

Outlook



April
2024

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The Parish of St. Thomas, Mellor

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 May issue is April 15th please.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2024

3 Wed 10.00 am Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)

7 Sun 8.30 am Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 10.00 am Parish Communion
of Easter 6.30 pm Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)

10 Wed 10.00 am Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)

14 Sun 8.30 am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday 10.00 am Parish Communion
of Easter 3.00-5.00 pm Messy Church (Mellor Centre)
6.30 pm Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)

15 Mon 10.45-12 noon Coffee & Chat (Mellor Centre)

17 Wed 10.00 am Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
20 Sat 10.00 am-1.00 pm Plant Sale and coffee morning
Mellor Centre

21 Sun 8.30 am Holy Communion
4th Sunday 10.00 am Parish Communion
of Easter 6.30 pm Choral Evensong

24 Wed 10.00 am Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
27 Sat 7.00pm-11.00 pm Hooley on the Hill (Mellor Centre)

28 Sun 8.30 am Holy Communion
5th Sunday 10.00 am Parish Communion
of Easter 6.30 pm Evening Prayer (Mellor 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 (The Mellor Centre)

Women's Evening Fellowship meets on the second Wednesday 7:30pm (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



Vicar's Viewpoint

Prayers of Love and Faith

In December the House of Bishops for the Church of England commended for use in parishes a selection of readings and prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and asking for God's blessing for same-sex couples (known as Prayers of Love and Faith). You can read more about this on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/prayers-love-and-faith>

Bishop Mark asked that clergy should consult and only proceed with the agreement of the PCC. I am pleased to say that our PCC was unanimous in wishing to offer these prayers in this church.

New Door

For several years now there have been discussions and plans to make changes in the church porch to make this a more welcoming space for visitors. A first step was taken a couple of years ago, when the inner porch and screen was removed. We now have approval from the diocese to replace the inner doors (from the porch to the nave) with a new door. This will be a single door (as opposed to the two doors at present), with an oak frame and two glass panels so that visitors will be able to see into the church from the porch. I am hoping this will be in place around Easter time.

Communication - Live-streaming

It is vital that there is good communication within a church and from the church to the wider community. We live in a world where the means of communication are changing all the time. During the pandemic, online communication became a high priority. Mellor Church responded, with guiding advice from Chris Mann, by installing high quality equipment to live-stream and broadcast services from church. This facility continues to be a great blessing. Members of the church family who find it difficult to get to church, or who are unwell, or who are away, can watch the services online. The service of Nine Lessons and Carols from December 2023 has been watched by well over 500. This is a great window for people outside the church, to look in and see, and in time it may prove to be an important step towards joining the church in person.

Communication - Thanks

So many people are involved in communication in so many ways. I

want to say a particular thank you to Alison Allcard who has been a member of the communications team for many years and has now stepped down from that role. Thank you to the live-streaming team. Thank you to Rachel, for our lively and attractive facebook page. I also want to thank Maggie and Margaret, the editors of *Outlook*. Last month I happened to encounter Peter, who was in the parish office all afternoon photocopying and stapling *Outlook* - again thank you. And thank you to the many people who deliver the magazines. Through your joint efforts you make possible this brilliant means of communication with 550 homes across the parish and beyond.

Communication with the Vicar

I am a bit of a dinosaur and I still don't make personal use of social media. Also, please don't try ringing me on a mobile number; the signal at the Vicarage is very poor and I often don't know where my mobile phone is anyway. So the best ways to contact me are either to ring my landline (0161 604 4993) or send me an email:

revandrewtawn@gmail.com I'll do my best to respond as soon as I can.

Thank you to the anonymous donor ...

... who dropped an envelope through the Vicarage door one evening in February, with a very generous donation and a note that this was to help with the deficit in the church finances. I would like to say how very grateful we are, and how my heart is warmed by this and all the deeply generous responses we have received.

I write this on the eve of Passion Sunday. May God bless you as you journey through Holy Week to the joy of Easter,

Andrew

Altar flowers

The Flower Team are looking for volunteers to place flowers on the altar.

Every week (apart from Lent and Advent) you will see fresh flowers on the altar. Apart from festivals and weddings these are given and placed there by members of the congregation. Until recently this has been just a once a year commitment. We are looking to keep it that way by recruiting some more volunteers. You do not need to be a skilled arranger, a bunch of supermarket flowers for each vase is fine. It can be a nice thing to be in the quiet of the church remembering loved ones and putting flowers in place.



