

# OUTLOOK



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November  
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](mailto:revandrewtawn@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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Alex Eggeman 07772849657

**PCC Treasurer** Richard Elliott contact via Parish Office

**Assistant** David Butterworth

**Treasurers** Andrew Sanders

**Gift Aid Secretary** Karen Greenough

**PCC Secretary** Julie Elliott 64 Emocroft Road 427 5981

**Director of Music** Tom Howling (email:[t.howling@nhs.net](mailto: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,

Kathryn Maxwell Angie Stanton, Sian Yeowell.

Emma Wilson (Safeguarding Officer)

**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](mailto:melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com).

The deadline for the December issue is November 15th please.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2024

|                                                  |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3 Sun</b><br><b>All Saints Day</b>            | 8.30 am<br>10.00 am<br>4.00 pm                          | Holy Communion<br>Parish Communion<br>All Souls Service                                                                                                                     |
| 6 Wed<br>6 Wed                                   | 10.00 am<br>2.30 pm                                     | Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)<br>Dementia Awareness Talk(Mellor Centre)                                                                                                    |
| 9 Sat                                            | 7.00 pm                                                 | Choir Remembrance Concert                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>10 Sun</b><br><b>Remembrance Sunday</b>       | 8.30 am<br>10.00<br>11.30 am<br>12.15 pm<br><br>6.30 pm | Holy Communion<br>Parish Communion<br>Safeguarding meeting (Mellor Centre)<br>Act of Remembrance,<br>Mellor War Memorial, Longhurst Lane.<br>Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre) |
| 11 Mon                                           | 10.45-12 noon                                           | Coffee with the Vicar (Mellor Centre)                                                                                                                                       |
| 13 Wed<br>13 Wed<br>15th-17th                    | 10.00 am<br>2.00 pm                                     | Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)<br>WEF Charity Auction (Mellor Centre)<br>Fort Belan rehearsal weekend                                                                       |
| <b>17 Sun</b><br><b>2nd Sunday Before Advent</b> | 8.30 am<br>10.00 am<br>6.30 pm                          | Holy Communion<br>Parish Communion<br>Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)                                                                                                        |
| 20 Wed<br>20 Wed                                 | 10.00 am<br>2.00 pm                                     | Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)<br>Talk David Seddon "Poets Laureate" (Mellor Centre)                                                                                        |
| <b>24 Sun</b><br><b>Christ the King</b>          | 8.30 am<br>10.00 am<br>6.30 pm                          | Holy Communion<br>Parish Communion<br>Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)                                                                                                        |
| 25 Mon                                           | 4-6 pm                                                  | 'The Write Before Christmas' (Mellor Centre) Friends of Mellor Centre                                                                                                       |
| 25 Mon<br>27 Wed                                 | 7.45 pm<br>10.00 am                                     | PCC (Mellor Centre)<br>Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)                                                                                                                       |

Coffee and Chat **will continue** with the Vicar 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.pm (The Mellor Centre)**

Toddlers' Group meets in term time on Thursday each week 10.00 am to 11.30 am

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**

### **All Souls' Service: Sunday 3rd November at 4 pm**

Every year we hold a service with the particular focus of remembering those we have loved who are now in heaven. We invite the bereaved families from all the funerals we have taken during the past year, but everyone is welcome. You may have been bereaved many years ago - but we still feel the loss and emptiness and this service is one way to acknowledge how much they meant to us. If you would like us to include in our prayers the name or names of someone you miss, please pass the names on to me (by email, or letter or phone) or write the names on the list that will be in church in preparation for this service. During the service there will be the chance for you to light a candle. The service lasts about 45 minutes and is followed by tea and cake in The Mellor Centre.

### **Dementia Awareness Talk: Wed. 6th Nov. 2.30 - 4.30pm**

#### **The Mellor Centre**

This will be led by Wendy Luxon, Dementia Awareness Ambassador and Lay Reader. The talk will give an introduction to Dementia Friends, and an understanding of what it means to the person with dementia. Also how we in church can support people with dementia.

