

OUTLOOK



January
2025

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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)

Church Wardens Mary Heijbroek 0161 427 3241

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)

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.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2025

2 Thurs	9.30am	Parish Office re-opens
4 Sat	7.30pm	Organ Recital-Ben Collyer

5 Sun Epiphany	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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8 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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12 Sun 1st Sunday of Epiphany	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion and Confirmation Service with Bishop Mark Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
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13 Mon	10.45-12 noon	Coffee & Chat (Mellor Centre)
15 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)

19 Sun 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Epiphany Choral Evensong
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22 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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26 Sun 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	8.30 am 10.00 am 4.00pm 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Churches Together Annual United Service, St Mary's Church, Hollins Lane. Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
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27 Mon	7.45pm	PCC meeting (Mellor Centre)
29 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)

Coffee and Chat will meet 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 December 2024

Christmas thanks

Christmas at Mellor church is very special - and that is thanks to the generous work of many people. I would like to thank Tom, John and the choir for all the amazing music. What we hear in the Advent and Christmas services is the fruit of many hours of intensive practice both on Fridays and during the choir's weekend away at Fort Belan in November which was great fun, brilliantly organized and with superb catering. After the bareness of Advent, the church is transformed by the tree, the decorations and the Christmas flowers - thank you to all who make the church so beautiful. Then there is the Crib service. Many people are involved in the planning, casting, costumes, rehearsing, directing, car parking, lighting and sound (etc). However, I would like to give special thanks to Jack Wallace for directing and Kate Johnson for stepping in to coordinate everything this year.

Farewell to Revd Ann Hyde

Ann has been a great help to Mellor Church for many years; taking Sunday services, weddings and funerals during several vacancies between Vicars, and also supporting a succession of Vicars here. In the year and half since I arrived it has been a pleasure to share ministry with Ann. Ann has now made the big decision to move to Scotland. We wish her every happiness in her new home. I asked Ann what she would like to do at St. Thomas' for her last Christmas here and she said she would like to preside at the Midnight Mass - I will be preaching and sharing that service with her. Ann's final service with us will be on Sunday 19th January at 10 am, when we will thank her for all she has given us here, and ask God to bless her as she sets off on a whole new adventure.

Road Closure on Longhurst Lane - delayed to March

Having confidently announced in last month's Outlook that Longhurst Lane would be closed in January, we have received news of a change of date. The road closure is now planned for March. At least the weather is less likely to be snowy and icy by then (but you never know!).

Our church's charitable giving

Some years ago, the PCC started a separate church charity fund. The income from this fund comes entirely from donors who specifically wanted this money to be used to support the giving from our church to charities. Each year the PCC discusses and chooses the charities that we support. Last year we supported four charities: Mission for Seafarers; UNHCR; Haematology and Transplant Unit (The Christie); and Educaid. Over the years, the number of people giving regularly to this fund has gone down. However, we still have around £1250 per year to give from this fund.

We asked the remaining givers which charities they would like us to support in 2025 and we received the following nominations, which the PCC approved:

Médecins Sans Frontières
Oxfam

Martin House Children's Hospice, Boston Spa
Christie's Hospital Research Charity

Mission to Seafarers

Over the coming year, we will try to share more information about these charities, with speakers if possible, so our giving can be accompanied by prayer. I imagine that many people are not aware of this separate charitable fund. I am sure you give to charities directly yourselves, but if you would like to contribute to the church's charitable giving in this way, please contact Richard Elliott, our church treasurer - or tell me and I can pass on your details to Richard.

May God bless you and your families with love, peace and joy this Christmas and may God be with you whatever worries or troubles, hopes or happiness the new year brings.

Happy Christmas!

Andrew

Office Closure over Christmas

Please note the Parish Office will close for Christmas and New Year on Monday 23rd December at 12.30pm and re-open on Thursday 2nd January at 9.30am.



