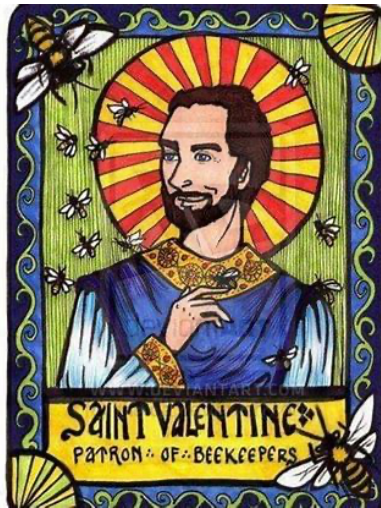
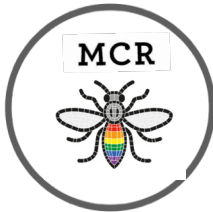




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Registered Charity No. 1130414

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

Phone 0161 604 4993 Vicarage

Email revandrewtawn@gmail.com

Parish Office The Mellor Centre, Church Road, Mellor, Stockport SK6 5LX

For all enquiries and bookings for the church & Mellor Centre
contact phone 0161 484 5079 or email office@mellorchurch.org

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

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

Reader Dave Shercliff 56 Ernocroft Rd, Marple Bridge, 07519931219

Church Wardens Mary Heijbroek 0161 427 3241

Alex Eggeman 07772849657

Dep Church Warden Rachel Howling 0161 427 5891

PCC Treasurer Richard Elliott contact via Parish Office

Assistant David Butterworth

Treasurers Andrew Sanders

Gift Aid Secretary Karen Greenough

PCC Secretary Julie Elliott 64 Ernocroft Road 427 5981

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

Editors of Outlook Magazine Maggie Williams and Margaret Leng

Elected Members Ian Dayes, Alison Dowdeswell, Alex Eggeman, Julie Elliott,

Of PCC Richard Elliott, Kate Higgins, David Horsfall, Sylvia Knight,
Angie Stanton, Sian Yeowell.

Emma Wilson & Kathryn Maxwell (Safeguarding Officers)

Deanery / Diocesan Judith Shiel / Mary Heijbroek

Churches Together in Marple Representative Helen Kennedy

Pastoral Care Group Coordinator Lesley Fitcher 449 0977

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

melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com.

The deadline for the March issue is February 15th please.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

4 Sun 2nd Sunday before Lent	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	3 to 5 pm	Messy Church and Christingle (The Mellor Centre)
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion (The Mellor Centre)

7 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (The Mellor Centre)
9 Fri	6.00pm	Choir Pizza rehearsal (The Mellor Centre)

11 Sun Sunday next before Lent	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (The Mellor Centre)

12 Mon	10.45 am- 12 noon	Coffee & Chat (The Mellor Centre)
14 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (The Mellor Centre)
Ash Wednesday	11.00 am 7.30 pm	Lent Bible Study (The Mellor Centre) Churches Together service

18 Sun 1st Sunday of Lent	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong

21 Wed	10.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion (The Mellor Centre) Lent Bible Study (The Mellor Centre)
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25 Sun 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (The Mellor Centre)

26 Mon	7.45 pm	PCC meeting.The Mellor Centre
28 Wed	10.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion (The Mellor Centre) Lent Bible Study (The Mellor Centre)

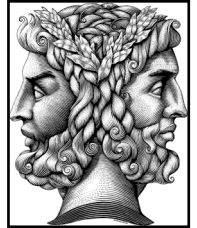
<p>Coffee and Chat with the Vicar is on the 2nd Monday of the month Prayer Group meets every Monday 10.30 to 11.00 am (The Mellor Centre) Women's Evening Fellowship meets on the second Wednesday 2-4pm (The Mellor Centre) Toddlers' Group meets on Thursday each week 10.00 am to 11.30 am (The Mellor Centre) Knit and Natter meets on Thursday each week 10.30 am to 12 noon (The Mellor Centre) The Choir practises each week on Friday at 6.30 pm</p>
--



Vicar's Viewpoint February 2024

Looking back and looking ahead

I write this in the middle of January, the month named after the Roman God Janus. Janus had two faces, one looking back and one looking forwards. In much the same way, in January we often look back over the past year, reviewing all that has happened, while at the same time looking ahead to the year to come. 2023 was a momentous year for me. As I write in the middle of January it is exactly one year since I submitted my application form for the post of Vicar of Mellor. I and my family have now been with you for six months and already we feel very settled and rooted here.



