



Alex & Mary
Church Wardens

Bishop of
Chester

Rev Andrew Tawn
Vicar of St Thomas'

August
2023

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Vicar: Revd Andrew Tawn , The Vicarage , 51 Church Road, Mellor

Phone 0161 484 5079 (Parish Office)

Email office@mellorchurch.org

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Bereavement Helen Kennedy

Pastoral Care Lesley Fitcher

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

melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com.

The deadline for the September issue is August 15th please

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2023

2 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
5 Sat	2.00 pm	Wedding Matthew Asher & Faye Waterhouse
6 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
9th Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
after Trinity	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
9 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
12 Sat	7.30 pm	Organ Concert Gary Hulme
13 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
10th Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
after Trinity	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
16 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
20 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
11th Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
after Trinity	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
23 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
27 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
12th Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
after Trinity	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Parish Centre)
30 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)

Coffee and Chat with the Vicar is on the 2nd Monday of the month

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



Three views of St Thomas'

Glimpsing

I had never heard of Mellor until I saw the advertisement in the Church Times. The description certainly sounded attractive, but we were really intending to move further north to be nearer to our daughter Rosemary so I set the thought of Mellor to one side. But it would not go away. Then I watched the YouTube recording of your Christmas morning service. I quickly realised the choir was something special. Then instead of a solemn organ voluntary we got the Leroy Anderson Sleigh ride and the choir were jingling bells, and making the clip clop and whip sounds. It literally brought tears to my eyes. Great musicianship, youth, and fun. I made a start on my application form that very day.

Visiting

When we were told I was on the short-list for interviews, we were slightly surprised to find that the timetable allowed only an hour for a tour of the parish, and no real chance to meet parishioners. However attractive the church may look, it is the people that matter. As I was free the following Sunday, I contacted the archdeacon to ask if it was acceptable for us to attend a service. He reckoned that counted as 'appropriate research'. So we found ourselves sitting in the congregation, chatting with many of you after the service and then meeting Chris and Julia Mann. I would love to be working with Chris now, and I envy my predecessors that privilege but I am so glad we had that chance to meet him properly. By the time we got home that day we had all fallen in love with the place and I had a strong feeling that this was where God was calling us.

Belonging

In my last job, I had a full time training post, looking after the continuing ministerial development of all the clergy in the diocese. I did not have my own church, so on Sundays I would travel round the diocese, helping out when there were vacancies. I loved the job, but I missed having a 'home' church where we belonged. We are all looking forward to being part of your church family here at St. Thomas'. I have also missed sharing in the important moments of people's lives, through baptisms, weddings and funerals. Already we have been struck by the generosity, thoughtfulness and warmth of your welcome. But after all the courtship, now comes the real getting to know each other. I pray that falling in love will deepen into being in love. For God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

God bless you all,

Andrew

Church flowers

The flowers for the Collation and Induction service were beautiful, but different from what we have been used to seeing.

What was different?

The Church flower arranging team had asked Rev Andrew what flowers he liked. (Not a question he had been asked before). His reply was, “Wild flowers and garden flowers but not exotic.” So the flower arrangers decided to pick the flowers from their gardens and hedgerows. The window

arrangements used a framework of beech twigs, flowering lime tree twigs with the leaves taken off and alchemilla mollis. The colour theme of blue, green and yellow was based on the William Whittam window.

Alison found blue cornflowers in a neighbour’s garden, who happily donated them. Suzie put a mass of blue hydrangeas in a shallow dish in the porch which were kept upright with sellotape put across the rim in a trellis pattern. Cathie said all the flowers were put in buckets of water for twenty four hours before being used.

Some of the flowers used were foxglove, stipa gigantea, knapweed, feverfew, lovage, achillea, astilbe, echinops globe thistle, astrantia, alstroemeria (only bought flower), bronze fennel, phlomis, catanache, ferns, leucanthemum daisies, coreopsis and tidy tips.

Rev Andrew said it was like walking through a beautiful summer meadow. Altogether they provided a perfect setting for a wonderful service.

P.S. Diana tells me “Flowers from the Farm” promote British cut flowers. <https://www.flowersfromthefarm.co.uk/>

Also sometimes New Mills market sell local flowers.

Thank you from us all - the flowers were delightful. Eds.





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This photo was going to be on the front cover as this is the August edition of Outlook. Hopefully many of you may be making FOOTPRINTS ON THE SAND on your holidays. Wherever you are **have a happy holiday** and come back safe.

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat

I could see only one set of footprints

So I said to the Lord

“You promised me Lord that if I followed you you would walk with me always

But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life

there has been only one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?”

The Lord replied

“The times when you have seen only one set of footprints

Is when I carried you.”