There will be a break for refreshments. There is no cost for this event - do spread the word to anyone who might be interested. Please contact Jenny for more information and to register interest in attending so we know how many to expect - 0161 425 1459.

### **Choir concert: Fauré's Requiem and more: Sat 9th Nov. at 7pm**

November is a time of remembrance, with All Saints' Day, All Souls' and then Remembrance Day itself. We are marking this time, as we did last year, with a choir concert to include a full performance of the beautiful requiem by Gabriel Fauré, along with a number of atmospheric anthems on the same theme.

#### **Edale weekend**

At the end of September we held our annual weekend at Edale for young people within and beyond the church. 21 young people took part, several of them for the first time this year which is great. The programme





walks, a Sunday morning service, and lots of good food. The whole weekend explored the theme of diversity. I want to say a big thank you to the leadership team: Kate, Glyn, Jane and Edward. It was a very happy weekend and all went smoothly thanks to their brilliant

planning and hard work.

### **Harvest**

We have had an extended season thinking about creation this autumn spanning a whole month, including a sermon on climate change (an extract is included in this edition of Outlook); a Harvest

Festival service in which we interviewed Tim, the owner of the

Dark Peak vineyard; an Extra Ordinary Time service with a focus on St. Francis and his hymn of praise to the creator; a Harvest themed Messy Church; and concluding with Harvest Evensong on 20th October.

Thank you to the flower arrangers -

the church looked beautiful! And thank you all for your generous harvest offerings. We delivered an estate car-full of provisions to The Wellspring in Stockport, where they have an inspiring ministry of food and care for the homeless.

A special thank you for our Harvest Festival wheatsheaf to Libby's. It was baked by Dean Blackwell and apprentice baker Rebekah Burns.



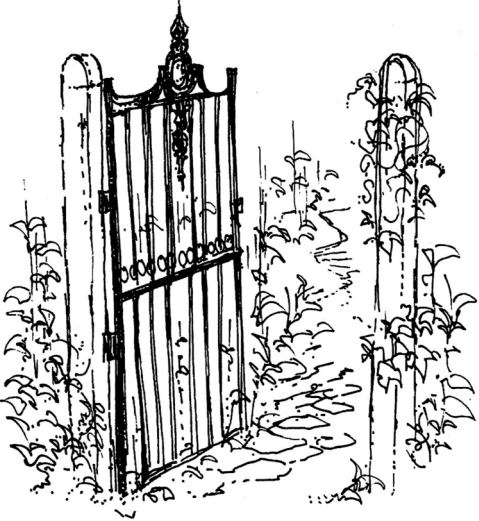
## Exploring Faith course plus Advent mini-course

During the 7 sessions of the Exploring Faith course more than 30 different people attended. I was deeply encouraged to see the enthusiasm of those who took part, and I enjoyed the questions they raised. One request was to hold a further session to think about the Second Coming. So in Advent we will hold a mini-course looking at 'the last things': heaven, hell, judgement and the Second Coming. Dates are yet to be arranged but will be announced in church. If you are interested, let me know.

**Coming up:** Remembrance Sunday service at the Village war memorial Sunday 10th at 12.15 pm

Advent Carols by Candlelight: Sunday 1st Dec. 6.30pm

**God bless you, Andrew**



**Mellor Open Gardens 2025**

Mellor Open Gardens returns on Sunday 11th May next year. It only takes place every four years, so do **SAVE THE DATE!** You will be supporting our own Mellor Centre as well as Cancer Research UK. Please make contact if you or your garden would like to be involved. Phone 0161 427 7255 or email [mhmellor@aol.com](mailto:mhmellor@aol.com)

**Plant Names** I like to have plants which not only look good and survive in my shady garden, but also have intriguing names. **Solomon's Seal** (*Polygonatum x hybridum*) is a perennial with long curved stems and drooping white flowers in late spring. The name comes from the Greek for 'much jointed' and according to the mediaeval Doctrine of Signatures in which the appearance or name of a plant directed what ailments it should be used for,

it can knit joints or bones together. The connection with Solomon is obscure, except that he was traditionally supposed to have great knowledge of plants and herbs – but why this one particularly, who knows?

