

OUTLOOK



St. Valentine's Day February 14th

February
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 Futchter 449 0977

Coffee and Chat will continue with the Vicar on the 2nd Monday of the month

Prayer Group meets every Monday from 10.30am to 11.00am (The Mellor Centre)

Women's Evening Fellowship meets on the second Wednesday 2pm (The Mellor Centre)

Toddlers' Group meets in term time on Thursday each week 10.0am to 11.30am

Knit and Natter meets on Thursday each week 10.30am to 12noon (The Mellor Centre)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

2 Sun Candlemas	8.30 am 10.00 am 3.00 pm 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Messy Church Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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5 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
7 Fri	6.00 pm	Choir Pizza Rehearsal (Mellor Centre)
8 Sat	3.00pm	Lantern Walk

9 Sun 4th Sunday before Lent	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
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10 Mon	10.45-12 noon	Coffee & Chat (Mellor Centre)
12 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)

16 Sun 3rd Sunday before Lent	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Choral Evensong
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19 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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23 Sun 2nd Sunday before Lent	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
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24 Mon	7.45 pm	PCC meeting (Mellor Centre)
26 Wed	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre) AGM Friends of the Mellor Centre Talk by Mike and Meg Barley

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The Choir practises each week on Friday at 6.30pm



Vicar's Viewpoint February 2025

Looking back over Christmas

It was wonderful to see so many people coming to church over the Christmas period. It is important that we offer a range of different ways of sharing the Christmas story. The candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols does this in a very beautiful and more formal way. The crib service, performed entirely by children (and a donkey!) appeals to a different congregation. This year we had a new kind of service, Café Carols in the Mellor Centre; we heard the Christmas story and some poems and we sang carols, but the whole occasion was more relaxed, sitting round tables, enjoying refreshments and each other's company. Thank you to Angie and Carol who planned and led this, and to all the other helpers. I hope this may become an annual event.

Church of England's safeguarding failures

In recent weeks the Church of England has faced justified criticism for its failures to protect the vulnerable and bring abusers among its own ministers to justice. Public trust in the Church of England is low. I am surprised but grateful that while many people have lost faith with the church as an institution, they seem still to have some trust in the local church here. Attendance at Christmas was higher this year than last. People continue to come to the church for funerals and the comments from visitors are appreciative. It is vital that we, at St. Thomas', deserve that trust, by making our church a safe and inclusive place and a welcoming, caring, compassionate community. I would like to thank Emma Wilson, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, for all her work in this really important role.

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of abuse, or presents a risk to others, or if you yourself have been a victim of abuse in the past and would like to talk to someone about it, please contact us on this email address safeguarding.mellorchurch@gmail.com

Confirmation service in January

It was a great privilege and joy to present four candidates for confirmation on Sunday 12th January. Bishop Mark, the bishop of Chester, came to preach and lead an uplifting service. Thanks to the flower group the church was beautifully decorated. The music greatly enhanced the worship. Congratulations to Chris, Kariss, Amy and Jack. I think of confirmation as a milestone on our spiritual journey. It is not the beginning of the journey - all four candidates have been preparing for this day for some while. Neither is it the end - please pray for the four of them as they continue on that journey.

Messy Church - an anniversary

In February it will be one year since we re-started Messy Church. Over the past year we have held five afternoons of Messy Church. Having begun with sessions once a term, we are now holding them once every half term. This is only possible thanks to a brilliant team of over a dozen helpers. We will mark this anniversary with a 'birthday cake' and a Christingle service on **Sunday 2nd February at 3pm.**

A date for your diaries:

Choir concert on **Saturday 1st March 7pm** *The Sacred Veil*: including music by Eric Whitacre, Todd, Clausen and Stopford. This is a collaboration between Mellor Church Choir and singers from Xaverian 6th Form College. It has been conceived, organised and will be directed by Oscar and Nathan, two of the young people in our choir, who are currently studying for their Music A-levels. Entry to the concert is free but there will be a retiring collection in support of "Target Ovarian Cancer".

God bless you,

Andrew



St Thomas' Church
MELLOR AND MARPLE BRIDGE



& Christingle

*Crafts, fun, songs
stories, food!*



Sun. 2nd February

3 - 5 pm

**in the Mellor
Centre**

**Children of all ages welcome,
accompanied by an adult.**

HOLY DUSTERS

Admittedly the Retirement age is now 66 years for both men and women but in May 2026 it will rise to 67 years of age.

That seems a young age for many of us on the Holy Dusters rota. One friend thought, at 80, it was time she stopped pushing the vacuum cleaner around the church and tidying up the Vestry.

If you are new to the church or simply 'younger' and would like a 'backstage' but very worthy job at St. Thomas' Anthea Mason would love to hear from you or simply tell one of the editors.



Are you or your child interested in singing?

Fun

No cost

No audition

Musical education



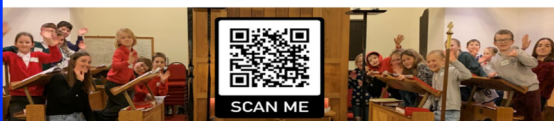
**Come along to the
Pizza Rehearsal**

Friday 7th February

Mellor Church Choir open rehearsal

Children: 6pm Mellor Parish Centre

Adults: 7.15pm Mellor Parish Centre





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Friends of The Mellor Centre A.G.M.

