

# Outlook



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March  
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

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**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 April issue is March 15th please.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 2024

<b>3 Sun 3rd Sunday of Lent</b>	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
6 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
9 Sat	7.00pm	Mellor's Got Talent (Mellor Centre)
<b>10 Sun 4th Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday</b>	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
11 Mon	10.45-12 noon	Coffee & Chat (Mellor Centre)
13 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
13 Wed	7.30pm	AGM The Mellor Centre
16 Sat	10 to 3.00pm	BIG CLEAN UP FOR EASTER
<b>17 Sun 5th Sunday of Lent</b>	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Cross of Christ Choral Service
20 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
23 Sat	7.30pm	French Bistro Evening (Mellor Centre)
<b>24 Sun Palm Sunday</b>	8.30 am 9.30 am  10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Procession of Palms (Devonshire Arms) Parish Communion Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
27 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Parish Centre)
<b>28 Maundy Thursday</b>	8.00 pm	Holy Communion & Vigil
<b>29 Good Friday</b>	10.00 am	Proclamation of the Cross
<b>31 Sun Easter Day</b>	6.30 am  10.00 am 6.30 pm	Dawn Communion in the Churchyard followed by breakfast in the Mellor Centre Easter Parish Communion 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 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



## Vicar's Viewpoint

### Thank you for your generous response

In October I preached a sermon about the financial position of our church and the need to increase our giving, and I also wrote about this in the December Outlook. I am really encouraged by your generous responses to this. When you include the added value of Gift Aid we have received so far:

- 12 one off donations, totalling over £5,500. As a result, the deficit at the end of last year was not as large as we feared.
- 8 new givers
- 19 givers who have increased their giving

The additional income gives us a total increase of £11,500 per year. We were facing a shortfall of £17,000 - so we still have some way to go to balance our books, but I am now all the more convinced that we can close the remaining deficit of £5,500.

So I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has responded so far. If you were thinking of increasing your giving but have not yet done so, I hope this good news will inspire you to take that step. If you would like to give, either regularly or a one off donation, please contact the church treasurer via the parish office:

[office@mellorchurch.org](mailto:office@mellorchurch.org) or phone: 0161 484 5079

We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your help.

### Re-launching Messy Church

On 4th February we held our first Messy Church since before the pandemic. We were due to start at 3 pm but at that point we only had two children, and I was beginning to feel a bit despondent. Then a stream of parents and children began to arrive - some coming on straight from a children's party they had been attending. In the end we had a lovely group of children and parents, large enough for the hall to feel busy, and yet also intimate and happy. First we had a story from the Bible, and we learned some sign language to go with it. Then the children had a choice of craft activities: making their own Christingles; making badges; making a 'stained glass candle' (there are still a couple on the window in the Arkwright hall); and some

baking - the whole parish centre smelled delicious for hours afterwards. After that the children had a drink and some food, and we ended with singing and a magical Christingle service.

I want to say a special thank you to the wonderful team of helpers. Someone commented that the team worked so well it was hard to believe this was the first time we had worked together. I have to mention Giselle's appearance as a human-sized Christingle! I also want to thank Lynda Gwyther for passing on wisdom from her previous experience leading Messy Church.

The next Messy Church will be on Sunday 14th April, at 3 pm, with an Easter theme.

### **Lent**

As I write, Lent is just beginning. We marked Ash Wednesday with a service in the morning in the Mellor Centre and then joined a Churches Together service at St. Martin's Low Marple. I was proud to see such a strong representation from St. Thomas at that service - thank you.

I am very grateful to Clare Jackson for organising and leading the Lent discussion groups this year. It is a valuable experience for her as part of her training, a great help to me, and a blessing to our church. The material we are following is based on Jesus' words to his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, 'Stay with me, and watch with me.' Whether or not you are taking part in these groups, why not set aside a couple of minutes each day: to be still, and let go of all the business of the day; to bring to God the things that are on our minds and in our hearts; and to pray for those we are concerned about.