**Jacob's Ladder** (*Polemonium caeruleum*) is native to northern and central Europe and is found occasionally as a wild flower in Britain. It has stems 2-3 feet high with small opposed leaves. Mediaeval ladders seen in manuscript illuminations show ladders made in this pattern - a central pole with rungs on either side. The connection with Jacob is based on Jacob's dream in Genesis chapter 28, in which he saw angels travelling to and from heaven on a ladder. Just a thought – did angels not have wings at this point? **Balm of Gilead** (*Commiphora opobalsamum* or *gileadensis*) is a shrubby plant growing in dry areas from East Africa to the Arabian peninsula. There is a passing allusion to it in Jeremiah 8.22; "Is there no balm in Gilead?", as if it was a known medicinal plant. There is also a half-hardy perennial plant, ***Cedronella canariensis*** which can be grown in this country. The leaves of this can be used to make an invigorating bath or footwash, or can be dried and added to pot pourri. The name is attached probably because the scent of the leaves was supposed to be similar to those of the shrub. Any plant with the word 'lady' or 'dame' in its name might be associated with the Virgin Mary. **Lady's Mantle** (*Alchemilla mollis*) was considered in the Middle Ages to be a magical plant – the name *Alchemilla* derives from the same Arabic word as 'alchemy' and the water drops which collect in the centre of the leaf were used in this pseudo-science. The plant was dedicated to Mary, and was used to treat women's ailments, particularly to staunch bleeding. It will also apparently produce a bright green shade of dye. Perhaps I will look at it with more interest next time I have to try to eradicate it from my veg plot. **Dame's Violet** (*Hesperis matronalis*), also called **Sweet rocket**, is a biennial plant bearing sweetly scented white or purple flowers, which are particularly attractive to insects. **Aaron's Rod** is a common name for *Verbascum thapsus* or Great Mullein, a woolly-leaved plant which grows to 5' - 6' in height and bears yellow flowers. Aaron's rod in the Bible is referred to in Numbers chapter 17, where it is said to have sprouted and put forth buds, blossoms and ripe almonds. *Verbascum* was traditionally used to treat coughs and lung diseases.. The traditional use of plants is very interesting, but it goes without saying (but I will anyway) **NEVER take any plant medicinally unless prescribed by a qualified medical herbalist.** Judith Shiel

# The Dark Peak Vineyard



What a good idea it was to invite Tim of the Dark Peak Vineyard to come to Mellor Church's Harvest Festival and tell us about the vines at Knowle Farm. Vines and vineyards are such an important symbol in the Bible and wine is a central symbol in our communion service every

Sunday. The congregation was enthralled by Tim as he explained how the vines came to be planted. It will be 2027 before they expect to produce wine. In the meantime they are getting support from people wishing to be members of the vineyard. Members get to join in volunteer days helping with things like The Mellor Bud Rub and wine tasting and if all goes well members will receive bottles of wine. The other day 90 people turned up and rather than work it was fun.

If you would like to see Tim's fascinating 18 minute conversation with Rev Andrew and Clare Jackson about the of setting up of the vineyard, and holiday homes and gin making, you can see it by :-

visiting St. Thomas' Church Mellor website,

Scrolling down to **Live streamed services**,

Pressing **watch here**,

Scrolling down to **Past Live Streams** and

Clicking on **Harvest Festival 6th October**

The latest project is selling the gin called **The Dark Peak Pest** made with Himalayan Balsam!

This will soon be available to pre-order. See the **Dark Peak Vineyard website**.

**Membership is still available on the website.** *Maggie Williams*

This photograph was taken with a drone flown by Bob Humphrey Taylor





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



## Messy Church Harvest Activities



### Friday Strollers

I am introducing an element of surprise for our walks over the winter months. We will meet by the car park in Brabyns Park at 10.30am. Our destination will be decided on the day when the weather and impact of possible roadworks has been taken into consideration. We may decide to use the 383/384 bus so please remember your bus pass if you have one.