If you think you can help please contact Jill Baker (number at back of magazine) or Alison Allcard, Cathie Lowe, Angela Muller or any flower team member. If you would like to join the team you will be most welcome just contact the above.



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Ian Hamilton

It was good to see how full the church was on 8th March as we gave thanks to God for Ian's life. I am grateful I had the chance to get to know Ian over the last few months, so I will miss him personally, but I am very much aware that he contributed to this church in many ways for over 40 years: Ian sang tenor in the choir; he had a role as unofficial deputy organist under Peter Harle; he was a member of the PCC; he advised the church from his expertise as a solicitor; he was a steward; he helped Christine with the changing of the altar frontal and linen; he became an authority on the history of Mellor church; and he led and recorded online services of morning or evening prayer during the pandemic. When I asked the congregation for their memories of Ian they mentioned: his beautiful reading voice, the way he glided down the aisle without apparently moving his feet(!); his help preparing choristers for their advanced awards; and his immaculate dress and announcements in his role as MC at the Fête. Two final comments which sum it all up: 'We remember Ian as a good friend who we shared many happy times with.' And 'A gentle, kind and considerate gentleman who will be greatly missed.'



(Andrew Tawn)

A message from Christine Hamilton

Neil, Lauren, Tobi and I would like to thank all our friends at Mellor for the cards, letters of condolence and general support we have received since Ian's death. I would also like to thank all those who came to either or both of the two services; it was a great comfort to us all to think that so many people thought enough of Ian to make that effort. We would particularly like to thank Andrew for his invaluable support and help and for officiating at both services and also John LeGrove and the choir for their music; Ian would have been very pleased with that. Thanks are also due to Sue McAllister and everyone else who helped in the Mellor Centre before and after the refreshments. May God bless you all.

Christine Hamilton

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The Children's Society *Jenny Johnson*

A Reminder to anyone still using a Children's Society House Box:
Please see my article in the March edition of Outlook (page 4).

April 5th is the deadline for offering any donation via



**The
Children's
Society**

Joanne Nicholson who is coming to
speak to the Women's Evening Fellowship
on April 10th about the current caring
work of the Society.

REACHING OUT

All Saints Church in Marple has two 'drop in' sessions welcoming the local community at its Connect Building in Queen Street, Marple. SK6 6BQ. Queen Street is opposite the Regent Cinema.

There is **The Pantry** which is a **food bank** offering basic provisions free of charge (no voucher needed) to anyone facing difficult circumstances such as redundancy, ill health or just finding it hard to make ends meet. It also provides a relaxing space for refreshments and a chat. The volunteers occasionally provide cooking or art lessons, and a mini ecumenical service. The Pantry is open every Saturday between 10 am and 12 noon.

There is also **ConnectHelp** for anyone worried or concerned about anything? This offers support to people when any of life's problems and difficulties are weighing them down. It aims to be a safe

space for people to discuss any problems they might have (debt, finding work, cost of living, filling in complicated forms etc.) and perhaps receive some practical support. Computer access and WiFi are available. Connect is also a place where folks regularly drop in for a coffee, make friends and have a chat when it is open on **Mondays** between 10am and 12noon. Anyone can attend. It's all free!

***Except Bank Holidays and Mondays falling between Christmas Day and New Year's Day*

Anyone seeking further information can contact the Church Office at All Saints on
0161 427 2378



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Hooley on the Hill

Saturday 27th April 2024

7pm-11pm

The Mellor Centre



Rose Queen Molly is throwing the ultimate Irish party for all the family, with live music from Marple-based Irish heritage band **The Maccy Vs.**

Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just love tapping your toes to a lively tune while enjoying a drink from our licensed bar, be prepared to reel along and join us for an unforgettable authentic Irish Ceílí at **Hooley on the Hill!**

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Mellor Birds

Maggie Williams

This last week there has been a **song thrush** singing in the top of the beech trees by the Church gate. It is a lovely welcome to the Church.

After "The Church Big Clean up for Easter" Anthea and I sat on the Janet Wilson bench by the East window and watched a **buzzard** circling over the Devonshire pub; about 20 **black headed gulls** making us feel we were at the seaside and a crouching **raven**. Over the wall in the Old Vicarage garden there was a **long tail tit** and surprisingly three **Indian running ducks**. This reminded me of past fetes when we were entertained by running ducks going down slides and through hoops.