Mary Stevenson originally wrote the poem Footprints in the Sand in 1936 when she was only 14 years old. Unfortunately she did not keep a copy. However in 1984 she found a copy which was dated 1939 tucked away in an old travel case with other poems. Therefore, the record states that the original version of Footprints in the Sand was written by Mary Stevenson in 1939. **All 14 year olds notice how famous a poem can become when written by some one the same age as you.**

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a
**Open Meeting &
Grand Charity Event**

**Thursday 17th August
10am - 12 noon**

St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall
in aid of
Marple Dementia Drop-in Group

£1.00 entrance (includes refreshments)
Raffle - Books - Jigsaws - Crafts
Plants - Homemade Produce
Cards - Bric-a-Brac Bring & Buy
Fun Activities

Come along and bring your friends

Mellor March 30

Next year the Mellor March
reaches its
30th anniversary.

Celebrations have started
with a concert
by the

**High Peak Singers in
Glossop.**

The March will be held
on May 5th 2024

but ahead of
that, events are being
encouraged to help the
March reach £250,000
raised for cancer
charities.

Can you help?



Bishop Mark Tanner
Bishop of Chester

Rev Andrew Tawn
Vicar of St Thomas'

Archdeacon of Macclesfield
Ian Bishop
Bishop-designate of
Thetford



Mellor Birds

Maggie Williams

Friday Strollers went to Vernon Park on 14th July. In the middle of the lily pond are lots of reeds out of which stepped (like a policeman) a bird that, although it acted like a black moorhen and was the right shape for a moorhen, was totally the wrong colour. When I looked it up I realised it was a juvenile. They have brown backs and buff underparts quite unlike the adult.

Throughout July on Wednesday mornings in the Parish Centre there have been a dozen eagles as Mary Griffiths gets her Iyenga yoga class to stand and wrap their arms and legs around into the pose Garundasana named after the Hindu god Garuda who is said to be half man and half eagle.

I've heard of three barn owl sightings. At the fete a woman told me she runs early in the morning around Cobden Edge and often sees a barn owl near Rachel's stile (where there is a poem and little house in the stone).

Jill B, at the top of Hollins Lane, says she has seen a barn owl in the field behind her home. Richard, near the Brownie Inn in Rowarth, witnessed a Barn owl catch some prey, sit on a stone wall to eat it and a kestrel came down and took the prey off the owl!!



The highlight of the month for me was at an Open Garden in Marple for Cancer Research UK, near the Dale. I commented how good it was to see a greenfinch on a feeder and Chris H went into her shed and came out with a longtail tit's nest. It had been in a felled tree. It was exquisite. A little globe with light green lichen over the outside held together with cobwebs, moss and up to 1500 feathers inside. You

could gently put your finger inside and it was so soft.

Laughs with Lynda

I used to live hand to mouth.
Do you know what changed my life?
Cutlery.

My attempts to combine nitrous oxide and oxo cubes
made me a laughing stock.

I read an article today that human beings eat more bananas than
monkeys.

I think that's pretty obvious because I don't know anyone who eats
monkeys.



SAVE THE DATE! EDALE 2023

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th OCTOBER



Every year a group of volunteers from St Thomas' Church organises a weekend away for the children (aged 8+) of the whole church community and their friends.

It's an amazing weekend of back-to-basics fun, based at the Peak Centre in beautiful Edale, with crafts, games, climbing wall, music, cooking, and of course a hike!

If you've attended one of the Edale weekends in the last few years we will contact you with booking details later this summer. If you've not been yet, please contact kate.a.scott@googlemail.com if you'd like us to add you to our list – new attendees are warmly encouraged to attend.

Please pass this message on to those you think may be interested, particularly those with children who will only be turning 8 this year (so this is the first time they 'qualify' to attend).

The 2023 Edale Team. Kate Scott, Glyn Britton, Jane Britton, Jen Lowe, Edward Maxwell

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a recital by

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and John LeGrove

ST THOMAS’ MELLOR (SK6 5LX)
Saturday 29th July 2023 at 7.30pm

Programme includes music by
Buxtehude, Bach and Byrd

Free admission: retiring collection



“With most miraculous organ”

Gary Hulme

is giving an organ recital on
Saturday 12 August at 19:30.

Gary is a very well-known player and conductor in the Manchester area, director of the Prestbury Choral Society, organist and choir master at St Mary's Prestwich.

It's worth pointing out that the organ in St Thomas's Mellor is a very fine instrument, built by John Mander, one of the foremost builders working in England in the latter twentieth century

Free admission: retiring collection

Friday Strollers Walk Friday July 14th

We took the no 383 bus at 10.15am outside the old Coop, near Ian Mann's in Marple Bridge, to Vernon Park. We walked up through the well kept park, past the lily pond, band stand, up to the rose garden next to where the museum was but is now a cafe. The museum contents are now at Staircase House.