Friday November 22

Friday December 13

For more information contact Judy Cooper 07855 290958

**Radio 4 Ramblings on Oct 17th** heard **Clare Balding** hiking along Section 6 of the G.M. Ringway new 200 mile walking route. She started at Strines Station, walked up to Shaw Cairn and **finished at St Thomas' Church, Mellor.** Hurray! Here, her fellow walkers told her about the archaeological dig and the pulpit in the Church.





## Mellor Birds

A couple of weeks ago Kariss H told me she had the most delightful tiny bird crash into her window on Cote Green Road and knock itself out. She picked up this tiny ball of fluff which had a gold crown. She had never seen a **goldcrest** before. As she had to leave her house she thought about where would be good to put it, so cats could not get to it. So she pushed two wheely bins side by side and put the bird in the ridges along the edges of the lids - see photo. When she came home the bird had gone, hopefully flown away.

Goldcrests only weigh about 6g - as much as a 5p coin. Kariss was very lucky to see one up close because they never stay still. They flit around conifers. I usually hear them first as a high pitched zee zee zee, a bit like a long tail tit. Goldcrests are in the UK all year and are joined by migrants from Scandinavia in autumn. Heaven knows how they survive flying over the North Sea.



goldcrest



pink footed goose

This week Gill's husband told her to look up from Longhurst Lane and there were at least two hundred pink footed geese. The first lot were flying in a perfect 'V' formation and then there were some stragglers - all flying East towards the Wash.

Two weeks ago Gill also saw swallows congregating, getting ready to fly off back to South Africa.



swallow



baby owl

Mike W had a surprise when he walked out of the door at The Mellor Centre and saw a bird sitting on the floor by the bench near the door. It was a young owl! And then it flew off.

*Maggie Williams*

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## Magazine Subscriptions.

A gentle reminder for those who have forgotten to pay their  
magazine subscription for this year

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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.

## Laughs with Lynda

I am going to write a book about the things I should  
have done with my life.

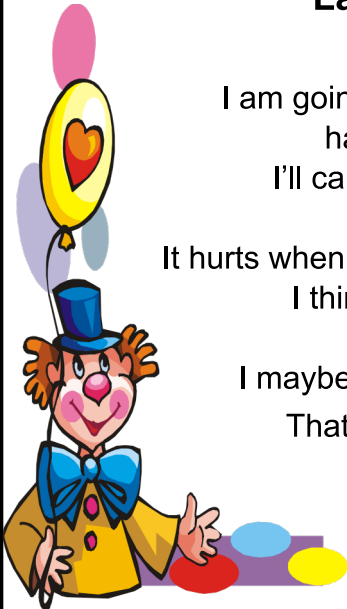
I'll call it my oughta-biography.

It hurts when I touch my arm or my knee or my shoulder.

I think I've broken my hand.

I maybe light-fingered but I wouldn't steal a ruler.

That's where I draw the line.



# Holy Communion

At the heart of it all is a thing of absolute simplicity - the taking, blessing, breaking and giving of bread, and the taking, blessing and giving of a cup of wine and water, as these were first done by a young Jew before and after supper with his friends on the night before he died. He told his friends to do this, and they have done it always since. Was ever another commandment so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacles of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth. Men and women have found no better thing than this to do for kings and queens at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the wisdom of a Parliament or for a sick old person afraid to die. One could fill many pages with the reasons why men and women have done this, and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to make ... the holy common people of God.

*Extract adapted from Dom Gregory Dix, The Shape of the Liturgy*





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## The Shipping Forecast

Members of Mellor NWR (National Women's Register) discuss a variety of topics in their meetings. Recently the chosen topic was The Shipping Forecast, a broadcast service essential to a minority but loved by hundreds of thousands. Its unique rhythm and familiar phrases have inspired and been included in poems and classical and pop music.