There was an extraordinary **owl** in The Mellor Centre on Saturday evening. This owl, at Mellor's Got Talent, was over six feet tall and even tuned up before singing a couple of songs! It did look remarkably like the vicar.

To make the twit twoo, one cups ones hands together and blows across the thumbs.- You tube - "How to make owl song with hands". I have found it a great skill to have for keeping children quiet.

Margaret Lg was telling me that early in the morning on Clement Road there is a **woodpecker** in the tree 0.2 of a mile up

the road on the left next to a telegraph pole with 26 on it.

I was recommended by Jennie to listen to Radio 4 Ramblings episode that went out on March 7th. Apparently **kingfisher's** blue feathers are actually a dull grey. Special structures on the grey feathers reflect the light that makes them look blue.

Erica on Townscliffe unexpectedly saw a **blackcap** in January for her RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

On Feb 29th Good news-J texted "First **curlew** this morning on Shiloh / Gun Road." *Ramblings can be heard at 6:07am on Radio 4 which is a good start to a Saturday morning (as well as later in the week.) MML !*



AS SEEN FROM COW CORNER



As the boughs of the trees were not now bent over as they had been a few weeks ago and as the temperature had risen by a few degrees, hope is that the cricket season will commence on time as expected.

There have been plenty of thoughts to be considered before any matches can be played.

It had not been unknown, in the past, for someone's push mower to be borrowed, in order to cut the first strip on the morning of the first match of the season. Not an easy task when the grass is four inches long!

However, there was no need to worry this time as, about on the sixth pull of the starter cord, and after a bit of fiddling with the adjuster screws on the engine, there was a cough and the engine burst into life amid a cloud of blue



smoke. The spluttering mower could now be taken to where the square was seen last year, and an attempt to make a cut or two.

Because the grass was on the long side, the cutters invariably jammed, and had to be released by prising and for the grass to be cut by hand shears.

Whilst it may be possible to prepare the ground in readiness for the start of the season, it would be no use if there were not any players. Rounding up the players from the previous few years was essential, and preferably those that could still amble a few singles or two, and not anyone who refused an easy single when the ball was struck to the boundary's edge.

There were, of course, the band of juniors, who had performed so admirably over the last few seasons and who were mature enough to warrant inclusion on the senior side. The club could embark on a recruitment drive, but prospective players didn't tend to look at the small ads in the post office any longer, but preferred to be enticed by the facilities on offer and the chance of a competitive game of cricket.

All these efforts will, however, be wasted if the league do not publish the forthcoming fixtures in the very near future! *SILLY POINT*



With the arrival of Spring and the coming of lighter evenings we are returning to meeting at 7 30 pm.

The next meeting is on April 10th when Joanne Nicholson from the Children's Society will be talking about

The Hope and Happiness of Young People.


This is a charity which I know that many people have supported faithfully over the years. There will be an opportunity to do so once again at the meeting when we are invited to bring notes or cheques to give to the Society if we wish to do so.

As ever all members, families and friends are welcome.


THE WELLSPRING PRESENTS

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Mellor Sports Club. 215 Longhurst Lane. Mellor SK6 5PN

Meadow Farm Big Hedge Plant, March 2024.

Clare Jackson

Who would have thought that planting several hundred holly, hawthorn and dog-rose plants on a blustery Saturday in March could have the most uplifting effect on you? Well, when you are taking part in a communal effort I confirm it certainly can.

Last month, a mixed bunch of neighbours and colleagues answered the call of local farmer Rob Allen to help with a big planting task. We were all too happy to help, especially when there is such an obvious challenge to the environment in times of Climate Crisis. To be able to make a small difference where we are, makes a big difference in general optimism, and I just loved the connections that were formed as we all mucked in.

The hedge planting is part of a much bigger rewilding project that is already providing much improved habitat for birds and mammals on Robs' land; all the owl species are either resident or visiting, which means their food sources are readily available. I was thrilled to find curlew were flying around us while we dug, piping their evocative enquiring call as they circled. Their favourite nesting grounds have been drastically



reduced in recent years, so it was magic to see them at such close quarter, at the start of a new breeding season. Confirmation, if any were needed, that it was a worthwhile weekend's work.