We then walked into Woodbank Park towards the nursery open Mon-Thursday 11.30am – 2.30pm Then turned towards the path to Pear Mill past an orchard and wild flower area. We had a good lunch in Pear Mill cafe amongst all the antique stalls.

The women running the cafe supported the Vintage Fashion show at the Parish centre, putting up posters and came to the event. To go home we crossed the road to get the next 384 bus back to Marple Bridge that goes every 20 minutes and got back about 3pm. Bus costs £2 if you have no pass. A most interesting walk.

Greek Honey Cheesecake

Melopita is a traditional Greek honey cheesecake from the island of Sifnos, in the Cyclades. We have been on holiday there and were served this cheesecake as part of the breakfast buffet. You will not be able to get the local cheese it is made with, but ricotta makes a good substitute.

500grams ricotta cheese

4 eggs

200g dark runny honey

1½ tablespoons cornflour

Zest of 1 orange

½ tsp cinnamon

½ tsp vanilla



Line a 20cm tin - a spring tin is good but not essential. Set the oven to 160C.

Place all the ingredients in a large bowl and whisk with an electric whisk, blend with a hand blender or beat by hand until smooth and creamy.

Empty the mixture into the lined tin and bake for 35 to 40 minutes until pale gold and just set. Leave it to cool and then transfer to a plate. You can serve with berries, lightly dust with icing sugar and cinnamon or even a drizzle of honey.

It is flat cheesecake (pita means flat in Greek and Mela (means honey). Seemingly in Ancient Greece they were fed to athletes to provide energy and also served at weddings.

Jill Baker

Mellor Art Society

We are a self-help group of amateur artists who meet every Wednesday 7.30pm-9.30pm

At St Martin's Church Hall,
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Sharing a Journey; happy news from Clare Jackson

I think I've been able to share my happy news with many of you already, but just in case, here's an update: in late June I attended a Bishops Advisory Panel, whose job it is to give the final say-so on those folk who would like to train for priesthood. I was pleased (and honestly hugely relieved) to be recommended, which means I can start a Theology and Ministry qualification at Emmanuel Theological College, Chester in September, and then I'll be on my way towards Ordination. Emmanuel TC is a relatively new organisation but one built on the Anglican foundations of the 6 Northwestern dioceses and absorbing some of the older theological colleges in the region to make a broad collaboration of traditions.

Part of the course requires being involved in ministry "in context", so I am waiting for confirmation where that will be. Eventually it will mean leaving the wonderful population and environment of Mellor, but possibly not quite yet.

I must thank so many who have been part of my journey so far, exploring faith more deeply and questioning how we shape our community in a more Christlike way. But especially thanks to those who have encouraged me to take each tentative step forward; your enthusiasm has been so generous, and has made it much easier. It's also made me reflect that we are all 'works in progress', and can't achieve our potential on our own. As some folks say 'it takes a village to raise a child'; others find their strength in a 'Higher Power'; I've felt both over the last year or two, as an expression of the way the Holy Spirit works through us and with us.

Thank you and bless you all.

*To be old is to be part of a huge and ordinary multitude.....
The reason why old-age was venerated in the past was
because it was extraordinary.*

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Captain Ken

Ken Owen

The Storm.

Some readers of Outlook have mentioned that although I have covered a variety of nautical subjects, I have never, so far, described a serious storm. So here goes and it really was a 'Perfect Storm', as depicted in the well known movie of the same name.

I have been very fortunate in my 53 year sea career to have served in well managed and very sound vessels. And that of course makes all the difference when facing a storm, as all at sea are likely to experience some of the time. What has always puzzled me is that although there are ships being overcome by storms, very few cases receive much attention by the media.

In the nineteen eighties I was master of the "Strathconon", a medium sized container ship chartered to Trans Freight Lines of the USA.

We ran between the USA and North Europe and in one voyage, which included six crossings of the North Atlantic, I noted that there were 12 ships which foundered in bad weather. Most of them were giant bulk carriers which at that time were causing great concerns. What totally surprised me was that the USA knew about the one coming to grief on their side of the Atlantic and the Europeans knew of those lost on their side of the Atlantic but nobody seemed to know both.

However, it was some years later, in fact 1996, I was master of the container ship 'Maersk Newark'. She was owned by Jaya in Singapore and on charter to Maersk Lines of Copenhagen. I had a British Chief Engineer, a British Chief Officer, and Burmese Officers and Filipino crew. Also some eight Thai painters, painting the ship, who were not supposed to help the crew. The ship had been built as a normal container ship, but had been converted aft of the bridge to a Ro-Ro ship in order that army tanks could drive themselves up a special ramp.