Our version has become "The Baking Forecast".

And now the Baking Forecast issued at 0700 hours on Friday, before the Church Fête:

There are warnings of wails, tantrums and expletives in central areas and surrounding households.

General synopsis: Lows spreading to all areas, storms expected with outbursts of thundery rage. Abating by 1700.

Area activity forecasts:

Recipes - Jamie, Mary and Delia - researched frantically, results frustrating.

Cake tins - rusty, storm force scouring imminent.

Lining paper - curly, veering eastwards.

Ingredients:

Flour, baking powder, sugar - lumpy at first, moderate sieving.

Cloudy. Becoming good.

Chopped peel, dried fruit, cherries - prolonged soaking.

Currants swelling.

Baileys - always handy. Eggs – good.

Mixing - light at first, becoming severe, danger of over-beating.

Mixture - stiff, then light, soft drop later.

Baking:

Temperature - moderate, steady.

Visibility - fair. Cake - rising slowly. Outlook – good.

Finishing:

Lemon juice - drizzle at first, scattered showers later.

Icing - generally light flurries, becoming heavy if from Iceland!

*Submitted by J.H.*



# Sticky Ginger Loaf Cake

Jill Baker

What is November without a ginger cake or parkin?

A friend gave me this – I think it originated in the Guardian and she said it was very similar to the bought Jamaican ginger cake.

You can use gluten free flour and it works just as well.

**There are no eggs or butter either.**

- \* 250g pitted dates roughly chopped
- \* 75g molasses/ black treacle
- \* 75g golden syrup
- \* 200g plain flour (gluten free if wanted)
- \* 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- \* 110g light brown sugar
- \* 80g rapeseed/ sunflower oil plus a bit for greasing
- \* 1 tbsp ground ginger
- \* 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
- \* 2 tsp baking powder
- \* 1 tsp salt
- \* 20g stem ginger in syrup finely chopped, optional
- \* 2 tbsp ginger syrup optional.



Heat the oven to 190°C Gas 5 and line a 1 kg loaf tin.

Put the dates and bicarb in a bowl and cover with 200 ml just boiled water for 10 mins.

Then either use a stick blender or put contents of the bowl (use the soaking liquid too) in a blender. then add the dark and golden syrup sugar and oil and blitz until smooth.

Combine all the dry ingredients in a separate bowl and then fold into the pureed mix.

Spoon into the tin and bake for around 50 minutes until a skewer comes out clean. If liked, finish with a brushing of ginger syrup and scatter the chopped ginger on top. Enjoy. (*Ed MW: this was very popular.*

*My tin was slightly less than 1kg, so I lined it, and it was fine).*



At a recent 10.00 am service Keith Davies from CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide), gave a lively presentation on the charity. Freedom of Religious Belief is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and accepted by the United Nations.

We are so used to the situation here, where we have complete freedom to associate and worship as we choose, that we tend to overlook the fact that this is not the case in many countries. CSW is a campaigning organisation, whose vision is “a world free from religious persecution, where everyone can practise a religion or belief of their choice”, or to practise no religion if that is their wish. The “Christian” in the title of the organization is the basis of its work, not a statement that only Christians are to be assisted. CSW works by collecting accurate information on the ground, using specialist teams to gather evidence on the situation, and has UN accreditation which empowers it to work on the international stage. It co-operates with similar organizations in other countries, such as Impulso 18 in Mexico which has amassed information on the discrimination suffered by religious minority women from indigenous communities. Such information is used in its advocacy work with individual governments, the UK Parliament, the US government, the EU and UN. It works to document Freedom of Religious Belief violations widely within countries and also to appeal for individuals severely affected by such violations. One such individual is Professor Tarfa, co-founder of the Du Merci orphanages in Nigeria, who was falsely accused of forgery. He has now been released. Sadly, in this age of immediate communication and social media, individuals are not necessarily free of harassment even if they have been released from detention. Helen Berhan, a former prisoner of conscience and now a human-rights campaigner and CSW Board member, is being threatened by a YouTuber who is encouraging other Eritrean émigrés to ‘deal with her’. Hatred, intolerance and encouragement to violence seem to be everywhere, as we have seen too recently in this country, and any organization which addresses this is worthy of support.