God bless you this Lent and always,

Andrew



### **The glorious festival of Easter is upon us.**



The flower team are looking forward to decorating the church on Easter Saturday once again in celebration. They will welcome any donations you may like to make towards the cost of fresh flowers. The Flower Fund is separate from church funds and it relies on donations either in joyful appreciation or in memory of someone close to you. Any gift will be most welcome. Jill Baker, Alison Allcard, Cathie Lowe or Angela Muller (or any other member of the flower team) will be pleased to accept any contribution. Many thanks

## **Mellor Parish EcoChurch at St Thomas'**

On Sunday 28th January, Clare Jackson invited all those in the congregation and wider Mellor community who are interested in St Thomas' engagement with nature and environmental issues, to come together to share ideas and existing initiatives. There was a brilliant response, with many able to attend a short meeting.

At St Thomas' we are blessed with a beautiful environment, as well as the resources to reduce the impact we are having on God's earth.

Eco Church is A Rocha UK's free award scheme for churches in England and Wales and we'll be looking to see whether we already qualify for a bronze, silver or gold award and what we can do in a wider sense to support the biodiversity of the churchyard and reduce the church's carbon and other resource footprint. At the same time, we recognise that this is an important opportunity for community engagement and demonstrating our global responsibility.

Clare and Sylvia Knight have since been collating the information shared, and have started thinking about what can be achieved, and what should be prioritised. Watch this space! As well as Outlook articles we will be sending out our own monthly bulletins with more details and info.

If you are interested in being involved, have thoughts to share, or just want to keep up to date with news from the Hill, please do email/phone the Parish Office.

Finally, here's the weblink for anyone interested in seeing how the churches across the UK are engaging with environmental issues: type this into your browser (Google or other). There is an excellent monthly newsletter to sign up for if you scroll to the end

[www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/eco-church](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/eco-church)

### **A model railway day – Saturday May 11th**

**Does anyone want to join in and contribute to this day? The centrepiece will be Derek Swinger's wonderful model of 'Marple Station, 1900'. There will also be 'hands-on' railways for children, and 1950s Hornby Dublo, a nostalgia trip for the older generation. And hopefully, much more....**

**If anyone wants to show their model railwayana, whether as a layout or as static exhibits, please contact Mike Barley (427 4370) or Peter Lowe (427 6589)**

**\*\*This is NOT a Model Railway Exhibition where visitors admire the brilliant modelling skills of the exhibitors. Derek's model fits into this category, but the rest is simply 'railway fun'. Please take this opportunity to share something that you have tucked away!**



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Recently I had lunch with Helen Kennedy who told me she still used her old House Box to deposit her loose change, especially five penny pieces. She wondered if other people still did the same, even though the long established House Box Collections came to an end when I retired from being Coordinator eighteen months ago.

I have since discovered by talking to a meeting of the Women's Evening Fellowship that many people do still use their Boxes for small change - the Society is obviously not yet cashless!

By a coincidence, Joanne Nicholson, a Community Relationship Manager with the Children's Society, is coming on the 10th April to give a talk to the W.E.F. (Visitors welcome).

Helen and I are asking if anyone who is still using a Box, would be willing to count its content themselves, round up the amount to the nearest £5, or £10 or £20? note, envelope the money and pass it on to either Helen or myself, or to leave it at The Mellor Centre Office by **Thursday 4th April**.

We feel it would be a happy thing to take this opportunity to personally give this collective donation to Joanne, as a token of our long established support for the work of the Children's Society. We hope you will respond to this 'one off' plan.



housebox

You do not need to own a House Box to respond. But, please no loose change: just paper money. And thank you everyone for what I know from experience will be your generosity.

## Garden Event

Begin the gardening season with our Mellor Centre Garden Event – plants, coffee, cake and more – it's on the morning of Saturday 20th April in the Centre. Do join us and if you have any homeless plants, bring them along.



## Mellor Birds,

On Thursday after 2pm volunteers arrive in the Mellor War Memorial garden. Yesterday Chris D was there and told me she was delighted to have seen two **red polls** *Carduelis flammea* on their bird feeder, which is up Longhurst Lane before you get to Damsteads on the other side of the road. She was entranced by the male's red on his head and chest. They feed together in the top of alder and birch trees extracting the tiny seeds. Their behaviour is very tit like, birds often hang upside down from the very end of branches. Their call is a fast chuchuchuh-uh.