If you are interested in seeing how the landscape is responding with the seasons, take the bridle path from St. Thomas' Church towards Rowarth. It soon brings you out onto Shiloh Rd; but passing through over the year, you should get a sense of the increased variety and health in the landscape. Photo:- Rachel, Oscar, Jo and Sylvia digging.



FRIDGES FOR THE FETE- June 29th.

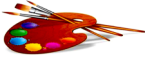
HAS ANYONE GOT A SPARE FRIDGE OR TWO??

The fridges in the mobile need replacing which keep the drinks cool for the Church fete. If you do, please let the office know **0161 484 5079**

Perhaps you know someone having a new kitchen and has a fridge going spare??

Mellor Art Society

We are a self-help group of amateur artists who meet every Wednesday from **7pm to 9 pm** at St Martin's Church Hall, Brabyns Brow, Marple Bridge. We also have speakers and workshops in many diverse and inspirational techniques.



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Two items of important shipping news attracted my attention, as I write this month's article.

One, that a large bulk carrier has been seized by Somali pirates, and is being forced to proceed to Somalia with a warning that if a ransom of several million dollars is not paid, the crew will be killed one by one. And this is some 12 years after we thought we had solved this particular problem by embarking armed security guards.

The other shipping news that might interest readers is that the world's largest cruise ship 'Icon of the Seas' has been launched. Carrying some 7000 passengers and 3000 crew, a total of 10 thousand people on one ship. Those who are considering joining this Royal Caribbean Line could feel that she, at least, will be well guarded against pirates.



Then came the news that the Yemen terrorists, the Houthis who are the cause of the Red Sea ships diverting round the Cape of Africa, have announced that they intend to continue drone attacking ships that are making the diversion. I feel rather concerned that these extremely efficient pirates may not be so clever at distinguishing the radar target of a huge bulk carrier from a gigantic cruise liner!

Then, recently seeing some hammer head sharks on a television programme, I feel pleasantly reminded of visiting Labuan Island, in British North Borneo (as it then was) while serving on a Blue Funnel cargo liner. We had a free day and several of us including a few officers' wives took the lifeboat to the most gorgeous sandy beach. Here we anchored the boat in warm shallow water, and began swimming close to the boat. I thought it fun to investigate an area of the beach where the local Malay fishermen were landing their catch. To my delight I noted they had several two metre baby black hammer head sharks. I thought it would be fun to take one back with me and re-join the swimming party.

As we learned the local language, so we could communicate with the stevedores loading the ship, I spoke to them 'Saya mao satu ican yu' (I want to buy a shark). They were only too pleased to sell one for a tin of cigarettes. And so, taking it with me holding it under water, I returned to join the swimming party. Then the fun began. I said, 'It felt like something bit my leg' and pretending I had just discovered it, flung the shark in to the empty life boat, 'Pesky thing' I said as I clapped my hands. But I wondered if I'd done a wise thing when the shark suddenly twitched, and I thought it might be alive after all. Fortunately, it wasn't, but I would certainly not try the trick again! And hammer heads still rather scare me.

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It takes approximately 5 minutes to join and one of our friendly staff – Colette, Steve, Jane or John will be happy to help.



Palestinian Christians

The World Day of Prayer service this year was prepared by the women of Palestine. This was arranged 18 months before the current crisis, but proved to be really illuminating in the information given about this small, beleaguered, community which is descended from some of the oldest Christian communities in the world. At the beginning of the 20th century Christians formed about 25% of the overall population of the Holy Land. Now, about 5 million Palestinians currently live in Palestine and Israel, and Christians form only about 2% of this total. A number of Christian denominations are represented – Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox. Many Christians were among the Palestinians who were dispersed in 1948. Some of them handed artefacts from their churches to Jewish neighbours for safe-keeping; many took the keys of their houses with them, hoping that they would be able to return, but this never happened. Christian Palestinians suffer the same difficulties in accessing employment, health care and other needs as their Moslem neighbours. Travel permits are difficult to get and movement is particularly restricted around Bethlehem, where there is a concentration of Christians. Some Christians used to earn a living working in the tourism industry, and have lost their jobs and income as this has declined. The crisis of the last few months has drastically increased the dangers for all in the area. Moslems and people of no faith as well as Christians have sought shelter in churches – 500 people are reported to be staying in the Church of the Holy Family, but churches and other Christian centres are no safer than other buildings. Two charities working in the area are Embrace the Middle East (<https://embraceme.org>) and Friends of the Holy Land (<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk>) both of whom work through both prayer and practical projects, and seek reconciliation and peace. FHL is an ecumenical charity founded in 2009 which supports individual Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. One project is St Martha's House in Bethlehem, a day centre for elderly women, mainly widows with no family to care for them. Embrace works in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria as well as Israel/Palestine and supports health, education and community projects, particularly seeking to improve the situations of excluded and marginalised people. It also runs programmes on inter-faith relationships and peace building. Both these charities are worth supporting, either through direct donations, or by buying some of the lovely