Our first Christmas in Mellor has been memorable. The singing and the atmosphere at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols was uplifting. The choir party afterwards illustrated how important the social side of the choir is too. I was promised the crib service would be amazing and I was not disappointed - more about that in another article in this edition.

The church looked stunning for Christmas, with all the candles lit, with the fine Christmas tree and Tthe Crib Set in the chancel mid-week. Seeing all the candles lit (the first time we have done so), and the beautiful flower arrangements everywhere.

I also really enjoyed visiting **Mellor Primary School** for their three Christmas productions (Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2). In recent years the pandemic and series of lockdowns have interrupted the church's ministry at the school. One of my hopes and priorities for the coming year is to re-establish a strong relationship between church and school.

A major highlight already this year was the wonderful **service of baptism and confirmation** on 14th January. I was so proud of the five candidates who were confirmed. It was a privilege and joy to get to know them better over the 8 preparation sessions. I also want

to thank Clare, Kate and Mary who contributed to those sessions.

There is much to look forward to in the near future:

Messy Church and Christingle on 4th February, 3 - 5 pm (see the poster in the edition)

Choir Pizza rehearsal on Friday 9th February at 6 pm in The Mellor Centre - a free 'taster' evening, both food and singing, for anyone interested in joining. If you would like to know more, see the choir website: www.mellorchurchchoir.co.uk

I am really grateful to Clare for organising the **Lent Study Course** this year, starting on Ash Wednesday, 14th February (again - there is more information in this edition if you read on). This will be important experience for Clare as part of her ordination training, and a great blessing for us.

I would like to end with words of a blessing I gave to the confirmation candidates. May this be God's blessing on you this coming year:

May you be blessed with all things good.

May your joys, like the stars at night,
be too numerous to count.

May every pathway you choose
lead to that which is pure and good and lovely.
May gladness wash away every disappointment
may joy dissolve every sorrow
and may love ease every pain.

May you be blessed,
and may others be blessed by you.

God bless you,



Andrew

2024 Lent Bible Study

All are welcome to join St Thomas' 6 week Bible Study during Lent and in preparation for Easter. There is a choice of session, either

Wednesday morning 11am after Holy Communion in The Mellor Centre,

or Wednesday evening 7.30 pm (venue tbc), both starting Ash Wed Feb 14th.

Clare Jackson will be leading us in a time of bible study, discussion and reflection on how the themes in scripture echo through our daily lives.

Please leave your name and contact details with Val (the Parish secretary) in the office if you would like to attend either, or if you have further questions. **0161 484 5079.**

office@mellorchurch.org.

Check the website www.mellorchurch.org or Facebook for more info.

Can you eat a Christmas tree?

One of the questions asked in a Christmas quiz was, '**Can you eat a Christmas tree?**' The answer is YES and you might be interested to know its uses.

*The Plants For a Future database lists the following edible uses for the Norway spruce:

*Young male catkins either raw or cooked can be used as a flavouring.

*Immature female cones can be cooked. The central portion, when roasted, is sweet and syrupy.

*The raw seed is rich in oil and with a pleasant slightly resinous flavour, but too small and fiddly to be worthwhile unless you are desperate.

*A refreshing tea, rich in vitamin C, can be made from the young shoot tips. These tips are also used in making spruce beer.

Food for thought but always check that you are eating the correct plant

Ed. Maggie



St Thomas' Church
MELLOR AND MARPLE BRIDGE



Messy Church & Christingle

Sunday 4th February

3 pm - 5 pm

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**For more information please contact Andrew Tawn (Vicar):
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The 'Famous' Mellor Crib Service

Very soon after I arrived in Mellor people started asking me, 'Will there be a crib service this year?' I soon began to realise what a major event this service has been in the culture and folk memory of the community here. It seems many people date Christmases past according to who took which role that year. 'Ah yes,' they say, 'That's the year so and so was Mary, and so and so was baby Jesus.'