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Bronze Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

St Thomas' Church, Mellor

has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Signed Andy Atkin Date 9 December 2024
CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



We congratulate Clare Jackson for galvanising St. Thomas' Church into doing actions the ECO friendly way. Clare must have filled in a lot of forms too.

Well done Clare and your team from us all at St. Thomas'.

Organ Recital *by* Ben Collyer

*Acting Assistant Director
of Music St Albans Cathedral*



St Thomas' Church
MELLOR AND MARPLE BRIDGE



Programme to include music
by Buxtehude, Bach,
Vierne and Messiaen

Saturday
4 January 2025
7.30 pm

St Thomas' Church
Mellor SK6 5LX

FREE ADMISSION

Including interval refreshments

Closing collection

The Programme

Church Bells Beyond The Stars ... Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Clair de Lune

(from 24 Pièces de Fantaisie) ... Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

Toccata and Fugue in D minor

(‘Dorian’) BWV 538 ... J S Bach (1685–1750)

☕ INTERVAL ☕

Les Mages (from *La Nativité du Seigneur*) Olivier Messiaen (1908–92)

Petit Canon (from *Trois Improvisations*) Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979)

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

BuxWV 223 ... Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

Prelude and Fugue in G BMV 541 ... J S Bach



**Next concert
at St Thomas' Church**

Saturday 1 March 2025 | 7.00 pm

A performance featuring movements from Eric Whitacre's

‘The Sacred Veil’

and including works by Todd, Clausen and Stopford

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

Contact Lucy Greenaway for more information at

lucygreenaway@hotmail.co.uk

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

Churches Together Annual United Service

This will take place on Sunday 26th January at 4pm at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Hollins Lane, Marple Bridge.

We don't often have a chance to worship in a Catholic church so here's a great opportunity! Do come and join in fellowship with other Christians in our area and give support to Joe Harvey who will be inducted as the new chair.

There is plenty of parking space at the church.



Stockport Grammar School
Upper Sixth musician

Nathan Monk

is delighted to have been
offered two
Oundle for Organists
recital awards at
Chester Cathedral
and
Newcastle Cathedral.

The recitals are part of the charity's FABULOUS 40! campaign and are a great opportunity for Nathan to perform in amazing locations, as well as to enhance his development.



Well done Nathan!

We are all very proud of you.



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Liturgical Variety

I do enjoy a bit of liturgical variety and a chance to experience worship differently from time to time. I used to very much enjoy the Alternative Worship services Peter Jenner organised and it was a privilege to be part of the team which constructed these. They were held in the Mellor Centre which gave a flexibility not possible in the church with its fixed pews. It also gave the opportunity of giving more thought and attention to particular topics such as social justice, the place of women in the church, senses, colours, pilgrimage and so on.

A similar approach was taken by Tracy and Ann Hyde in the Contemplative Evening Prayers which they arranged in which we looked at topics such as the Virgin Mary, the saints, the Magi and Dorcas – an example of a person about whom very little is known but who was obviously important in her setting.

Being away from home also gives an opportunity to experience difference. I used to stay in London sometimes, near St Paul's, and on one occasion went to the said 8.00 Holy Communion in the morning, and in the evening to a Free Church of Scotland service which was being held close by. Some FCS congregations have no instrumental accompaniment to the hymns – a cantor

walked to the front, pinged a tuning fork and began singing, and the congregation joined in. The Church of Scotland rendered all the Psalms into English metrical form in 1650 to make them easier to sing and, possibly, to differentiate their worship from that of the Anglican and Catholic traditions. On another occasion in London, I went to St Paul's for Evening Prayer and found the cathedral in darkness except for a central space, where there were lights, and also a lighted brazier with smoke ascending from it. When on holiday in the Scottish Borders I used to attend the local Church of Scotland, which was usually a formal service, but on one occasion they were running a 'café church' – similar to Alternative Worship, again focusing on a particular topic. Something I enjoy doing here is visiting villages in the Peak District for their well dressings. Once I was in Stoney Middleton when the wells were being blessed by an Orthodox priest who visits to conduct a service once a year. (There was much wafting about of incense from a fancy holder, but the holy water was sprinkled about from a plastic drinks bottle). There was a service in the parish church with beautiful Orthodox music – women's voices, not the usual bass rumble one expects.