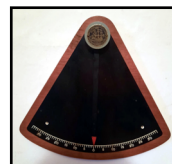


On this particular voyage we were bound from Algeciras in Spain to Halifax, Nova Scotia. From the day we left Spain we experienced awful weather as low pressure after low pressure crossed ahead of us. And then, when only two days time to arrive in Halifax, the weather map, which we received every six hours on the most giant fax machine, showed steady pressure all the way to our destination.

We proceeded full speed to Halifax and sent our Agents a firm Estimate Time of Arrival. Then to our horror, our barometer began to absolutely plunge. The new weather map showed that a new low had formed right on top of us. All we could do was to ride out the storm. The waves were 40 foot or 13 metres high and the gale force winds increasing. I was on the bridge with the duty officer and helmsman and adjusting the speed so we could go as slow as possible but fast enough to still steer the ship.

The ship had several permanent radio aerials and the Chief Officer advised that they were about to crash down, which they did and the noise was so dreadful that suddenly the whole crew, wearing their life jackets, burst into the wheel house quite sure the ship, which was rolling so heavily, was bound to sink.

I, of course, told them not to worry, everything was OK, though I wished I could have replied with more confidence. The inclinometer, which indicates how far the ship is listing, only indicates to 35 degrees but, when it would have read



Inclinometer

40 degrees, it detached itself from the bulkhead and is currently on the wall in our house assuring me that our house is still upright! The anemometer, which indicates the wind strength, was showing 100 mph, which I had never before seen. The driving horizontal rain, prevented any visibility, when suddenly an awful choking smell engulfed us. The Chief engineer rang up to say that this awful smell made it impossible to stay in the engine room as the engineers were choking. Amongst our container cargo was a 20 ton tank container of tear gas.

A large wave had crashed on board and crushed the tank quite flat.

The contents were dispelled into the Atlantic Ocean, and when we reached Halifax, the chemists who came aboard could find no trace of the chemical at all! We reached Halifax safely but the ship and cargo had suffered a lot of damage, and I was extremely grateful to be advised by an extremely competent lawyer from the UK Club, our P&I insurance company.

BOXING

When two people go into a boxing fight their aim is to inflict such severe brain injury to the opponent that he/she collapses and is unable to stand up for at least ten seconds thus losing the fight. The fight is accompanied by the yells of excitement from the audience who are thrilled at the sight of two people trying to batter each other into oblivion. The rules of boxing devised by The Marquess of Queensberry in 1865, restrict a fight to 15 Rounds of 3 minutes with a 1 minute break between rounds, and restrict the area to which a punch could be delivered. Before then bare-knuckle fights could go on as long as both persons could still stand, and the longest recorded fight was of just over 7 hours with 110 Rounds. Large numbers of people have enjoyed watching a fight, with Roman gladiatorial contests particularly bloody and murderous. Later on the Melee and then the Tournament carried on the spectacle of a fight to the death. When such battles fell out of favour people enjoyed bear baiting, bull baiting, badger baiting, cock fighting and hare coursing. At the root of all these activities was the wish for fame, and later for money – which is the main driver of boxing.

Football authorities are becoming increasingly concerned at the incidence of dementia amongst those who have headed the ball, and rugby authorities are also striving to reduce the incidence of brain injury amongst increasingly heavy and violent clashes in scrums and loose

play, but nothing is being done to halt the injuries suffered to a young, developing brain by boxers. Ideally boxing should be banned, but there is too much money to be made out of the spectacle for that to happen. A compromise would be to ban blows to the head, or to make boxers wear headgear, such as those worn at the Olympic Games. The headgear could be equipped with electronic sensors, in the same way as the jerkins of fencers, so that the severity of blows could be recorded and appropriate action taken by the referee when deemed necessary.

Any parent whose child expresses an interest in boxing, or any of the other more violent contests, should dissuade that child from the sport because of the danger of brain injury to a young developing brain.

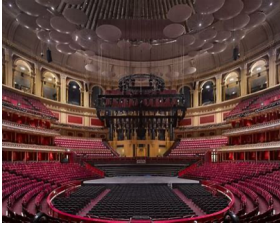
We like to think we live in a civilised and caring society, but there is nothing civilised or caring about a boxing fight!

The Walrus

We have deliberately left out an illustration from this article. We live in an age when we want to avoid hurt in sport to humans and animals. As a woman I particularly detest watching women box. BUT Some say that boxing has “taken them off the streets and improved their lives.” Ed. MML

Alternative points of View will be welcomed by the Editors.