In winter the books say the redpolls join up with siskins *Carduelis spinus* - and David K opposite the Rec had three **siskins** on his feeder. It is a dainty bird, acrobatic mainly yellow-green with bright yellow wing bars, rump and markings on the tail. The males have a black crown and bib. They like sunflower hearts and nyjer seed to eat. The nyjer seeds are quite small so you need a special feeder for them. David also had two **parakeets** on his feeder, which he took a photo of and put on the local RSPB High Peak Birdwatching group facebook page.

At the end of January was The Big Garden Birdwatch for the RSPB. In an hour in my garden I saw, having landed, 1 **long tail tit**, 1 **blackbird**, 1 **bluetit**. 1 **dunnock**, 1 **woodpigeon**, 2 **house sparrows** and 4 **jackdaws**.

Flying over but not counted were 7 **Canada geese**, 2 **starlings**, 2 **maggies** and a charm of **goldfinches**.

P.S. Delighted to have seen a pair of **goosanders** on the North Lake by Lakes Road. First ones I've seen this year.

**Maggie Williams.**



# MELLOR'S GOT TALENT



**Saturday 9th March 2024**  
**7pm Doors, 7:30pm showtime**  
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## 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](mailto: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 the charity **Tiny Tickers** which works to increase the detection, care and treatment of babies with serious heart conditions) and St. Thomas' Church.



### GUESS THE DATE OF MELLOR CHURCH FÊTE!

(CLUE-it's ALWAYS on the last Saturday in June )



So this year's fête is on **Saturday June 29th!** Did you get it right?

We are delighted to announce the name of our Rose Queen-elect. Her name is Mimi McAdams. She is the oldest of 3 girls and her mum Ella (nee Sutton) sang in the church choir for many years and went on several of the choir trips abroad when Peter Harle was choir master. Mimi came to the rescue at the recent crib services. She was cast as Mary for one service but actually ended up playing the part at both services as the other Mary had chickenpox. She showed excellent horsemanship as she rode on the donkey which in the first service walked to the front then did an about-turn before returning to the front. Mimi was totally unfazed! We wish her well





**LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH    EVENSONG SERMON**  
**“IN MY CHURCH ...”    Rev Angie Stanton**



I was listening to the radio last night when I heard a young lesbian, a Christian called Betty who wanted to start her own church because she hadn't been able to find a church that would truly welcome her and her partner. **Thank you** to your welcome to me for this privilege to reflect on the Church, History, Scripture, and THIS Church now.

**Thank you**, because this is personal for me, for some of you, for some of your children and grandchildren or for some of your friends, some who are not here and some online.

**Thank you** that we can reflect and celebrate without fear of humiliation or persecution which is happening in some countries and some churches across the world. The church has an inglorious history of having persecuted its own, forcing those who have worshipped, served and worked in the church into secrecy, into celibacy, into lying, into self-loathing – in order to remain in the church. It did it with a message that the God revealed to us in the Scriptures will not tolerate a man loving a man or a woman loving a woman or a woman becoming a man. It told us that this was SINFUL and that God wants to judge and punish,

**I DON'T FIND THAT GOD IN MY BIBLE.**

The Church did it with a message that the God revealed to us in Scripture was above all things completely judgemental about what some people did with some parts of their body, some of the time.

**I DON'T FIND THAT GOD IN MY BIBLE.**

I find a God who says, 'In me in the Salvation I bring there is no longer male or female, no slave or free, no Jew nor Greek, no insiders or outsiders. You are all one in my sight. You are created in my image as I intended you to be.' - black/pink, tall/short, gay/straight/trans: blue-eyed/brown eye - I'd prefer you not to act in an angry or shouty way or a mean-spirited way, but you are as I intended you to be and I love you.