And finally I much enjoy the Quaker meetings I attend – just silence and concentration, unless someone feels moved to speak. I think listening is one of the most important things we can do and all these experiences give opportunity to do this and to do this outwith our own tradition.

Judith Shiel

Hearse House

Tim Lowe

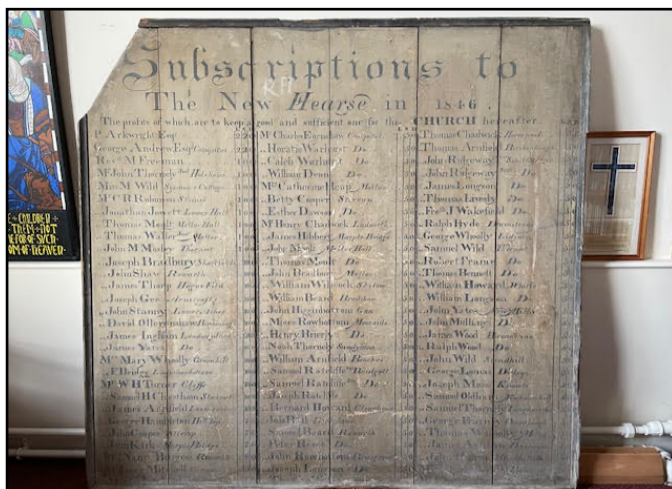
Hopefully this will be of interest and might prompt some suggestions. A fascinating piece of Mellor history is looking for a new home. The

bellringers found the Hearse House donation board suffering damage while being stored in the mobile. The board, dated 1846, shows the donations made for the construction of the Hearse House (the stone building by the church gates). It includes the names of many well-established Mellor residents as well as an Arkwright.

The bellringers suggested that it could be mounted on the stairs in the Mellor Centre but the committee decided they did not want the board in the Centre.

It is an important piece of local history. Suggestions welcome.

The bellringers





Mellor Birds

Maggie Williams

Captain Ken lived in Rowarth with Allwyn and shared Spring Knoll farm with nesting barn owls, swallows, curlews, peewits, kestrels as well as Percy and Priscilla the peacocks. Once when we were having a cup of tea in their summer house, ten blue tits fledged, emerging from inside one of the walls and flew circuits around the room, landing on a high up rack occasionally while we drank our tea underneath.

This poem was read at Captain Ken's funeral.

HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

Oh, to be in England
now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bowl are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England - now!

And after April, when May follows,
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover
Blossoms and dewdrops – at the bent spray's edge -
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,
Lest you should think he never could recapture
The first fine careless rapture!
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew
The buttercups, the little children's dower
- Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

Robert Browning

(1845)

In Mellor I heard from David H that he thought he had seen an egret in Brabyns Park. Could this be true? Yes, they have been seen in Brabyns. They look like a snow white heron. **Little Egrets** have yellow feet and **Great White Egrets** have blackish feet.

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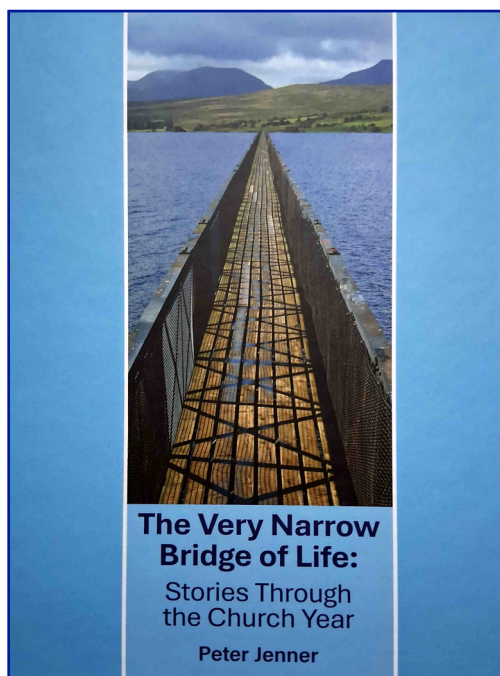
Revd Peter Jenner's Book: *The Very Narrow Bridge of Life: Stories Through the Church Year*