A Date From The Past - August The Promenade Concerts 2023



The conductor has taken his place; the orchestra and choir are seated; the music and libretto are placed on the stands or in the hands; the baton is raised; the lights dimmed and a pin could be heard if it were to be dropped. What a fantastic visual picture is created in The Albert Hall and nearly always a serene sound is created and floats upwards and to all the listeners. Do we ever think how long a piece of music takes to be written (unless you are John Wilson) e.g. Handel took 24 days to complete the 260-page oratorio, **Messiah**, which began on **August 22nd 1741**. The libretto, of course had originally taken a few thousand years longer.

Have we considered all the other preparations that went into the Opening Night of the Proms? We had our own "Opening Night" here in Mellor and there certainly had been a huge amount of preparation and activity since Tracy left in June 2022. Our **Spiritual Care** was in the hands of the Revs. **Ann, Barbara, Giselle, Liz, Ian, Dave** and **Angie** not to mention **Judith Shiel** (on her 3rd Interregnum.) How much time had they taken **to write their sermons, their Funeral Services and visits, their Wedding Services and preparations; their Christening Services; their Evensongs; their Evening Prayers?** Their wisdom, knowledge; and ability to inspire us have served us well - some bringing a new, fresh approach to our services. Everyone of them deserves our overflowing gratitude.

We know the similar jobs at St Thomas' that are needed for an Opening Night. If the speakers cannot be heard Peter Williams' **Audio team** sorts it out. The **'streaming team'** bring the services to many who cannot make it to church. The **extra chairs** were brought in for the 'audience.'

Where would we be without the **Hospitality** of Sue and Chris, their weekly Sunday coffees and their cake teams especially from the **Women's Fellowship**. The Parish Centre is always immaculate thanks to Mike (and even Jack came to the rescue) and the Management Team and those in the Office, Val and Lorraine who keep the wheels of both Church and P.C. well oiled. It was pointed out that when the original thanks went out to the creators of the Fête there is always somebody missing who should be thanked. In cricketing terms a black hole would be created if our good "all rounders" such as Peter Forbes and others were not evident. The 1st Prom Concert included Britten's "Young Person's Guide to The Orchestra." How will 'our little church on the hill' survive if our young people are not



introduced and can take over the jobs on and off the stage. As Paul said, in Corinthians, "Just as a body, though one, has **many parts**, but all its many parts **form one body**, so it is with Christ." **The Carpenter**



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DIARY OF ANOTHER GREAT FETE !!

(with apologies to literary pedants for the mixed tenses)

WEDNESDAY MAY 10th. 6.30pm. A horrid



wet night for the Women's Evening Fellowship fete shower, but plenty of people appeared at Sue Mac's house and £510

was raised. That's a good start!

THURSDAY JUNE 22nd 6.30pm. On John

Hodgson's field (thanks, John) a crowd of strong men and women prepare for the

Herculean task of erecting

3 huge marquees

transported from the mobile, courtesy of Dave

Preston and his indispensable pick-up

truck. Thanks Dave. The marquees prove no

problem for this well co-

ordinated team of bell-ringers, sportsmen,

choristers and others. So next, off to the

hearse house to retrieve all the pieces of the

disassembled bar for the beer tent. Another

major operation quickly accomplished, we're

ahead of ourselves!

A very satisfactory,

if tiring, evening.

FRIDAY JUNE 23rd

3.30pm. More

willing hands on

the field and in the

parish centre where chairs and tables are

set out, massive food order delivered (well

done Rachel and Lizzie), books set out in

the Walklate room, art exhibition curated in

the Freeman room.

6.30pm. Big operation to ferry chairs, tables

and side-shows to the field. Ken and Alwyn's

marquee set up and the staging for the



crowning ceremony. All made very pleasant by the opening of the bar and later, musical entertainment from Oscar and Hannah (thanks a lot, you two). A pleasant and productive social occasion. Biggest questions of the evening- will the weather hold? Will the wind stay away?

SATURDAY JUNE 24th. 9am. Folk already

hard at work- there's still a lot to do! It's not

raining! Our strict and efficient car-parking

team appeared, directing the traffic to

suitable places (thanks, guys). Gradually

different stalls stocked up their goods, the

WEF tent soon displayed lovely home-made

produce, cakes, sweets, jewellery etc.

Raffles were prepared and Lynda's tombola

table started to fill up with prizes. Up went

more gazebos and the various stalls they

sheltered. The BBQ was fired up, the coffee

van arrived- and so did the drummer! He

provided a constant but mainly restrained

background to proceedings, later attracting

lots of would-be drummers, young and old!

No fete would be complete without festive

pip music which at last sounded out

across the field and over Mellor. At last the

bouncy castle arrived (sighs of relief). The

plant stall was stocked, the catapult for the

teddies was erected, the side-shows too.