There are those people who have pointed to isolated verses in Scripture that condemn random acts of gay sex. They are there and

Scripture rightly condemns them - orgies and homosexual prostitution in the Temple. Yet they extrapolate from there to prove and conclude that God cannot bless faithful, stable, loving relationships, unless they are between a man and a woman. That God cannot, and does not bless them

**I CAN'T FIND THAT GOD IN MY BIBLE.....**

**I FIND A GOD WHO IS BLESSING EVERYWHERE.**

Let's take this extraordinary story of David and Jonathan - the Shepherd boy and the King's son. A classic tale, of love, sadness, humiliation, courage, and lifelong commitment, two young men, soul mates. Can you spot the place where God judges and condemns, David and Jonathan? No. They kiss: they hold each other: they swear to love one another. Condemnation comes from Jonathan's father, Saul, who, because of his own sense of humiliation, wants to humiliate his son. God blesses them, protects them, and David goes on his way to become the great King of Israel.

**THAT'S WHAT I FIND IN MY BIBLE.**

Blessing is what God does, and has done from the beginning. Blessing is about celebrating, confirming, encouraging and protecting. Blessing is what the church must be doing. A church that has been blessing the unions of couples for years and has, as you know, liturgies for blessing homes, pets, and battleships, should surely now be officially blessing couples in loving, faithful, stable, gay, and alternative + relationships.

*"Well, yes, we might be ready to do that," the Church of England says, "But let's not officially call it a blessing, let's say we are praying for people. And let's not do it as a special service on its own. Rather we will shoehorn it in after the third collect at Evensong or during the intercessions on Sunday morning."*

Oh Lord do not expect us to be grateful for this because it's not enough - this creeping towards equality. It is a matter of justice. For in you there is no longer male or female, but only a call to love.

As you know, the Church of England is currently debating these things. It's two steps forward and two steps backwards, ready to tear itself apart over who's kissing who. It is hard to love that Church. But what

we are called to is to love each other, to understanding, genuinely welcoming, valuing the ministry of all - not making people feel like they need to hide their sexual orientation.

Then we can say to Betty who wants to set up her own church. "Look here, it's possible. We're not a Gay Church. We're a church that will push for Justice, speak up for Inclusion, normalise difference, celebrate our gay and trans members, stick our necks out, stick our flag up and campaign for Gay and alternative church weddings.

**IN MY BIBLE**, I find a God who loves **justice** and **inclusion**; who does not **distinguish** between Male and Female, who asks us to **love** and **bear fruit** and **not be afraid**. **IN MY CHURCH** I want to find a place of **celebration**, **value** and **equality** that makes all LGBTQ+ people feel **welcome** and **seen**.

**There is no better place to make that happen than here and now.**

*I do not remember listening to a more memorable talk than the one you either heard in the Service or on You Tube or have, hopefully, just read. Its content and its presentation will remain with many of us for a very long time. Thank you Angie and Sian Ed.*

## Mellor March

Congratulations to Pat Boyle who has taken over from Paddy Whitham as the Chair of the Mellor March. Sunday 5th May will see the 30th anniversary of the March that has now raised £250,000 for cancer charities – not bad for a small village. Please make a note of the date as the aim is for a bumper event this year.

## Women's Evening Fellowship

Last month we were pleased to have Frank Pleszak talking about The High Peak Dambusters. We learnt that the bouncing bomb was in fact a skimming depth charge. Frank took us through the experience of Jack Marriott who lived in New Mills and was part of the raid and sadly lost his life. The slides of maps and charts were fascinating. Frank has written a book all about it. It has been decided that this year we will support Francis House, the Children's Hospice charity in Didsbury.

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## Captain Ken

*Ken Owen*

In the nineteen sixties one of the happiest ships on which I sailed was the Blue Funnel cargo ship 'Rhexenor'.

I was 3rd Officer there and we sailed between Liverpool and Australia. We called at Fremantle, Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane with lots and lots of time in each. It was always important in that Company to allow plenty of time in the long Ocean voyages to exercise the life boats.



We had experienced a lot of bad weather, outward bound on this particular voyage, but the Captain was determined to carry out the drill before we arrived on the Australian coast, so I was a little surprised when he announced we would carry out the boat drill the following morning as we reached the coast before, later, arriving in Adelaide.