*Judith Shiel*

## BEING A VOICE FOR JUSTICE IN MYANMAR

Since its independence from Britain in 1948, Myanmar, formerly Burma, has had a very chequered history. Periods of civilian government have alternated with long periods of military rule. Since the annulling of the election results of 2020, which gave victory to the National League for Democracy under Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar has been under military rule.

CSW has spoken out frequently about the shocking human rights situation and highlighted Rev. Dr Hkalam Samson, a Baptist minister and human rights defender, who was arrested and imprisoned on totally unfounded charges.

Suddenly, without warning, all that changed. On 22 July 2024 he was released and allowed to go home. It is likely that all the international pressure applied by CSW through the UN has had an effect.

Further details about Dr Samson and all the human rights work done by CSW can be found on the website [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)

*Keith Davies*



Festival of Choirs Choir in St George's Church, New Mills, 29th September

# The Write Before Christmas...

A Christmas Card writing evening at  
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## **PCC meeting 30th September**

This was our first meeting since the summer, given that we do not meet in August. So we began by hearing what a successful trip the choir had to Truro. It was enjoyed by everyone who went, including non-choir members of the congregation, and there was a really good community spirit felt by everyone. The PCC wished to pass on their thanks to all those who had taken part in organising and running the trip, for all their work.

In terms of ongoing business the repairs to the broken William Whittam window are still being planned, as is a new 'Who's Who board' for church.

There was also a discussion of how we might move on from the Eucharist as it is taken at the moment, and has been since Covid, which is 'intincting' or dipping the wafer in the wine instead of sharing a common chalice. Many churches have returned to sharing the cup, but there is still some caution around this in our congregation. Andrew was previously at a church which offered both at the altar rail, so he proposed to try this, to test out how people felt about it. The PCC agreed to doing this one Sunday and Andrew said he would announce and explain this in church.

The other main item we discussed was St. Thomas' charitable fund, which was set up some years ago as a way of church members giving to charities. This has not been promoted for some time and many people don't know it exists. The fund takes regular donations from individuals, and supports four charities. These charities were chosen by the PCC from a number which were nominated. The original plan was to choose charities on an annual basis, but over the last couple of years, since Covid and the interregnum, the same charities have been 'rolled over.' These charities are Educaid, UNHCR, Mission to Seafarers and the Haematology and Transplant unit at The Christie Hospital. Last year the fund donated £335 to each of those charities. The PCC felt that the charities to be supported should now be reviewed, and it was agreed that the best way to do this may be initially to contact the current donors to the fund and canvas them for any nominations. Andrew also agreed to publicise the existence of the fund, to make people aware of it and its purpose.

*Julie Elliott PCC Secretary.*

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Read this anonymous article on 'The Earth' below followed by the modern version of The Rich Man and Lazarus on the next page by Rev. Andrew..

Then consider these relevant points below and ask yourself if the World has become a better place since we were born.

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it, and defend it with their lives because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it.

Anon



- \*Are we helping to defend the world from hunger by sharing more?
  - \*Are we using too much water or inadvertently polluting it
  - \*Education for all ?
  - \*Is there any way we can help to reduce the intake of drink, drugs, medications ?
  - \*On a clothes label seen recently - "Wear me, love me, mend me and pass me on!"
- The world is suffering from global warming - what are we doing to prevent or repair the damage?
- \*Can we control new pandemics or powerful, new technology?
  - Can we return to the 'Big Society' by Volunteering?