I had no doubt that we should continue this tradition, as long as there were helpers and a will to make it happen. The first big question was whether we should hold one shorter service (as you did last year) or be ambitious and go back to holding two services with two casts, a lot of additional work, and a well-organised turn-around between 4 and 5.30 pm. I am so glad we decided to go for the two services. The online (free) tickets were 'sold out' within a couple of days, such was the demand. It was great to see the church full on both occasions, and to send out a clear message that 'normal service' was resumed, after the restrictions of the pandemic.

At the first rehearsal, attendance was a bit thin. I had to step in to play the role of Joseph and another dad played Mary! One of the narrators read nicely but very quietly. She and her parents obviously went away and



practised because the following

week her voice was transformed - strong and clear and expressive. That was one of many moving moments for me. If I was a bit concerned how it would go on the day, Oscar was calm and confident it would all come together - and he was right.



Each service lasted just half an hour, but that was the end result of hours and hours of work by so many people behind the scenes. Thank you to all who sorted out, cleaned and repaired the costumes; to those who organised the casting; to those who helped with the rehearsals and

looked after the movements backstage; to the car park stewards and traffic controllers up and down the hill; to those who provided the lighting and sound; thank you to the owner and keeper of the donkey (who stole the show by travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem and then set off back again with Mary still on his back before returning so Mary could alight nimbly); thank you to the trusting parents of



the two babies who played Jesus - one of whom was only two weeks old! Thank you, of course, to all the children who took part and to their parents for all their help and support.

There are too many people to thank individually by name, but I do want to single out Oscar for his role as producer and Julia for co-ordinating the many, many different

strands that all



came together. It was an immense effort but the magic of the day made it worth it. I have no doubt this will remain a special memory for the children who took part, for the rest of their lives. For many years Chris Mann was the mastermind behind the crib service, so it was poignant to recall that this was the first



Christmas without him. Oscar paid a moving tribute to Chris at the service. I am sure Chris would have suggested various ways we could improve for next year, but I like to think he was looking on with satisfaction, to see that this tradition lives on.

Andrew

Publicity Group

I have been on the Publicity Group for more years than I care to remember and would now like to retire. Please think about joining the group which, at the moment, is Judith and myself, since Gwenn's illness. The job entails putting up posters at various sites, creating the Christmas cards, generally keeping the Parish informed of services and special events. We have also organised the purchase and sales of the Advent Calendars and sometimes the Easter Eggs, both from the Meaningful Chocolate Company which is a Fair Trade organisation. It is a very worthwhile job, not too onerous, which can encourage more people to come to services and promotes the church to the wider community."

Alison Allcard

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A DIY project for 2024 / Mellor Birds

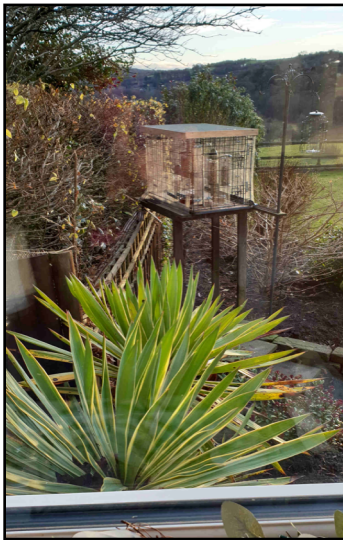
Maggie Williams

Quite a few people say to me that they have large birds in their garden like jackdaws, wood pigeons, jays and magpies but no little birds which they would like to see. Well, I think I may have an answer for you.

Margaret Lowe was delivering her round of Outlook magazines along Parkside when she came across Doug fabricating or rather rebuilding/ refining his bird feeder. Doug has been determined to stop the squirrels and large birds getting to his bird feeders.

His wife Heather came up with the idea of getting the smallest dog cage you can buy from Pets at Home.

To keep the food dry he fitted a green felt roof on top. Then the sides are covered in 3mm (no less as squirrels eat it) perspex sheeting. He did not attach the perspex with cable ties as the squirrels eat them.



Doug cut at the back, a small hole 25mm sq.

No Bigger, as squirrels can get in through a 30mm hole.

The feeder is perfectly sited so he can sit at the dining table and look out about two metres away at eye level into the bird feeder which is



close to a hedge looking over the lawn. There are five cylindrical bird feeders hanging inside from the cage roof with nuts and seeds. Also dishes with broken up fat balls. Now Doug watches up to four nuthatches, goldfinches, chaffinches, blue tits, great tits, coal tits, long tail tits and robins.