The reason I was so concerned was first because I was to be in charge of the boat, but on consulting the Admiralty chart, I realised the position the Captain had selected was just off Cape Catastrophe. It turned out that I had just finished reading the history of Matthew Flinders, and he was a particular hero of mine. He had named the point when he was surveying the entire Australian Continent. A sudden squall had struck his surveying boat with the loss of some eight crew members. However, despite my reservations, our Captain insisted that we would be luckier than Flinders and I'm pleased to say, we were, and our voyage was successful.

On that same voyage we berthed in Sydney near the old wool clippers' berth of Circular Quay. The Opera House was still to be built and somewhere near where it now stands was a hospital. The 'Rhexenor' held a party, and many of the nurses attended. During the party some of the nurses were telling us how their hospital, on the banks of Sydney harbour, had a lovely swimming pool but they

couldn't use it as the shark safety net had a large hole in it. With my rather big mouth I promised we would bring our life boat the following day, and repair the shark net. Our Captain was naturally pleased with the idea as it would be yet extra boat training. We arrived with our boat and after planting our red Ensign on the lawn commenced repairing the hole. The nurses were delighted and proud to keep our flag.



Naturally the 2nd Mate and his team decided to work from inside the pool, whereas my team were working from outside, with the sharks! I'm glad to say my luck held for the second time that voyage.



## **Trainee Vicaring Chapter 2: Epiphany Special** *Clare Jackson*

**Time** is racing by, even by normal standards, let alone by the gentle turning of the spheres that the Church runs on. Since Ch.1, we have had Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, all very special since I wasn't necessarily going to be with you still this time last year.

For me, each season is now accompanied by a College Residential; a weekend of pretty intense Ministerial Formation. This infuses the theology we do during the week and in assignments, with the breadth and reality of the task that priests undertake in ministering to, often these days several, communities. It means also that we are journeying together as fledgling Vicars, Priests and Deacons, which is great for support and sharing ideas and concerns.

For now, I am concentrating on assisting Andrew with some (a tiny bit) of the week to week church business, keeping up with academic work from the College, and getting Eco Church up and running. The Lent Group will also be well under way during March. This year I have taken up the Archbishop of Canterbury's recommendation "Tarry Awhile" by Selina Stone, and we will be joining a national Big Read Lent campaign called '**Watch and Pray**' based on the rich traditions of prayer, waiting on God, community and individual meditations from Global African traditions.

If you haven't been to a small group Lent Study before, please do join us on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm in the Mellor Centre, even if you can only manage one or two. Leave your name and contact at the Parish Office for more details.



## 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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## **Mellor War Memorial Garden**

What was the stumpery bed at the top, is now full of colour. The stumps laid in over five years ago have now all disintegrated and we are left with a flat bed full of hellebores - white and purple - in flower together with snowdrops, primroses, purple, white and yellow crocus, and pink bergenia crassifolia tucked around the back of the yew tree. Well worth a look.

Elsewhere in the park the witchhazel and daphne are coming into flower. The croci we planted in the top part of the lawn are also starting to come out.

Interestingly there are five pink coum cyclamen in flower with the snowdrops under the yew tree by the top bench. Originally there were lots more coum all together with the snowdrops but now the coum have been overtaken by the hederifolium cyclamen that flower in autumn.

We **DESPERATELY** need help on Thursday afternoons at 2pm, especially for someone who can help dig. The top bed is getting crowded and the plants need digging up and splitting.

No plant knowledge is needed just muscles. Stockport Council look after the hedges, paths, lawn and bins but have no time to dig.

Next monthly work party is Saturday 9th March. 10-12.



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## Lynda's Laughs



I heard a rumour that Cadbury is bringing  
out an Oriental chocolate bar.  
Could it be a Chinese whisper?

I've decided to sell my Hoover  
Well, it was just collecting dust.

I tried to steal spaghetti from the shop,  
but the female guard saw me and I could not get pasta.



As Outlook has no monthly cricket report in winter we thought readers may like to hear about what other sports take place in Mellor.



## **Mellor Tennis Club**

*Jos Cunningham*

Mellor Tennis Club (part of Mellor Sports Club) nestles between the Royal Oak and the Devonshire Arms on Longhurst Lane in Mellor, in a beautiful rural setting.