items produced by people in these areas. The Christian Orthodox Cultural Centre, where some 500 were sheltering, on 31st October was destroyed following an IDF warning to evacuate. Tragically, 30 Palestinian Christians have now lost their lives; 19 killed in military incidents and 11 have died because they could not access medical care.



Part of one of the hymns sung in the WDP service reads:

‘Put peace into each other’s hands
And like a treasure hold it,
Protect it like a candle flame,
With tenderness enfold it’.



Orthodox prayer rope



Donations £2 for 1 child / £3 for 2 or more.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Everyone welcome, from any church background or none.

Activities will be geared for Primary School age, or for younger children with parental help

Refreshments for parents as well as children

The theme of the afternoon will be the EASTER story. The afternoon will include an Easter egg hunt.

We had a great Messy Church in February with a good turn out and a very happy atmosphere. We are aiming to hold Messy Church once a term.

For more information please contact Andrew Tawn (Vicar):
0161 6044993
revandrewtawn@gmail.com



St Thomas' Church
MELLOR AND MARPLE BRIDGE



Sunday 14th April
3 pm - 5 pm
at Mellor Parish Centre

**Crafts, refreshments, games, fun,
teaching, singing, prayers
& Easter egg hunt!**

An Easter Story - Operation Manna – April 1945.

This story explains the background to a situation where, by the end of April 1945, the people of Western Holland were on the edge of a human catastrophe, almost completely without food, and how Allied Air Forces in England responded with **Operation “Manna”** - the dropping of food from the air by bomber aircraft; mainly Lancasters, Halifaxes and Stirlings. These strategic bombers had been previously engaged in Operations over Germany. In May 1940, when Holland was invaded by Germany. For 5 years, Dutch citizens lived in an occupied country, directed, sometimes imprisoned or worse, by their captors and hoping for liberation. Resistance organisations were formed, information passed to the Allies and strong communications maintained with the exiled Government in England and with the Dutch Royal Family in Canada. Growing Allied strength in the air was a powerful influence on the population. They listened to the roar of RAF bombers flying over Holland to attack German targets and many Dutch people say that this was the sound that convinced them they would one day be liberated. Unfortunately, the Germans were also aware of these routes and the population saw many combats in the night sky with bombers and crews falling to night fighters, many of them stationed on Dutch airfields. Great courage was shown by many Dutch people, not only helping and hiding crews who survived the loss of their aircraft, but also in tending the graves of fallen crewmen. For much of the War, Holland could just about feed itself, although the Germans removed large numbers of livestock, especially cattle, and requisitioned many other foodstuffs. Over 500,000 acres were flooded or otherwise taken out of use by the Germans. Some of Holland was liberated, but much remained occupied. The British did try Operation Market Garden in September 1944. This was an attempt using paratroops to seize bridges across a number of major river obstacles. You will all have heard of ‘The Bridge Too Far’, at Arnhem, where the attempt stalled. After the Germans defeated the airborne troops, they took revenge against the civilian population still in their hands. Men were rounded up for slave labour, electricity and gas supplies were severely restricted. These measures and the unusually severe weather conditions of winter 44/45 brought the ‘Hongerwinter’. Dutch estimates indicate that about 20,000 civilians died of cold, malnutrition and associated disease before sufficient food became available. He also calculated that about 800,000 souls suffered some lasting effects from the hunger. The Dutch government in exile was informed of these circumstances and in January 1945 Queen Wilhelmina wrote a letter to King George and President Roosevelt.