Memorable Date in February 2024

This page could have started with a short biography of Nelson Mandela who was released from prison on **February 11th 1990, 27 years after being imprisoned.** In the latter part of his life he probably became the most well known man in the world.

He was not angry with those who had wronged him but rather he wanted peace for everyone whatever their colour. He promoted **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION** which was copied around the world and he became the **first black President of South Africa** in 1990.

Instead of using words from other sources space is better filled with excerpts from his own famous speeches or writings to inspire us all.

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No one is born hating another person because of the **colour** of his **skin**, or his **background** or his **religion**.

People must learn to **hate**, and if they can learn to **hate**, they can be taught to **love**, for **love** comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.



PICKLEBALL

What is that? I am constantly asked when I say I play it. Pickleball is a game from America, that is fast becoming very popular over here. First invented by parents in 1965 as a child's game.

It is a game that encompasses factors of tennis, badminton and table tennis, and if you like racket sports you would enjoy this.

It is played on a badminton sized court, with an airflow ball (a plastic ball with holes in it) and a paddle bat, slightly larger than a table

tennis bat. The scoring follows the 'old' badminton style of scoring, whereby a side can only win a point if they have served the ball. The net is slightly smaller than a tennis net, and the area either side of it is called the 'kitchen'.

Players stand behind the back line to serve into the opposite court, and the ball must bounce once before it can be hit back. That return also has to bounce once before being hit, from then onwards the ball can be volleyed or allowed to bounce on the return shot. But ... if you volley from behind the kitchen area, and your foot strays into that area, it's a lost shot, but if the ball bounces in the kitchen area first you can put your foot in the kitchen and play on! Are you in a pickle now? It's actually easier than it sounds, and the aim after the third shot is to go to the kitchen area and volley from there to beat your opponent, and where a lot of furious fun is had. It is not as exhausting as tennis, and is a lot of fun.

If you fancy trying it, then come along to Brinnington Leisure park, Northumberland Rd, on a Friday at 12 noon and join us. We are new group of learners and everyone is welcome.

Have exercise and fun.

Jenny Mason



Mellor's Got Talent 2024

Calling all available talent for this year's Mellor's Got Talent show which will be on Saturday 9th March. If you would like to enter an act for MGT 2024 then please get in touch with Tom Howling by email t.howling@nhs.net. Acts are maximum 5 minutes only and all participants must be at least 16 years of age. Tickets will be on sale in February. Proceeds from this year's show are going to Rose Queen Molly's charity Tiny Tickers (which works to increase the detection, care and treatment of babies with serious heart conditions) and to St. Thomas' Church.

Tom Howling

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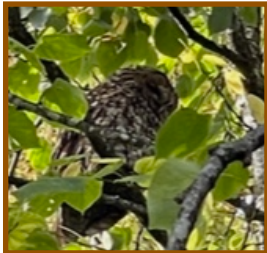
Maggie Williams

On Christmas Day Greg L was riding his horse along Bogguard Lane towards Five Lane Ends when he saw on the stone wall to his left two **stonechats**. The male has a lovely red breast, perfect for Christmas.

There has been great joy up at Moor End over Christmas and the New Year as **barn owls** are giving close up aerial displays not only at dawn and dusk but during the day as well. First of all I was on the 385 bus when Margaret, who lives near the top of Moor End Road on the left, said on Christmas Day that the barn owl flew past her back bedroom window. What a Christmas present! Jan C saw three barn



owls near the bus terminus at Rush Lane on Dec 30th and again since then in quite murky conditions and close up at 9.30am. Then Jane C at the top of Longhurst Lane, sent a video of the owl doing a 'New Year's Day fly by' their home, over the field looking up to the Church. Then Alison and Ian D, a few doors away, on Longhurst Lane sent this great photo not only of a barn owl on a post but also a Tawny Owl roosting saying:- 'We have had the pleasure of watching a barn owl in



the field behind us over the last few weeks. It often appears around 8.00am. However, last week it was quartering the field hunting during the day. We also saw a tawny owl roosting in a tree on Mellor Rec (19/10/23 at 14:30) - it was there for a couple of days - a nice sight.' Then on Jan 5th Helen G saw the barn owl while out walking. Helen also spotted Rishi Sunak in Marple that day.