Tennis has been played in Mellor for over 100 years - we are a friendly, local, easy going Club and welcome and encourage players of all ages and abilities for year round social, tournament, and match tennis on our four fantastic all weather tennis courts – 2 of our Tennis Courts also have floodlights for play until late evening – we are told our Tennis Surfaces are as good as any in the North West !! We really feel proud that Tennis at Mellor is welcoming and inclusive - you'll find players that may have more, less, or equal skills to your own, we realise it can be scary to try a new sport and at our Tennis

We offer at least the following: Active ADULT & JUNIOR Coaching programmes (Group & Individual Lessons) headed by MAB Tennis Coaching : Social mid-week and weekend Tennis – all easily bookable through our Member’s Website & App.

Weekly Junior and regular Holiday Tennis Camps

3 Men’s & Ladies’ Teams in the North East Cheshire Tennis League (NECTL)

Modern clubhouse with bar and facilities, in which we host a range of social events, with onsite free parking. We offer great value membership and have a range of Membership packages to suit individuals of all ages and families.

For the forthcoming 2024/25 Season Adult Individual Membership costs just £165.00 for the year, Family Membership just £270.00 and we are proud of our very special offer for Juniors of just £20.00 per year.

Membership enquiries just email: [lucygreenaway@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucygreenaway@hotmail.co.uk) or call Jos Cunningham 07854 247685

We look forward to seeing you soon at Mellor Tennis Club – you will be made very welcome.

### **Magazine Subscriptions**

Readers of *Outlook* are reminded that subscriptions for the year 2024 are now due and should be paid to the person who delivers your magazine. The annual subscription which is £10, should be paid as cash or by cheque payable to Mellor PCC., or by bank transfer, details as follows:

Nat West Bank

Mellor PCC General Account

Sort Code: 01-05-51

Account: 47943076

Reference: *Outlook* Magazine and your name

This annual subscription represents a saving of £2 compared with 12 copies at the cover price of £1.

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

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

## News from The Mellor Centre

The Friends Committee and the Management Committee are holding their joint **AGM** on Wednesday **March 13th, 7.30pm**. Please try to attend this important meeting. It will be followed by a *talk by David Seddon, 'Artful Dodgers'*, about his work with troubled youngsters. David is always entertaining, informative and thought-provoking.

The Friends are planning a ***French Bistro Evening***, Saturday, **March 23rd 7.30pm**, with wine, cheese, olives, pate, bread and songs from Jen Lowe. There is more information in a separate advertisement in this issue.

Three more dates for your diary – **Saturday April 20th *Plant Sale***; **Saturday, May 11th a *Model Railway Day***; **Wednesday, May 22nd, 2pm, 'Words & Music'**, a musical afternoon with *David Seddon and pianist Phillip Vulliamy*. Look out for more details of these events.

On a different note, we are pleased that the Centre's upstairs office is now occupied, bringing in much-needed income, and a new face around the Centre.

You will also be pleased to note that at last we can see, in the near future, an end to the lengthy work resulting from the oil leak. A costly business.

Finally, if you are not a 'Friend' of the Centre, please join. Annual subscriptions are very important to us. Ask for a form at The Centre.



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## **Outlook report on the PCC meeting of January 2024**

Our first PCC meeting of the New Year took place on 29th January 2024. We're now holding our meetings in the Mellor Centre and for those who need to join us virtually.

The good news was that the Christmas Crib Services had gone well; five candidates had been confirmed by Bishop Sam on 14th January, and the first Messy Church since the pandemic was due to take place the following Sunday.

There were some ongoing issues concerning the church car park, and it was agreed that permanent notices were needed, to make it clear that it is church land and so is primarily for church usage. A wording will be agreed and then notices will be produced.

There was also a question about whether more spaces should be provided for disabled drivers. It was felt this was not necessary at the moment but it was agreed temporary disabled parking signs may be useful for big events such as weddings and funerals.

The General Synod of the Church of England approved of a suite of prayers, called 'Prayers of Love and Faith', which include prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and God's blessing for same-sex couples in a civil partnership or marriage. The Diocese of Chester recently circulated these prayers and each parish is asked to decide whether they agree they will be using these. The members of our PCC agreed unanimously that they will.