Frank and his team were busy pulling out

lots of bric-a-brac from the mobile, Heather

and co were sorting the book stall, the art

exhibition and knitted goods were all ready

in the Freeman room, a great team of ladies

were at work in the kitchen preparing

sandwiches and sorting cakes. Our

wonderful MC Ian Hamilton arrived, smartly

dressed in jacket and straw hat. We're just

about ready to go! Was that a drop of rain?

Thankfully no more than 20 drops- then the

sun came out.

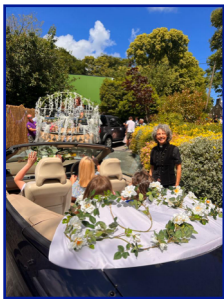
12.30pm. News that the procession of rose

queens is on its way reaches us. 2



wonderfully bedecked cars and trailers arrive carrying the retiring Rose Queen Daisy, and the incoming Rose Queen Molly and their retinues. Off to the field they go,

announced by MC Ian to the traditional strains of the Grand March from "Aida". Retiring Rose Queen Daisy thanks her retinue and her hard-working Mum and Grandma, and announces that she has raised just over £4000 for her charities, RNLI and Seashell Trust. Well done Daisy! Step up Rev Angie Stanton to introduce and bless Molly, and Daisy duly crowns her as the new Rose Queen. Molly's first job is to declare the fete open, then go off to entrust her teddy into the safe hands of Julia and Rebecca (Did you see that great photo of Chris undertaking the same mission last year?) who successfully fired this first teddy into the ether, ably assisted by no less than a professor of aeronautical engineering (thanks, Bill). Next, to the



Maypole. What a lovely tradition this is, and well done to all who skipped cheerfully round, weaving a magical pattern with their ribbons. Now the fete could get into full swing- and it did! Fine weather meant that

lots of people came and lingered happily all afternoon. It also meant that for the first time, Emma's Dog Show did NOT take place in pouring rain! Plenty of dogs, plenty of prizes, all good fun as ever. Thanks to



Helen Spiegl for stepping in at the last minute to be an extremely capable judge. Well done to all rosette winners! Meanwhile, highly competitive contests were taking place in

football, golf and -new this year- lacrosse. (Thanks, sportsmen!) The Hook-a-Duck game was definitely the hit of the afternoon amongst young children with a deflation-proof pond, plenty of ducks and plenty of prizes (and consolation prizes- you can't go wrong with Swizzels sweets). Mr Punch yet again proved to be hopeless at taking care of the baby, to the delight of the watching children. (Thanks Lucia and friends). All the while people queued for burgers, beer and Pimms, enjoyed tea and cakes on the field and in the Parish Centre and plenty of money changed hands on the various stalls.



Raffle and tombola tickets were sold and the office was kept busy receiving the takings and totting them up. (Thanks, team). Time for the races! Running, potato-and-spoon and sack races were run in true Olympian spirit, urged on by the spectators. Now to the infamous, legendary, Mellor Tug-of-War! History was made! Men pulled up the hill first, then ladies, then men so as always the odds were in favour of the ladies. But no!- what had the men had for breakfast? They were clear winners! (Or did the ladies lose deliberately out of sympathy?) No hard feelings anyway. Finally, the raffles were drawn. There were some amazing prizes and plenty of lucky winners. Thank you to all the prize donors.



Fete Evening - Mackerel Sky.

Captain Ken on seeing the sky told me this saying:-

“Mare’s tails and mackerel scales
Make tall ships
take in their sails.”

So a happy afternoon drew to a close and those who had worked hard could sit down and enjoy a beer though not for long, as there was still work to do to prepare for the evening event. **7pm.** A happy crowd were making themselves comfortable on the field, charging their glasses and enjoying pizzas from Epic Pizza. Frank’s band- “Vintage and the Allstars”- were sorting out their sound system and eventually things got under way. Great music- and dancing! and no better place to be on this lovely calm and balmy (barmy??) evening, with the spectacular Mellor views at their best. A perfect end to a very happy and successful day.