John W on Church Lane had not been seeing many birds on his feeder so bought some new feeders and instantly

saw a **woodpecker and goldfinches**.

Julia M has been watching a **nuthatch** at The Mellor Centre, opposite the drive, up a telegraph pole, hammering on a metal box.

David K opposite the Rec has seen five **redpolls** in his garden. He always used to have them in his garden but they disappeared last year. His ecologist son saw with a thermal camera three **woodcock** in the new tree plantation on Gibb Lane - probably over wintering here from the continent.

Rosemary H who reads Outlook at her home in Leicestershire surrounded by old woodlands and fields had a lovely surprise when two very small black and white woodpeckers came high in the tree near her door. On closer inspection they were **lesser spotted woodpeckers** she had never seen before. Lucky Rosemary.

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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Captain Ken

Ken Owen

I little thought when I began my series of interesting memories, that I would include my year based ashore in the City of London.

It was in the very early days of containers and we were a small team of ship planners appointed by TRIO Lines, UK, Germany and Japan. The shipping companies included were Ben Line from Scotland, Overseas Containers from England, Hapag Lloyd from Germany and NYK and OSK from Japan. We little thought at the time, that this new system would change the entire global business.

Prior to containerisation, the cargo liners' cargo was planned by the ship's chief officer, who was well aware that the profit or loss on the voyage depended on the cargo planning. Due to the present Red Sea crisis we are seeing these enormous ships regularly on our TV screens. Some carry as many as 24 thousand (twenty foot equivalent) containers, and I frequently think what a skill and responsibility their planners must need.

One Friday night when I was working late in my London office, planning a ship loading in Taiwan, I received an urgent call from the manager of a circus in Germany. He had booked his circus on one of our ships sailing to the Far East. He said, "You've agreed to carry two circus staff on your ship together with all the animals, could you possibly take an extra one?" I just couldn't contact any of our management that deal with these matters so I joked, 'I've recently sailed on the ship, so I know she won't notice one extra clown, so that's OK. When Monday morning came round my phone was red hot. By giving another free passage to another circus hand it was against the Conference rules and thus considered a bribe to help secure the whole booking! And of course our Company would not stoop to such behaviour.

Anyway I managed to make up for accommodating the extra clown.

The ship I had planned was on her way home but had plenty

of space remaining due to a Far East holiday. I arranged for her to call at Jeddah to load several hundred empty containers we had waiting there. Our other partners agreed to the change of schedule but refused to load any empties so they wouldn't need to pay any of the port charges. Then, due to a dockers' strike in Southampton, it was decided to put the ship into Portbury, the new container port for Bristol. As it was a maiden call, the Bristol Newspaper displayed a perfect photograph of our ship with all the deck cargo being OCL containers. The management were specially impressed as all other photos of the ship fully loaded showed the containers of all the five companies in TRIO.

They forgot about the extra clown and thanked me for the thoughtful planning.



Captain Ken was not sure which ship was in the new Bristol Portbury Dock but this selection of

photos will remind him of the cars and other cargo being loaded onto the container ships. We have all tried hard to find the front page photo of the ship but to no avail.

Eds MW MML

Pasta Flora or Greek Jam Tart

Jill Baker

This is normally served as a large tart with a lattice topping or you can use small tins, on either if you do not want to make a lattice decorations such as hearts, stars cut with biscuit cutters will look good. I have never put alcohol in pastry so looked up to find out why it is used, it prevents the proteins bonding so moistens the dough without toughening it.

The alcohol burns off in the heat of the oven so is safe for everyone.

Glaze with beaten egg yolk, a first for me I have always used beaten egg but using only the yolk does really gild the pastry.

300g plain flour
100g caster sugar
170g butter
1 egg
2tbsp brandy (or any spirit - optional)
I used Cointreau
Zest of half an orange
400g of jam preferably I like raspberry or a Morello cherry that is not too sweet.
Beaten egg yolk to glaze



Rub the fat into the flour until you have breadcrumbs or use a food processor.

Stir in the sugar, orange zest, then add the alcohol and egg.

Bring together and knead as little as possible until you have a ball of dough. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

Set the oven at 170C and lightly butter a 25 cm tart tin.