A Dutch 'Committee of Confidence' was negotiated with the German Reichskommissar for Holland, Seyss-Inquart. This began in late January and February 1945, but did not come anywhere near to solving the problem. The Dutch Committee of Confidence then reported in early April that Seyss-Inquart might be open to negotiate a truce in which the German Army (Wehrmacht) and Air Force (Luftwaffe) would allow the supply of as much food as possible to be flown into Holland to avert an imminent humanitarian catastrophe. This led the Allies to an imaginative plan. Perhaps safe passage for airdrops of food from England, only 130 or so miles away, could be arranged?

Air Commodore Andrew Geddes, whose job was Operations and Plans for the Royal Air Force, was summoned to Eisenhower's Headquarters on 17th April to be told that he must plan for feeding 3,500,000 Dutch souls from the air, commencing in 10 days' time. There were no parachutes available for dropping supplies, therefore Geddes should plan for low-level free drops and assume that the German troops on the ground would grant safe conduct for the flights. Within days modifications to aircraft were made, including cargo nets, sacks and baskets instead of bombs. Food of course was being transported to the airfields across England. At the same time, details of the plan were communicated to Holland, in order that arrangements for collecting, safeguarding, transporting and distributing the food could be made. On the next day, 29th April, 239

RAF Lancasters dropped 535 tons of food at 5 locations, followed by 1021 tons on the 30th. This was the day that Hitler committed suicide in Berlin and the day that Seyss-Inquart agreed to the arrangements for a humanitarian operation. RAF aircrews were suspicious of German intentions when flying the first sorties of **Operation Manna**, which was the name for the RAF element of this plan. The crews knew how vulnerable they would be, flying low and slow at the height where light flak and even rifle fire would be very effective against them. However, the Germans carried out their part in the plan throughout. And aircrew confidence rapidly grew in spite of "Flak" (Anti-Aircraft) Batteries tracking aircraft movements.



In sorties from the 1st May until 8th May, the RAF dropped a further 5586 tons of food. We refer to 'RAF', but the crews were composed from airmen from around the world. Despite the general hunger, discipline and organisation on the ground worked very well. German soldiers and Dutch Policemen kept order and escorted the food as it was collected and carried off. British, American, Dutch and German combatants worked together to prevent what was potentially a major humanitarian disaster. ***We might stop to consider in the light of current world events in the Ukraine and the Middle East that if this could happen towards the end of one of the worst wars in world history then there might be hope for people living in war zones today.***

Roger Yates (Director & Trustee) Avro Heritage Museum



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Outlook report on the PCC meeting of February 2024

At our meeting in February, Andrew our Vicar told us that the first Messy Church since the pandemic had gone really well. There were about 20 children who came, plus their parents and carers, and another is planned for 14th April. We also heard how powerful the Evensong service dedicated to LGBTQ history month had been.

The main item this month was finance, and Richard our Treasurer reported the year end figures, plus a proposed budget for the coming year. Both were more favourable than had been predicted, largely due to a successful Thanksgiving appeal by Andrew, for people to consider increasing their regular giving. We have also recently received some generous donations. We still had a large deficit at the end of 2023, which has had to be covered by reserves, but the forecast for the coming year is more favourable. The PCC agreed Richard's proposed budget for the coming year.

A new fire risk assessment was circulated, which will need to be agreed by the PCC. There are some small tasks to be completed before we will meet the requirements of the assessment, such as training the stewards who are on the doors at services, which David will look to complete.

Andrew also gave us a report back on the recent visit of our new Archdeacon. She was generally happy with things, but made one suggestion, which was that we think of starting to use 'This Time Tomorrow'. This is an approach used in some churches where one member of the church family will be invited to speak about their own individual experiences, and how their faith impacts on them in their everyday life. Andrew said he was happy to explore trying this at some point in the future.

Alex and Sylvia have been working hard on getting our church website, and the IT in the parish office, updated. Last month's PCC agreed a contract with a web designer and Sylvia reported that they have started work. She would like to be able to collect more photos that can be used on the website – for example any of the church when it's been decorated for a wedding, and she would be glad if people were able to offer any. Andrew proposed that the PCC meeting in March would be set aside as a time to all reflect on 'mission' and how we would all like to see our church develop in the future. Such reflection is likely to include consideration of how we take forward our membership of the Inclusive Church movement. We will hope to keep the usual business of the meeting to a minimum. Andrew would hope to have occasional 'themed' meetings, when we will concentrate on one topic, for example our work to become a member of the Eco Church movement, and green issues. We may also try to arrange a 'Vision Day', for the PCC to spend more discussion time together.