There was some initial discussion about planning for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which takes place every year, and we agreed that this year it will be held on 19th May. We then had a visitor to the meeting – Tom Howling, our Director of Music, who came to give us the outcome of the consultation exercise that he carried out with the PCC in November. This was about his proposals to provide a flexible seating area at the back of the church, which would maximise seating capacity for the choir, and/or for congregations at large services. There were a number of

points that members had thought should be borne in mind, such as the seating being lightweight, but its visual appearance was important too, and that it may provide an opportunity to improve the access to the Lady Chapel. Andrew summarised that the PCC was in support of the plans, in principal, but they needed to be communicated to the congregation, who should be consulted as far as possible.

The Vicar's and Church Warden's bank accounts are historical charitable funds which were set up to aid the poor folk of Mellor, for such things as buying blankets. This money is now rarely used so has accumulated. It was agreed that we will donate £2,000 to the Wellspring, which is where local people may approach for support in hard times. Other ideas for using the money will be considered.

Finally, our Treasurer was able to inform us that, following our Vicar Andrew's Thanksgiving appeal, the church had received one-off donations totalling some £5,000, and parishioners had increased their regular giving to the church by around £11,500. This was excellent news, although the church still faces a large deficit and a further increase in giving is needed to keep our church running into the future.

## **(Women's) World Day of Prayer**

The World Day of Prayer this year is on Friday 1st March and the service will be at 2.00 pm at Marple Methodist Church. The service has been arranged by the women of Palestine, so do join us to find out more about this beleaguered Christian community, and to pray

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<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/mellorlrc/Membership/Join>

Contact Lucy Greenaway for more information at

[lucygreenaway@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucygreenaway@hotmail.co.uk)

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

# Lemon Tart

A lemon tart for Easter, this will feed a large family but you can make one two thirds the size if that suits better

6 large eggs

300 ml double cream

3 large lemons (4 small) preferably unwaxed zest and juice

280 grams caster sugar

+ Whisk the eggs, sugar, cream and lemon juice together, stir in the grated zest

+ Leave in the fridge for 2 days.

+ Make the tart case. Lining a 10 inch/ 24 cm flan tin, or buy a pre cooked pastry case.

## My favourite sweet pastry

10.oz/ 280grams plain flour

1 oz/ 25g ground almonds or just use an extra ounce 25 grams

3 oz/ 75g icing sugar

6 oz butter.

1 egg and 1 yolk

1.

Either put all the ingredients in a food processor and bring to a dough or mix in a bowl. Chill in the fridge for a couple of hours.

2. Heat the oven to 200°C gas 6. Line the flan tin, making sure the pastry stands just slightly higher than the tin (or buy a pre-cooked pastry case).

3. Lightly prick the base with a fork. Chill for 30 minutes. Line with tart case with baking parchment and baking beans. Bake for 12- 15 minutes until the pastry is set.

4. Remove the beans and parchment and bake for a further 10 minutes until pale gold.

5. Reduce the temperature to 160°C /gas 3.

6. Stir the filling and pour most of it into the flan case. When it is in the oven top up further.

7. Bake 25 to 30 minutes until the filling is just set but has a slight wobble in the centre. Leave to cool before removing the flan tin. Can be served warm or cold. Dust with icing sugar which can be caramelised under a grill or using blow torch or simply served as it is.

**GREEK TART ERROR** from February Outlook. 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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## **From the Registers**

### **Christenings**

We welcomed into God's family

Sophie Ann Louch on the 14th January

Isabella (Ella) Mary D'Ambra on the 21st January

George Benjamin Bright on the 21st January

### **The Departed**

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

Peter Cox

Hilda Brindley

Christine Martin

## **FAIRTRADE BIG BREW**

**SATURDAY MARCH 2nd at Marple URC 2-4 pm.**

We will be having a Fairtrade and Ethical stall as well as tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits and a bring and buy stall. This is to raise money for Transform trade. All welcome.