Cut 1/3rd of the ball of dough and put it aside for the decoration of the top.

Roll the dough to a circle to line your tin and lightly prick the base with a fork.

Spread the jam over the dough and top with either a lattice or some shapes cut with a biscuit cutter.

Bake for 25 -30 minutes.



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'Discovery' is a spectacular sound and light experience event coming to Chester Cathedral In February. Themed around 'Science and Space' the installation, a first for Chester, invites people to ponder our relationship with our planet and beyond.

Discovery will be an immersive journey for people to walk through and explore Chester Cathedral in a new light, inviting you to fully immerse yourself in the artwork, and consider what humans have achieved in our place in the world.

Sound and light art will take you on a journey through space. You will have the chance to see original footage of the rocket launch, explore the creation story and the Big Bang and view the of Earth as if looking back from space under a galaxy of stars.

Discovery is designed to enable people to explore and contemplate the contributions of science and human understanding of the physical world around us.

The artwork will explore chemistry and biology and interpret artistically the scale of molecules cells and DNA as well as exploring the history of science and its contributions to humanity, while reflecting upon famous scientists past and present.

The architectural beauty of Chester Cathedral will be exposed and enhanced by the artwork projected throughout as you walk through the light artworks and installations.

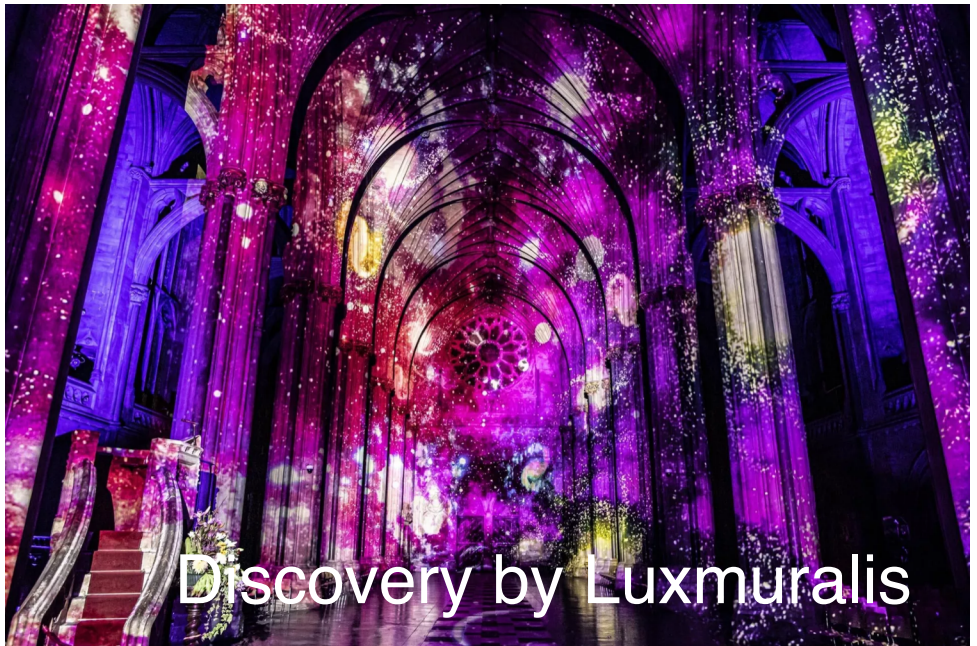
The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, Dean of Chester says:

'I'm excited to commence 2024 with such an awe-inspiring event. Peter Walker, and the Luxmuralis team have created events in cathedrals nationally, and it's fantastic to bring one to Chester. A first for the city!' Our visitors were stunned by the 'Once a Desert' installation in the Cathedral nave in 2022, however, Discovery will be much larger, and illuminate most of the Cathedral interior. It really will be outstanding!' he concludes.

Artist Peter walker says:

‘The installation allows us to look at such concepts, from the vastness of space to the smallest things ever discovered, from the uniqueness of earth to its fragility. The installation is for people of all ages to walk through a truly immersive fine art experience with almost every inch of the Cathedral bathed in light and sound, and the chance to sit on the floor and watch the universe unfold before you.’