Peter and Vicki Jenner were very grateful for all the lovely cards they received from Mellor during Peter's illness, many of which mentioned Peter's sermons. In May, Peter was well enough to select some sermons, including some from Mellor (one in which the Mellor choir made it quite clear at his induction that sermons should last no more than seven and a half minutes!) These were edited and turned into a book, which Peter was able to proof-read in August.

Each sermon/story explores an aspect of how we navigate "the very narrow bridge of life" in a spirit of openness and acceptance; offering opportunities to reflect on who we are in life and faith and encouraging us to be "fully part of the adventure of life...appreciative of God's creation, of human interaction and delighting in what is and ought to be."

Profits from the sale of the book will support a student from the South African Region to do a PhD in Chemistry at Churchill College, University of Cambridge where Peter studied.

The book will be available in January- date TBC (£10 cash or cheque) or is available by post from booksbyljr@gmail.com (£10 + £3.10 (p&p)).



PCC meeting 25th November

This was our last PCC meeting of 2024, as we never meet in December. It was also the first PCC meeting for Carol Langford, who was co-opted onto the PCC at October's meeting, so Carol was welcomed by Andrew.

The main item was to discuss reviewing St Thomas' Charitable Giving fund, which donates money to four nominated charities. Our church donates money to a number of charities, in different ways, through the year, but this fund is one where individuals can make regular monthly contributions. The charities it supports are reviewed, but this hadn't been done for a couple of years. So the regular donors to the fund were consulted on any charities they would like to see supported. The ones they suggested were agreed by the PCC, so they will be supported for the following year. These were Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam, Martin House Children's Hospice, Christie's Research and the Mission to Seafarers.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is always an item on the agenda. Our Safeguarding Officer, Emma Wilson, works hard to ensure all necessary checks are done on adults coming into contact with those groups through church activities, and that all the adults are up to date with the necessary training. She is currently working on making sure we are up to date with the most recent requirements of the Diocese, and will be printing off copies of the Parish Safeguarding handbook and making them available.

David Horsfall is the person who takes responsibility for ensuring the church building is in a good state of repair and meets Health and Safety regulations. He had completed a plan of the church, marking the fire exits, which will be placed near the entrance to the church, as required. He confirmed that the church's maximum capacity is 200 people. There was also a discussion about ways we could make access to the church yard safer, given the fact it is on a slope, etc.

We heard that Bishop Mark has asked Andrew to attend a fairly intensive training course on working with young people next year,

which will involve some residential sessions. There was also a discussion about how best to manage the forthcoming road closures in Longhurst Lane, for example whether we could make a list of people willing to offer lifts.

Finally, we heard that Ann Hyde will be moving out of the area, which we are sad to hear as she has been an absolute stalwart of support to the church in recent years, in particular during the vacancy before Andrew was appointed. But we are happy for her too, wish her well for the future, and cannot thank her enough for all her work. Ann's last service at St Thomas' will be on Sunday 19th January 2025. Happy Christmas and a good New Year everyone!
Julie Elliott. - PCC Secretary.

Friday Strollers



Dates for the New Year are:-

Friday 17 January

Friday 31 January

Friday 14 February



Meet at Brabyns Park car park at 10.30am.

Walks will be weather dependent.

Coffee and cakes guaranteed.

For more details contact Judy Cooper 07855290958

The Pantry (Foodbank)

Trained CAP Money Coaches and The Job Club.