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Apricot Crunchies

Jill Baker

These are not too crunchy and the dried fruits can be substituted for anything in the store cupboard. (If you swop out the apricots they will be fruit crunchies!) Based on a hummingbird recipe.

200g soft dried apricots
100g sultanas
50ml orange juice
Zest of a large orange
150g wholemeal flour
150g rolled oats
200g butter chilled and diced
75g soft light brown sugar
75g soft dark brown sugar

9 inch by 12 1/2 inch baking tray)

Set the baking tin with baking parchment

Mix the chopped apricots and sultanas with the orange juice. Leave to soak whilst you rub the butter into the flour and oats. Stir in the orange zest and sugar then finally add in the soaked fruit. Press the mixture into a prepared baking tray. Bake for 25 to 30 mins. Cool in the tray before slicing.

You can drizzle with some melted white chocolate about 30g if you would like.

Ed: I enjoyed drizzling. The orange makes it nice and tasty. MPW

Laughs with Lynda

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators.
We haven't met yet.

I kept being bullied by Eskimo sales people,
but since I left a note saying "No cold callers" I've had no trouble.

I went to the doctor because I was feeling dizzy. He asked if I had vertigo, but I told him I live just around the corner.

Belated report from MoorEnd Women's Institute

The group were thrilled to welcome a special speaker to 'kick start' our 2024 programme. The Rev Andrew Tawn kindly accepted our invitation to tell us about his life as a vicar and the many chapters in it. Andrew, together with his wife Helen and 2 daughters, served as minister for more than 14 very happy years at St Peters, Addingham, near Ilkley. There he fostered and encouraged the participation of young people within the church, especially through music.

The parish was visited by the late Queen Elizabeth and as vicar -Andrew had the honour of guiding her around. The WI group was shown some delightful photos of the occasion. In 2012, Andrew became Director of Clergy Development in the Ripon/Leeds area.

Eventually in 2023, the family were pleased to move to Mellor, particularly as they enjoy the countryside and walking. Throughout his career, Andrew has always considered it a great privilege to help facilitate and share parishioners special moments. He looks forward to many happy years at St Thomas church.

In February Sheryl Haydock-Haworth, chairperson of the local Carver Theatre, showed us her collection of theatrical wigs- from film, TV and theatre. She came from a family of hairdressers, but her first ambition was to become a ballet dancer. Sadly she failed on the height requirements, and went to work at the TSB (along with one of the WI members!)

However with her love of performing, Sheryl ran her own school of dance and had a costume business too. Over the years she's worked as choreographer and stage manager for several local operatic societies. Wigs of real hair can be expensive, but nowadays good synthetic wigs are made in Asia. Sheryl demonstrated how to prepare real hair before pinning a wig on top. After use, she hand washes the wigs in baby shampoo and fabric conditioner and dries them carefully. The wigs can be made to any style - rollers are put in first and then fixed with hair spray. It was a very enjoyable meeting with several members trying on the wigs! See photo of Kath.



March 15th meeting - A Musical Meander Around Britain - 2pm start.

April 18th meeting - The Torrs of New Mills - 7.30pm start.

Our coffee mornings and pub lunches continue to be well attended - for more details please contact a member of the WI committee.

Coffee and Chat with the Vicar

As an inclusive church, St Thomas, welcomes **EVERYONE** to share a warm drink, a biscuit and a chat with other interesting people.

They are held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 10:45am - noon.

The Coffee & Chat Team C., C., & M

TOY TOMBOLA AT THE FETE

If you have any small toys which you could donate to the Tombola, I shall be very grateful. There is a collection box in the Mellor Centre near the door to the office, or if you contact me on 427 1320 I'll be very happy to collect donations from you.

Thank you!

Catherine Starling



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Thought for the Month.

Jenny Johnson

As I submit this month's copy, in early March, I am mindful to dedicate it to a certain Russian gentleman and to many of his fellow citizens.

What follows is just one of Eddie Askew's 'Thoughts for the Day' published in 2007 by the Leprosy Mission. His writing is prolific but in particular this 'Thought' resonates with us even today.