Discovery will open on Wednesday 21 February until Saturday 24 February. Tickets are priced at £9.50 for adults and £6 for children. The event will open at 5.45pm with show times through until 8.30pm daily. Tickets are available from [Chester Cathedral Website](#)



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From the Registers

Christenings

We welcomed into God's family

Nancy Mary Jane Nicholls on 10th December.

Ophelia Grace Kay on 17th December

Jack Samuel West on 17th December

Samuel Rupert Weston 17th December

Funerals

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

Audrey Pickup – Thursday 14th Decembe

Oliver Buchanan – Wednesday 20th December

Lisa Newton – Memorial service – Wednesday 10th January



Prayer for the Month

Lift us Lord,
From darkness to light
From sickness to health
From distress to calm

Lift us Lord
From sadness to joy
From fear to faith
From loneliness to love

Lift us Lord
In mind and in spirit
In word and in deed
In body and in soul



Farmer John - Mountain Bike Track

If you are looking for some excitement in Mellor I can suggest looking at Farmer John's website and looking at some of the videos.

If you click on this QR code it shows a video of cycling from Glossop Road down to the the River Etherow in under two minutes on Farmer John's Mountain Bike Racing Track!



Thank you to Sally Maltby who suggested Outlook should interview Farmer John about his Mountain Bike Track.

How long has John Thorp's family lived at Hillside farm, Cote Green Lane?

Since 1891 when Lord Howard of Glossop's estate had to sell the farm to pay death duties. Five generations of Thorps have lived at Hillside farm.

When did John start building the Mountain Bike track?

Over twenty years ago before his first son was born. It originally was used for horse events for the Peak Pony club.

What is the track made of? (there is no mud from Glossop Road all the way down to the River Etherow)

Reclaimed tarmac and limestone dust.

Which other countries has John built MBT's in?

Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Austria and the USA. During Covid a lot of Austria's hiking paths were over used by bikes and so they were shut while new hiking paths were built and the original paths were changed to Mountain Bike tracks. John built a 15km track there.

Can you get refreshments?

John's wife, Jill, as well as running the Livery runs **The Cafe**. The sausages and bacon are made from their own Tamworth pigs. Sometimes they have their own honey on sale too.

What else does he rear?

Sheep. Sometimes potatoes which have gone to The Town Street Fryer.

How old are the Mountain bikers and how much does it cost?

From 7yr olds to 74yr olds. It costs £10 for a day.

An outlook from Mellor Sports Club...

Our little Sports Club in Mellor is a hive of activity with badminton, cricket, lacrosse and tennis played at the club. The Club House offers a warm welcome with a public bar open to all and social membership is available to non-players – we can highly recommend the Mud Dog beer!

Lacrosse focus... Have you ever played lacrosse? Did you know the game originated from a tribal game played by Eastern Woodlands Native Americans and Native American people of the Great Plains in what is now the United States of America and Canada. The games could last for several days with anything between 100 -1000 players on each team. Rules were decided the night before the game including the pitch size - the goals could be up to 6 miles apart! The only rule of the game was often that the ball could not be touched with the hands. The first sticks resembled wooden spoons with no netting and balls were made out of wood or deer skin. The Great Lakes sticks were bent at one end into a 4-5 inch circle and lined with netting made of wattup (tree roots!) or deer sinew. The Iroquois and Eastern Woodland style sticks used a U-shape instead of a circle. But why? Because the game settled disputes, it kept the six nations of the Iroquois together, it toughened young warriors. It was also played for pleasure with bets often involved! Sticks were carved, blessed, treasured and men were often buried with them. I think this is probably still true for many of our lacrosse players today!

Mellor Lacrosse is approaching its centenary year in 2025 (expect lots of celebration in and around Mellor) and today the Lacrosse Club has 13 teams across Men, Women, junior boys and junior girls. Mellor Lacrosse Club is recognised nationally with players from our 'little' club representing their counties and countries regularly. If you ever fancy coming along to watch you'd receive a warm welcome with games usually played every Saturday and Sunday during the season (wrap up warm!). If you are interested in finding out more

about any section of the club visit our website www.mellorsports.com, call 07541 800108 or email mellorsportsclub@hotmail.com

Mellor Sports Club Committee

Photograph is of Lacrosse First Team 1928 - 1929

Present team soon to be playing in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles we hope



Tom Oldham

First Team 1928-29
3rd Division Champions
Back Row: J Jowett, W Wilson, J Turner, W Fairbank, T Oldham, C Middleton.
Front Row: W Templeton, C Templeton, N Bennett, H Oldham, K Smith, G Johnston

visitmarple.co.uk

Friday Strollers.