If you need help. The Connect building at the top of Queen St opposite the Regent Cinema is open on Monday and Saturday mornings. This is run by a Christian based team from All Saint's Church.

Children's Page 2025 Competition



Either colour this poster or, better still, create your own design to welcome 2025. The prizes are small Christmas selection packs for A) 3-7yrs.: B) 7-11yrs. : C) 11+ yrs. Finished posters sent to the



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Walking along the Church path

If you are not in a hurry and are walking through the Churchyard, you often find interesting people to talk to who are there for all sorts of reasons.

On Sunday Dec 1st after the 10am service a man was walking up the path carrying a wooden box and some tools. It turned out he had come to maintain a footpath signpost in the Churchyard for **The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society**.

David Morton is a Signpost Officer and looks after 582 posts. Apparently seventeen and a half years ago there were 330 posts. They are mainly made of green oak from France. Since Brexit this has changed to tanalised soft wood which they get from Tomlinson Parbans in High Lane (est. 1850).

David cleared a lot of ivy off the post and found it had a concrete repair previously.

David often works with John Hodgson who has erected more than 300 signposts.

The signpost in the Churchyard is in memory of Dr Frank Head.

The society was founded in 1894 in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, Peter St.

Manchester. One of the founding members was Richard Pankhurst, husband of suffragette Emmeline. The posts are often left in memory of someone. They cost about £800. There is a plaque saying JOIN US! Peak and Northern Footpaths Society, 23 Turncroft Lane, Stockport, SK1 4AB. 0161 480 3585.

www.peakandnorthern.org.uk.

Maggie Williams





Youthful Days in Mellor 1910 to 1926

by Tom Oldham Part 7



The Shops at Moor End

Old Rowbottom, the blacksmith, was a real village character. He was of about medium height, sturdy of build, with a short dark beard and a peaked, seafaring sort of cap. He would be a capable smith and a craftsman in all round, general work, brought up in those times when one had to be competent at a job to earn a reasonable livelihood. As a young man he had worked as a mechanic at Wallers' mill, and in his time he had undertaken a variety of different jobs such as sinking pit shafts, etc. We often went into the forge which was just opposite the Church Sunday School, and he sometimes let us blow the fire up with the bellows. He had a son, George, who for a time was the engineer at Mellor Bleach Works (Holly Head Bleach works). George was something of a show-off and a boaster, but he was not lacking in ability. He often worked with his father in the smithy, tinkering with a variety of mechanical jobs which they were not equipped to undertake. I was told that he actually made an adapted motor cycle engine run briefly off gunpowder, until something went wrong and the gunpowder in the feed hopper exploded blowing the corrugated iron roof off the smithy. My father heard about his efforts at repairing a leak in an old vertical boiler which had corroded badly in an inaccessible place at the bottom seam. Apparently George had rammed a special compound of his own devising, one constituent of which was horse manure, down into the bottom of the water cavity, and this did, in fact, stop the leakage. Alas, the insurance inspector was wise to such dodges, and he condemned the boiler after discovering what had been done.

Old Tunstall and his daughter came from Stockport to live in the village round about 1920. He was a baker, and he set up his bakehouse and shop in the lower end of the row of cottages at the bottom of the lane leading to Podnor Farm. He was a good baker and made excellent bread, tea cakes, scones, etc., but both he and his daughter were always unkempt and dirty looking. My mother was

never really happy about buying his wares, but it was convenient to patronise him, and we enjoyed the bread and tea cakes.