# The parable of the rich man and Lazarus

A re-telling for our time of Jesus' parable of Dives and Lazarus (Luke 16.19-end)

Let's look into the future, not so many generations from now. Global warming has accelerated and radically changed our world. The last vestiges of the polar ice caps have melted and large areas of land have flooded. The weather alternates between extreme flooding and drought. The first to be affected were the poor, who had to leave their homes and had nowhere to

go, who suffered and died from thirst and hunger while the rich increased their air conditioning and pretended there was no problem. But then the time came when even their wealth could not protect them from the devastating effects of climate change.

And they cried out to God, let one of us go back to our great grandparents and great great grandparents and warn them about the hell we are living in now and the dangers of doing nothing about climate change.

And God said: 'They had their scientists. They had their warnings. They should have listened to them. But they did not want to believe them. Or they were not prepared to make the sacrifices needed. Or they were too selfish to do anything, thinking, "This may affect the future - it won't affect me."

The future generations pleaded with God: "Let us send some of *our* scientists to lay out the facts for them. And let us send our children to plead for us – our children who will have no future."

"If they do not listen to their own scientists and their own children", said God, "why would they listen if even someone were to travel back in time from the future?"



*Codex Aureus of Echternach*

*Rev Andrew*





## WELL DRESSING TEA TOWELS

Back by popular demand!  
We are once again selling tea towels depicting the Mellor Well Dressing (maybe an idea for a Christmas stocking?).

This year we were commemorating 200 years of the RNLI.

They cost £6 for one or the bargain price of £15 for three.

## Shop Ethically for Christmas

The **Stockport Fairtrade Christmas Fair** this year is on Saturday **16th November, 10.30 am – to 3.00 pm** in the **Guildhall** in Stockport. This is situated on the A6, right opposite Stockport College, so handy for bus travelling, and there is a free car park behind the hall. The remit of the Fair has been extended to include traders who are not Fairtrade, but make ethically produced or upcycled goods.

There will be lots of really attractive, interesting and different things to buy so do come and join us on this occasion.

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invite you to a talk about our

# Poets Laureate

with

David Seddon

\*

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*Ted Hughes*

*Alfred Tennyson*

\*

Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2pm

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*John Masefield*

*John Betjeman*

The Mellor Centre, Church Road, Mellor, SK6 5LX

*Carol Ann Duffy*

*Nahum Tate*

## Mellor Art Society

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



If you would like to join us please contact our membership secretary on 07754775194 or membership [membershipmellorart@gmail.com](mailto:membershipmellorart@gmail.com)



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# Women's Evening Fellowship

Fun Charity Event – 13th November  
at 2.00pm in The Mellor Centre

## Silent auction in aid of



## Francis House Children's Hospice



## Mellor Church Women's Evening Fellowship

Do come and join us for a friendly and sociable afternoon this month as we raise money for **Francis House Children's Hospice**, our charity this year. The Fundraiser is on **Wednesday November 13th at 2pm** in the **Mellor Centre** and takes the form of a **Silent Auction**.

Offers for lots are most welcome (edibles are always popular!) but whether you are able to make an offer or not do come along and see if you would like to bid for any of the lots on offer or browse our Christmas Sales Table.

Offer forms are available from me (0161 449 0977) and should be returned to Alison Allcard who is collating the offers.

Hoping to see many members, families and friends on the 13th.

*Lesley Fletcher*



## An Unknown Soldier

*Jenny Johnson*

I was reading Ronald Blythe's chapter for November in his "Next to Nature" book, and found it very hard to shake off this story.

"There is a palpable element in this annual grief. It announces its arrival in the bare trees, in the dawn skies. I find that a leaf, sailing down from the stripped ash, becomes a poppy petal on the brow of a teenage soldier in the Albert Hall."

Blythe continued by remembering a conversation, long ago, with the Westminster librarian, Mr Tanner, in which he describes the burial of the Unknown Warrior, at which he had been present.

"After the Armistice, after the millions of 'the fallen', (as the poets of the time like to call them), cried out "Remember me", the question was: "How?" How did a nation remember such an unprecedented slaughter? "And then," said Mr Tanner, came this extraordinary suggestion from someone who had been in the thick of this all: a young padre called the Revd David Railton who returned home in 1919 and wrote to Bishop Ryle the Dean of Westminster to ask if the body of an unknown comrade might be sent home."