A man died and went to heaven. After signing in and completing all the formalities he went for a walk. He'd expected heavenly choirs and halos, but at least the weather was good - not too hot, not too cold, just right. Going a little way down the road he met an angel. The Angel greeted him cheerfully - well, you'd expect that in heaven wouldn't you? - then began to look him up and down with great interest. The angel walked all around the man, taking his time and inspecting him from every angle, and looking more and more puzzled.

"What are you doing?" asked the man, as near to irritation as anyone in heaven could be. "Sorry", replied the angel, "I should have explained. I was looking for your wounds."

"My wounds?" said the man. "But I haven't got any wounds."

There was a long pause. Then the angel asked quietly "But was there nothing in your world worth fighting for?" We can but hope that Mr Navalny was healed and comforted by any angel he met with along his new road

Lord of today, grant me the courage and strength to stand and fight for what my heart tells me is true and good.

Mellor March Sunday, the 5th of May *Tim Lowe*

Rev Andrew will kindly lead a group of walkers after the morning service. Those not at the service, please assemble by the church at 11:45. He will also leave a sponsor sheet in the church porch for those wishing to support but unable to walk. It is a circular walk so people can choose a distance to suit them and head for home at any stage.



This year is the 30th anniversary of the march that has raised over £250,000 for cancer charities. It has been decided that in future at least 30% of the money raised will go to cancer. Research route maps can be found on the website. All support of any kind is warmly welcome

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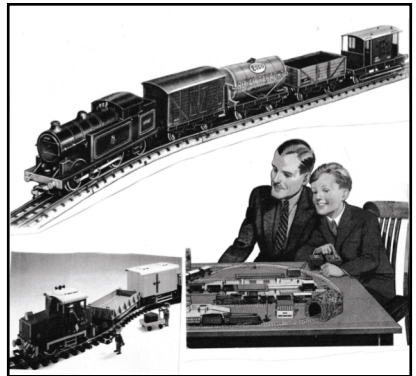
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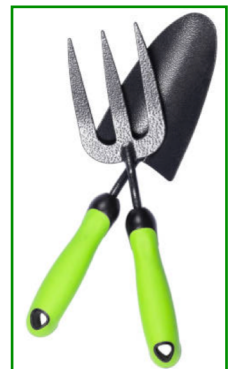


Spring Garden Event PLANT SALE

On Saturday 20th April there will be a bring-and-buy garden sale and coffee morning at the Mellor

Centre – 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. Come and join us - bring any plants you have which need a new home, unopened packets of seeds, nice garden artefacts and books – and cake! A chance to get some new plants to help the growing season along, and have a chat with people at the same time.

Sue McAllister and Judith Shiel





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Prayer of the Month
Easter Blessing

How beautiful is the blossom spilling from the tree,
The hidden primrose and the bluebell ringing out the
news.

He is risen, he is alive,
We shall live for evermore.

The dark winter is past,
The slow, cold foggy days are over.

May the warmth of your resurrection
Touch our hearts and minds
As the warmth of the sun blesses our bodies.

(Kate McIlhagga in Lent and Easter Readings from Iona,
edited by Neil Paynter)



From the Register



Funerals

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

Brian Lindley - Service at the Crematorium - Friday 23rd February

Ian Hamilton - Friday 8th March

We offer our love and sympathy to all who mourn them

CHURCH ROTAS

Steward Rota

Date	8:30am	10:00 am	6:30 pm
April 7th	P.Cooke	M.Lowe & J Mason	J Shiel
April 14th	A Mason	P. Long & AMuller	R. Holt
April 21st	J Butterworth.	S. McAllister & C. Starling	A Shah
April 28th	P.Cunningham	S. Knight & C Langford	J Shiel
May 5th	P. Cooke	L. Forbes & P. Forbes	A Shah

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

Flower Rota

April 7th	Easter Flowers	May 5th.	Karen Greenhough
April 14th	Alison Allcard	May 12th	Julia Mann
April 21st	Jenny Butterworth	May 19th	Joyce Moss / Pentecost
April 28th	Julie Elliot	May 26th	Janet Jones

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

Brasses

April 7th	J. & D. Butterworth	L. Driver & M Heilbroek
April 14th	A. Mason & C Starling	
April 21st	J. Burrows & E. Wilson	
April 28th	M.& R Leng	
May 5th	H. Kennedy & M. Lowe	

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