Waller's old truck shop at Springbank was a greengrocers shop in those days, run by some people called Webb, and then by one of the many families of Staffords. The whole block of buildings here was very odd and complicated. The shop was joined on to 'Banktop' where Wilsons lived, and the shopkeepers lived at the back of the shop, facing the square, and adjoining the back of 'Banktop'. Another house was joined on at the Lark Hill Lane end. There were two toffee shops near here, one in the large house at Sundial which comes on to the road, and was then occupied by one of the Sidebotham families (the shop door and window are now built up). The other was in Brookbottom belonging to Mrs Wright situated in the house by the stream at the lower side of the bridge. The post office was at the upper end of the Newhouse Hill row of cottages with the doorway and post box in the short lane between this row and the row of four cottages higher up. This was run by Bradburys, and Mr Bradbury also had a butcher's business in the same room as the post office; a strange mixture, but so familiar to everyone that it was never regarded as odd. Soon after the first World War, probably about 1920, a man called John Conner set himself up as a boot and shoe repairer at Sundial in a ground floor room of the buildings which run parallel with the road and are set back from it across the 'Square'. These buildings were semi-derelict then, and the whole area of what we referred to as the 'Square' had once been covered with cottages, and the flagstones which covered most of the area would have been the cottage floors. There were 21 households under the heading of 'Sundial' in the 1851 Census. In our time the Square was untidy and uneven, sprouting rough grass and weeds. John Conner had picked up his skill in the army as a saddler and boot repairer. He was a little dandy in his dress, and was often seen in polished leggings, knee breeches like a jockey, and a coloured waistcoat. A romancer and a show-off, he was not over fond of work, and his workshop was a local meeting place for those men of the village who were fond of gossip and time wasting. Several times

when I called with boots for repairing I found John and his cronies shooting at a tin lid on a wall with an air rifle. Naturally, his business did not prosper, and I think he left the district in the late 1920s. His workshop premises were taken some time later by Harold and Bernard Hall for a butcher's shop.

Another local tradesman was George Pott, or 'Joiner Pott', as he was called. He was a big, friendly man with a ready smile, quite old when I knew him, and his workplace was the old 'Bobbin Shop' on Wallers' mill site. He often did jobs for my father, and I liked going in the old building to see him. Most of his work was done on the first floor, and the place was literally knee deep in shavings as he was so often planing pieces of wood with a large wooden plane which removed the shavings with a whistling noise. Again, this workplace was an attraction for those locals with time on their hands and an inclination to gossip, but Joiner Pott always kept on working throughout the conversation. My father told me that he was quite a skilled craftsman, but he never priced his work high enough. I still have a wooden wheelbarrow he made for my father which is a good example of the village craftsmanship of those times.



Orange and Almond Cake with an optional chocolate icing *J. Baker*

I like to feature oranges especially Seville ones in January. You can use ordinary oranges or clementines if you like. This is based on an Ottolenghi recipe and uses clementines. As the magazine arrives before Christmas you may find this a useful cake to have around for friends and family (chocolate topped or not).

100g butter

150g caster sugar plus 40g for syrup

The zest of 2 oranges and juice of 1

140g ground almonds

50g plain flour

3 eggs

Topping

3 tbs marmalade

100g Bournville chocolate or similar

2 tbs cream (optional)

Line a 18cm cake tin. Heat the oven to 160°C / GM3.

Beat the 150g sugar and butter together slowly add the eggs and then the flour, almonds and orange zest. You are looking for a smooth batter with not much air in it.

Pour into the tin and bake for 30 to 40 minutes – a skewer should still feel a little moist.

Just before you take the cake from the oven bring the orange and remaining sugar to the boil in a small pan. Remove from the heat and immediately brush the hot syrup over the hot cake when you take it from the oven; leave it to cool. You can serve it with a dusting of icing sugar or a grating of orange rind. If topping with chocolate first remove the large pieces of peel from your marmalade and spread the jelly over your cooled cake. Then melt your chocolate with or without the cream. In a bowl or pan of simmering water is the safest but I tend to live dangerously and use the microwave. Pour your chocolate over and smooth. Then take the chunks of peel you removed from the marmalade and decorate the top. Enjoy

This was a delicious cake - a bit like a huge jaffa cake but much nicer. ED MMW



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Mellor Lacrosse Club



Mellor Lacrosse Club will be erecting a Marquee at Mellor Sports Club to celebrate 100 years since their founding on Saturday 14 June 2025. A Centenary Ball is planned on this date. There are opportunities for other groups, organisations or individuals to use the marquee on **12th, 13th or 15th June 2025.**

Get in touch with the Lacrosse Club if you wish to explore this further:

<https://www.marple-uk.com/smf/index.php?topic=9360.0>

If you are interested in investigating this opportunity please contact Steve Hall via mellorlax100@gmail.com or 07948533106

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



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Mellor Church Women's Evening Fellowship



This month we will have the pleasure of presenting David Ireland from Francis House Hospice with a cheque from our 2024 fundraising.