SUNDAY JUNE 25th. 11.30 am. The heavy brigade arrive to dismantle the marquees but find that, as if by magic, the field has been cleared of litter and some are already hard at work (Dave Preston again, and Ann and others). It was breezy, but nothing like as windy as last year when we had huge

problems. The team worked incredibly hard for several hours, sustained only by one packet of biscuits, so were exhausted when they finished, but the work was just about done. Had there really been a fete yesterday? No lingering signs of it

Footnote: The fete could not happen without the massive amount of work in preparation, willingly given by all involved. Planning meetings begin in February, recruiting starts in May and the week of the fete is sheer physical graft. We are delighted to have some of the younger generation on board now - thanks, Rachel, Lizzie, Caroline and Henry. Thankfully, they all say they’ve enjoyed being involved (our meetings are fun!) and say they will be happy to reprise their roles next year- great news! A massive thank you again to our captain, Angus Wilson, whose good-humoured, unflappable and efficient direction was at the heart of this successful fete which we are very pleased to report has surpassed last year’s total and stands at £10,122.29. And a final thank you to everyone who contributed their time, energy and expertise in any way. You are too many to mention individually but very much appreciated. Let’s do it all again next year! From the fete committee. (Helen K being the scribe)

Church Country Fete Raffle donors 2023

The generosity of local businesses was heart warming. Here is who they were:-

FOLD Bistro and Bottle Shop: a case of wine- won by Fraser M

Royal Oak: £100 voucher- won by Gwen R

Home Instead: hamper- won by David M

Post Office: hamper- won by Jonathan C

Sherlocks: two £25 vouchers- won by Alison D

Sherlocks Barber: two £20 vouchers- won by Jenny J and Jan

Devonshire : £50 voucher- won by Helena V

Pack Horse: £40 voucher- won by Leanne C

Oddfellows- Ribeye steak and wine- won by Ruth L

Town Street Fryer: two fish suppers for 2- won by Margaret S

Libbys: £35 voucher- won by Simon T

Dutsons: £20 voucher- won by Helen R

Royal Scot: 2 pizzas and 2 pints- won by Mary H

Norfolk: afternoon tea- won by Gareth

Regent Cinema: voucher for £12.80- won by Catrina

All Thing's Nice: voucher for £10- won by Andrew S



Well dressing 2023

Well Dressing

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2023 Well dressing and Arts Festival.

Looking ahead we are appealing for more members of the team.

Well dressing involves:-

Soaking the boards,

Puddling (covering the boards in clay),

Pricking out the outline of the picture from tracing paper onto the clay,

Dressing the picture with natural materials – petals, bark moss etc. and then **Mounting** the boards by the gate to the church. The whole process takes a week.

No artistic ability is necessary. Dressing takes place in the evening as well as during the day, for those

at work. It is an ancient

Derbyshire tradition and to keep it going in Mellor new volunteers are needed.



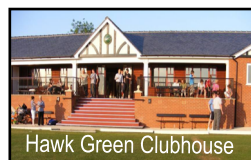
AS SEEN FROM COW CORNER



It's high summer now as smoke billows from a lawn mower that should have been sent for servicing over the winter months, and screams of delight as children frolic in a paddling pool, but none of this distracts the batsmen of Holmes Chapel, a first visit for that club to Longhurst Lane, from slowly accumulating runs. This was helped by the Mellor bowling strength being depleted and having to rely on some part time bowlers of pedestrian pace, but inroads were made into the visitors' batting, but not before they had reached 173 all out. As well as Mellor's bowling being weak, the batting line-up was not at full strength, with the outcome of their being all out for 137.

The next opponents, Hawk Green away, were always going to be a tall order, as they were riding high at the top of the league, having scored well over two hundred runs on each of their last three innings. With that in mind, the Hawk Green captain, on winning the toss, chose to bat first. As it had not rained for a few weeks, the outfield was quick and resulted in runs coming at a very fast rate. The Mellor bowlers had little success, and after an unexpected fall of an early wicket, the next two batsmen contributed with a stand of 180 for the third wicket. In a desperate move to stem this flow, the Mellor captain brought himself on to bowl, but this proved disastrous as over 40 runs came off the two overs he gave himself. The result of this mayhem was a total of 356 for five wickets, and no realistic person gave Mellor any hope of achieving this total. Consequently, the visitors capitulated for 81 runs in just 21 overs.

Mellor's bowling was strengthened with the inclusion of some of the up-and-coming juniors in the next home fixture against Offerton. The visitors were always in trouble and were all out in just 32 overs for 139. This target was easily achieved, helped by a delightful 70 not out by the young left handed opener, and lost just four wickets in so doing, gaining a welcome rare victory.



After an early loss of a wicket, Mellor's two left handers, one fleet of foot, the other not so, each scored over 50 runs. There then followed some injudicious batting, but a total of 169 for seven wickets was reached in a rain affected innings of 30 overs. The visitors, in reply, lost an early wicket but the Mellor bowlers could not part the next two batsmen who put on a stand of over 150 runs. The rumbling of thunder close by, was the only hope of avoiding defeat, but this was not to be, as the visitors reached the target with the loss of just three wickets.

Although the various junior sides have suffered some defeats against much stronger opposition, most of the teams continue to prosper gaining some unexpected wins and progressing in their various competitions.