### **Friday Strollers.**

Here are the dates for Spring Strollers

Friday 8th March

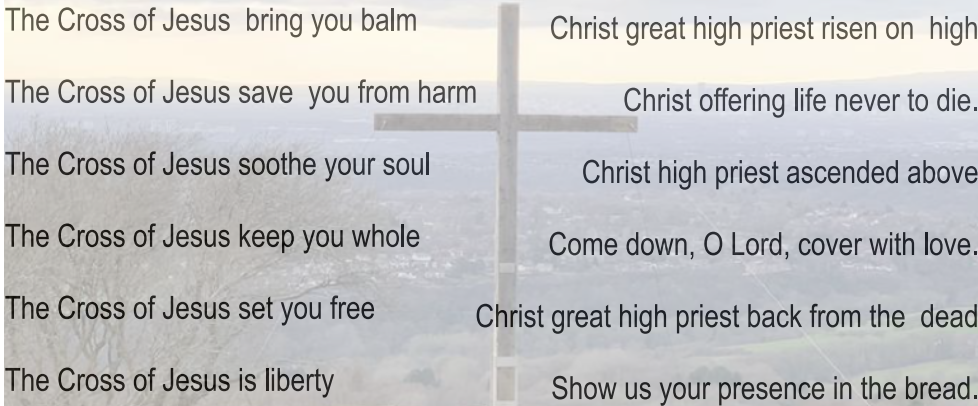
Friday 22nd March

Meet at 10.15a.m. outside Marple Library

Contact Judy Cooper for further details

judecoopurr@hotmail.com 07855290958

## Prayer of the Month



The Cross of Jesus bring you balm      Christ great high priest risen on high  
The Cross of Jesus save you from harm      Christ offering life never to die.  
The Cross of Jesus soothe your soul      Christ high priest ascended above  
The Cross of Jesus keep you whole      Come down, O Lord, cover with love.  
The Cross of Jesus set you free      Christ great high priest back from the dead  
The Cross of Jesus is liberty      Show us your presence in the bread.

## Thought for the Month

This month, a little philosophy from Sally, a character in Amor Towles' new novel, 'The Lincoln Highway':-

“What is kindness but the performance of an act that is beneficial to another and unrequired?”

There is no kindness in paying a bill. There is no kindness in getting up at dawn to slop the pigs, or milk the cows, or gather eggs from the hen house. There is no kindness in making dinner, or in cleaning the kitchen afterwards.

There is no kindness in latching doors and turning out the lights or in picking up the clothes from the bathroom floor. No kindness in taking care of a household because your only sister had the good sense to get herself married and move to Pensacola.

Nope, I said to myself while climbing into bed and switching off the light, there is no kindness in any of that.

For kindness begins when necessity ends”

*Jenny Johnson*

# CHURCH ROTAS

## Steward Rota

Date	8:30am	10:00am	6:30pm
March 3rd	P. Cooke	S Knight & C Langford	R. Holt
March 10th	A Mason	L Forbes & P Forbes	J Shiel
March 17th	J Butterworth.	K Hargreaves & M Williams	A Shah
March 24th	P. Cunningham	J Elliott & R Elliott	R. Holt
March 31st	A Mason	D Jelleyman & A Sanders	J Shiel
April 7th	P. Cooke	M Lowe & J Mason	A Shah

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

## Flower Rota

March 3rd	Lent no flowers	April 7th	Easter Flowers
March 10th	Lent no flower	April 14th	Alison Allcard
March 17th	Lent no flowers	April 21st	Jenny Butterworth
March 24th	Lent no flowers	April 28th	Julie Elliot
March 31st	Easter 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

March 3rd	J. & R. Elliot
March 10th	M. Williams & S. McAlister
March 17th	The Big Clean Up
March 24th	P. Cunningham & A. Muller
March 31st	J. Cooper A. Muller
April 7th.	J. & D. Butterworth

## Brasses

J. Briggs & H Carlsson

Please arrange your own substitute. Any problems contact Anthea Mason 449 9815.

**The Big Clean up for Easter** Saturday March 16th 10am to 3pm  
Please come and help with the big clean up before Easter when we clean, dust and polish the church ready for Easter. Everyone is welcome of all ages. Refreshments will be available xxxxx



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