Here are the dates for Spring Strollers

Friday 2nd February

Friday 23rd February

Friday 8th March

Friday 22nd March



Meet at 10.15a.m. outside Marple Library
Contact Judy Cooper for further details
judecoopurr@hotmail.com 07855290958

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Contact Lucy Greenaway for more information at

lucygreenaway@hotmail.co.uk

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Women's Evening Fellowship



Following last month's most engaging presentation from Greg Kelly, St Ann's Hospice Community Fundraiser we are now looking forward to a return visit from the ever-popular Frank Pleszak.

He will be with us on February 14th talking this time about The High Peak Dambusters. As ever all members and visitors are most welcome. Please remember we are meeting at our now regular winter afternoon time of **2pm**.

Lesley Futchter

We hope all goes well with you, Lesley, in the next few weeks,



THANK YOU BOB

Outlook Magazine was Bob's home for many years as was the Parish Centre - now The Mellor Centre. If you needed an electrician, especially in an emergency, and hadn't noted his telephone number or the name Sweatmore on your phone, many of us used to turn to the back page of **Outlook**.

Bob has always been there to help set up or clean up from meetings, parties, fêtes etc.



He was invited to be one of "The Friends of Mellor" for "years and years and years" and then also invited to be onto The Management Committee and is still working hard when asked to help both of these important Groups.

He has a fan-mail which stretches from the Church to the Post Office and into Marple as I found out recently in Archers and is highly thought of by everyone who knows him.

We wish you every happiness in your 'official retirement' Bob and promise not to ring you too often.

Ed MML

Thought for the Month

Jennie Johnson

With only three days left before copy date for Outlook and still lacking inspiration I picked up my Christmas 2021 gift from Gordon. It is subtitled 'Words of Wisdom' and it arrived hours before he went to hospital. 'Put it under the tree,' he said.

I opened the late Rabbi Jonathan Sach's book at random and found myself reading his words on Marriage:-

"We were married young. Our life had its twists and turns, its unexpected blessings and crises. Looking back, I know that whatever I have done I could not have done alone. I don't think we were unusual. For most of us life just is a long journey into the unknown. The only certainty we had was that we would be there for one another, and it was enough, more than enough. We knew that we would find strength in the unspoken presence of love, come what may."

To Rabbi Sachs the Hebrew word EMUNAH does not translate to Faith but to Faithfulness. He goes on to say, "Marriage is the single greatest source of beauty in ordinary lives - moral beauty, a song scored for two voices in complex harmony.

Marriage is the supreme example of a religious concept translated into simple human terms. Faith is the redemption of human loneliness through the sacred bond of love.

His words resonate with me: and I did open that book at random! And now two years on from grief, I would say to Gordon, thank you for this book of wisdom: you're no longer where you were, but you're everywhere that I am. That bond of sacred love is still unbroken. It's a very personal thought this month. Maybe it will strike a chord.



On your Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

*A special time to look back and celebrate
your love, the dreams that have come true,
and all the memories you've created.*

*Congratulations and happy 60th
anniversary,
Ken and Alwyn*

Church Rotas

Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.00am	6.30pm
4 Feb	P Cooke	D Jolleyman & A Sanders	J Shiel
11 Feb	A Mason	M Lowe & J. Mason	R Holt
18 Feb	J Butterworth	P. Long & A Muller	A Shah
25 Feb	P Cunningham	S McAllister & C Starling	J Shiel
3 March	P Cooke	S Knight & C Langford	R Holt

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

Flower Rota

4 Feb	Gwen Perks	03 March	Lent	no flowers
11 Feb	Jenny Johnson	10 March	Lent	no flowers
18 Feb	Lent no flowers	17 March	Lent	no flowers
25 Feb	Lent no flowers	24 March	Lent	no flowers

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

Holy Dusters

4 Feb	J Burrows & E Wilson
11 Feb	M & R Leng
18 Feb	H Kennedy & M Lowe
25 Feb	P Cunningham & I Morris
3 March	J & R Elliott

Brasses

S Norbury & S Edmundson

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