Silly Point

Friday Strollers

For our August 'Summer Special' walk we will meet in the church car park at 10 a.m. and decide on the day where to go for a stroll. This could involve a short car journey but will always involve coffee and cake.

Friday 11 August

For more information email Judy Cooper
Judecoopurr@hotmail.com



Judy



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Anyone for Tennis?

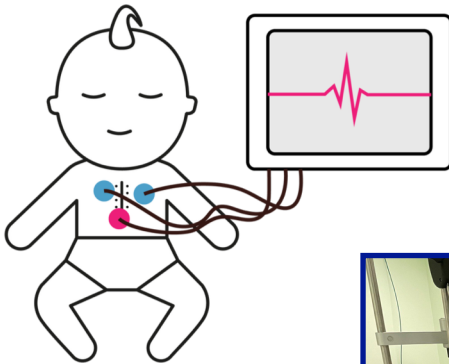
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Contact Lucy Greenaway for more information at lucygreenaway@hotmail.co.uk

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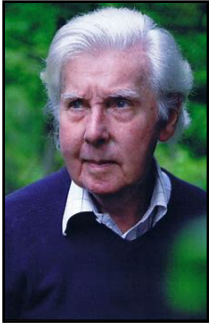
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This extract is from 'Next To Nature' by Ronald Blythe published in 2022. He died in January 2023, peacefully at home in his centuries old farmhouse in Suffolk, aged 100. His constant detailed observation of the natural world around him together with the plea of the dragonfly remind us all - *to live the day, fill each day and rejoice in each day.*



It often takes a late August afternoon to hear the minimal voice of nature, the sultry popping of seed, the whisper of dried petals, the scuttle in the vine. I gently kick 'Conrad's Letters' into the

shade with a bare toe so that the cover doesn't curl. A hundred years ago Conrad was like writing 'Lord Jim' and giving his literary

agent what for, reminding him that there

are other virtues than punctuality.

Photographs of Conrad revealed that he would also give me a piece of his mind if you could see me in nothing but a orn

shirt and shorts writing in the garden. Konrad wore, even in August, a splendid

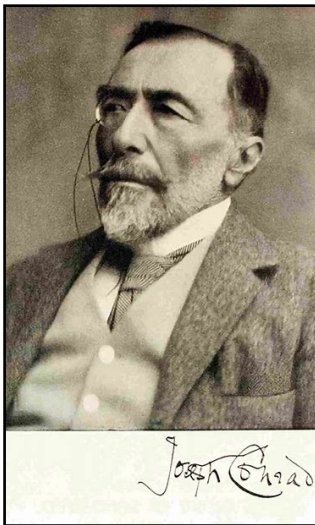
suit and polished boots at isolated Pent Farm Moreover, inside, there was Mrs

Conrad, who could type that marvellous style of his curling from the keys. My ball

point pen does its best and now and then the dragonfly makes a sudden landing on

a line (in his notebook) Oh English

summer day,' it pleads, 'as it is my only day, last as long as you can.'



Prayer for the month

Lover of the poor, defender of the needy,
Sanctuary of the rejected:

For those who suffer injustice today,
For men and women who cannot provide food for their families,
And for whole communities who fear today and have no hope for
tomorrow,

We offer the longings of our hearts in prayer.

We seek for them, O God, the gifts that are dear to us:
Food for the table, drink for the soul, shelter in the night
And open arms to welcome us.

(J. Philip Newell in Celtic Treasure: daily scriptures and prayer)

Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord in the suffering
This is our prayer
Bread for the children
Justice Joy Peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your Kingdom increase

Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed
Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice burns
Brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of Your ways
Seek Your salvation

My favourite hymn is inspired by Judith's beautiful Celtic Prayer. If you have a favourite hymn or piece of prose please send it to us. Ed. MML

Church Rotas

Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.00am	6.30pm
6 Aug	P Cooke	P Long & A Muller	R Holt
13 Aug	P Cunningham	C Starling & C Langford	J Shiel
20 Aug	J Butterworth	S McAllister & S Knight	A Shah
27 Aug	A Mason	L Forbes & P Forbes	R. Holt
3 Sept	P Cooke	M Lowe & M Williams	J Shiel

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

Flower rota

06	Aug wedding flowers	03	Sept Wedding flowers
13	Aug Diana Cole	10	Sept Julia Mann
20	Aug Alison Allcard	17	Sept Angela Muller
27	Aug Wedding flowers	25	Sept Alwyn Owen

Holy Dusters

6 Aug	L & J Futchter
13 Aug	A Mason & C Starling
20 Aug	J & D Butterworth
27 Aug	A Allcard & J Jones
3 Sept	J Burrows & E Wilson

Brasses Rota

S Norbury & S Edmundson

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