He will also be talking about the history of Francis House. Do come and join us on the 8th January at 2pm in the Mellor Centre to find out more.

Lesley Fatcher

Laughs with Lynda

I just dropped a bunch of Scrabble tiles.
This could spell disaster.

I recently took a poll and found out that
99% of people in the tent were angry when it collapsed.

Thank you for telling me the meaning of the word plethora.
It means a lot to me.



Prayer for the Month

God of our lives, you are always calling us

To follow you into the future,

Inviting us to new ventures, new challenges, new ways to care,

New ways to touch the hearts of all.

When we become fearful of the unknown, give us courage.

When we worry that we are not up to the task,

Remind us that you would not call us if you did not believe in us.

(from 50 Great Prayers from the Iona Community selected by Neil Paynter)



From the Registers

The Departed

Funerals



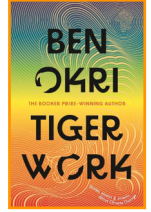
We remember before God and commend to His love and mercy:

Joan Strang Friday 22nd November (Service at the crematorium)

Robert Ingham Tuesday 26th November

Captain Ken Owen Friday 29th November

In 2023, the Nigerian poet and essayist, Ben Okri had yet another book published, this one called “Tiger Work” (Apollo 2023) with stories, essays and poems about climate change. The following extract from the chapter headed ‘Existential Creativity’ is perhaps relevant at this time of New Year resolutions. Surely it **is** time to take action? He writes always with passion.



“There is a time for hope and there is a time for realism.

But what is needed now is beyond hope and realism.

This is a time when we ought to dedicate ourselves to

bringing about the greatest shift in human

consciousness and in the way we live. We ought to

consecrate ourselves to bringing about a conscious

evolutionary Leap Forward. No longer can we be the

human beings we have been, wasteful, thoughtless, selfish, destructive. It is now time for us to be the most

creative we have ever been, the most far-sighted, the

most practical, the most conscious and selfless. The

stakes have never been and will never be higher.

What is called for here is a special kind of love for the world, the love of those who discover the sublime value

of life because they are about to lose it. For we are on the verge of losing this most precious and beautiful of

worlds, a miracle in all the universe, a home for the evolution of souls, a little paradise here in the richness

of space, where we are meant to live and grow and be

happy, but which we are day by day turning into a

barren stone in space.....“

Stewards Rota

Date	8.30am	10.00am	6:30pm
Jan 5	P Cooke	C Hamilton & K Hargreaves	J Shiel
Jan 12	A Mason	R & J Elliott	J Shiel
Jan 19	J Butterworth	S McAllister & C Starling	A Shah
Jan 26	P Cunningham	A Muller and P Long	J Shiel
Feb 2	P Cooke	C Langford and J Mason	J Shiel

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

Flower Rota

Jan 5	Christmas Flowers	Feb 2	Louise Driver
Jan 12	Bishop visit	Feb 9th	Jenny Johnson
Jan 19	Cathie Lowe	Feb 16	Gwenn Perks
Jan 26	Lesley Futchter	Feb 22	Alison Dowdeswell

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

Jan 5	M & R Leng
Jan 12	A Allcard & J Jones
Jan 19	P Cunningham & I Morris
Jan 26	J & D Butterworth
Feb 2	H Kennedy & M Lowe

Brasses

M Heijbroek & A Dowdeswell

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Any problems contact Anthea Mason 449 9815

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