In his letter the padre wrote, "I came back from the line at dusk (it was in 1916). We had just laid to rest the mortal remains of a comrade. I went to a billet in front of Erkingham, near Armentieres. At the back of the billet was a small garden and in it was a grave. At the head of the grave there stood a rough cross of white wood. On the cross was written in deep black pencilled letters, 'An Unknown British Soldier'. It was dusk, and no one was near, except some officers playing cards. I remember how still it was. Even the guns seemed to be resting.

Now that grave caused me to think.. ."

At first, George V shrank from the suggestion of this anonymous body arriving at the Abbey. It was novel and could be sensational. "His Majesty is inclined to think that nearly two years after the last shot was fired.... a funeral might now be regarded as belated, and might as it were, reopen the war wound which time is





gradually healing.”

As a footnote to this remembered conversation and the King's comment Ronald Blyth simply adds “Remembrance does not seek to heal.” And I would add, that Remembrance **can** reopen grief. It can and does allow for much thanksgiving for sacrifices made, for much shared happiness and joys shared. But our annual ritual of honouring the deaths must surely also give us all pause to ask, “How long, O Lord? How long until we do have peace on earth, goodwill to all? How long O Lord, how long?”

*Jenny Johnson*

## **Mellor Wildlife.** *Maggie Williams*

In the past I have only seen hares on Mellor Moor, but on Sept 23rd, driving from the Mellor Centre into the car park I followed a hare. Then Catherine S. told me on 26th she was really pleased to see a young hare in the afternoon. She was coming back from New Mills and had to stop her car between the Pack Horse and Five Lane Ends as the young hare was playing in the middle of the road. So beautiful. Catherine felt lucky to see it.



Often I try  
To analyse the quality  
Of its silences. Is this where God hides  
From my searching? I have stopped to listen,  
After the few people have gone,  
To the air recomposing itself  
For vigil. It has waited like this  
Since the stones grouped themselves about it.  
These are the hard ribs  
Of a body that our prayers have failed  
To animate. Shadows advance  
From their corners to take possession  
Of places the light held  
For an hour. The bats resume  
Their business. The uneasiness of the pews  
Ceases. There is no other sound  
In the darkness but the sound of a man  
Breathing, testing his faith  
On emptiness, nailing his questions  
One by one to an untenanted cross.

## **Prayer for the month**

**In Church...**  
**by R.S. Thomas**

R. S. Thomas

Selected Poems

1946- 1968

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# Church Rotas

## Stewards Rota

| Date   | 8.30am        | 10.00am                   | 6.30pm  |
|--------|---------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Nov 3  | P Cooke       | C Hamilton & K Hargreaves | R Holt  |
| Nov 10 | A Mason       | J Elliott & R Elliott     | J Shiel |
| Nov 17 | J Butterworth | M Lowe & J Mason          | R Holt  |
| Nov 24 | P Cunningham. | A Muller and A Sanders    | J Shiel |
| Dec 1  | P Cooke       | S McAllister & C Starling | R Holt  |

Please arrange your own substitute. If this is not possible contact Mary Heijbroek 427 3241.

---

## Flower Rota

|          |                     |                            |
|----------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Nov 3rd  | All Souls           | Dec 1st Advent             |
| Nov 10th | Remembrance Sunday. | Dec 8th Advent             |
| Nov 17th | Margaret Lowe       | Dec 15th Advent            |
| Nov 24th | Emma Houghton       | Dec 22nd Christmas flowers |
|          |                     | Dec 29th Christmas 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](mailto:jillbaker427@hotmail.com)).

---

## Holy Dusters

|         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Nov 3   | J. Cooper & A. Muller |
| Nov 10  | J & D Butterworth     |
| Nov 17  | A. Mason & M. Lowe    |
| Nov 24. | H. Kennedy & M. Lowe  |
| Dec 1   | J & L Futcher         |

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