**Wednesday 26th of February
7:30 pm
The Mellor Centre**

A short meeting with a free bar
followed by a slideshow and talk by

Mike and Meg Barley

“The Wild Atlantic Way”

| members of the Mellor and Marple Bridge
Communities are invited.

The Friends Committee members met last December and amongst the business we said a heartfelt THANK YOU to Mike Barley, whose final committee meeting it was. All of you know what a deep debt of gratitude we owe Mike, for his years of support, encouragement and fundraising, making sure The Mellor Centre remains a fantastic resource in our community. Mike and Meg will still be regular supporters, and indeed will take us on their travels around the west coast of Ireland in February – sharing a talk and slides entitled “The Wild Atlantic Way” following the AGM at 7.30pm on 26th February.

2024 turned out to be a busy year, with a few new – and hopefully repeatable – events at the Centre. The Railway Day, the Craft Exhibition, the Bistro Night, the Plant Sale, along with several talks, and a Carol singing afternoon, brought new and old, old and young folks to share time together. Our joint fundraising enabled our Treasurer to transfer £6,500 to church funds to support the upkeep of the Mellor Centre. A huge thank you to those who provided and supported these events.

The Friends

Well done ~ a tremendous effort by all of you.

The Editors

How Outlook arrives at your door

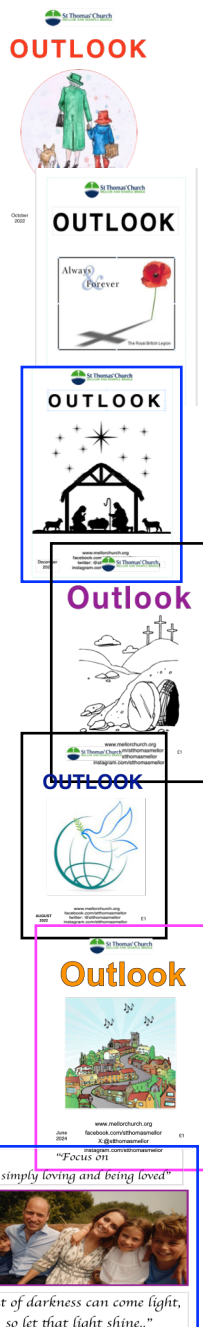
Regular contributors

Rev Andrew Tawn - Vicar's View Point
 Clare Jackson - Reflections
 Lorraine Forbes - Calendar
 Val Wallace - Registers & Web site printing
 Maggie Williams - Birds
 Lynda Gwyther - Laughs with Lynda
 Judy Cooper - Strollers
 Julie Elliott - PCC Report
 Alison Dowdeswell - Poetry & Prayers
 Judith Shiel - Biblical articles and Prayers
 Silly Point - Cricket guess who?
 Jill Baker - Cookery articles
 Friends of The Mellor Centre - Angie Stanton
 Jenny Johnson -Thought for the Month
 Lesley Fucher - Women's Fellowship
 Mary Heijbroek - Stewards' Rotas
 Jill Baker - Flowers
 Anthea Mason - Holy Dusters
 Choir reports - various people
 We very much miss Cap. Ken and his travels
 Peter Williams & John Futchter - computer gurus
 Jackie Shah - Adverts
 Helen Tawn - Proof Reader
 Peter Forbes - Printer in Chief

Maggie and I wish to thank you all, in whatever capacity you help to make it possible for OUTLOOK to reach so many people near and far. We welcome articles from anyone.

Delivery Group organised by David Jelleyman

Jean Clulow
 Mr Kynaston
 Mrs Cheetham
 Mrs Davies
 Mrs Duckworth
 David McAllister
 Sue, McAllister
 Ruth Holt
 Margaret Lowe
 Anthea Mason
 Helen Ruffell
 Erica Jones
 Christine Dutson
 Mrs Harrison
 Helen Kennedy
 Peter Forbes
 Jenny Carr
 Angela Muller
 Pam Holt
 Jill Baker
 Cathie Lowe
 Justine Smith
 Rebecca Linnell
 Richard Leng
 John Petrie
 Alison Allcard
 Steph Armistead
 Kariss Hargreaves
 David Jelleyman
 Judith Shiel



Happy New Year!

Clare Jackson

It is especially happy, since we are now sporting a Bronze Eco Church Award certificate on noticeboard and website

<https://mellorchurch.org/life-at-st-thomas/eco-church/>

Our next step is to gather a group who will be prepared to take us to Silver.

As some of you know gaining Eco Church status involves looking at the various areas of Church and community life, biodiversity of the landscape, energy consumption of buildings and travel, lifestyle sustainability goals etc. I would like to be able to



identify some small distinct tasks that will be our footpath towards the next level of achievement, and for a core group to decide what to focus on over the next year.

So we can get that in the diary, if you would like to be involved in however small a way, please consider the following question:

- Which time for meeting would you prefer?
- A midweek zoom meeting 7.30pm?
- An after-church in person meeting 11.30am?

Please email me back your response as soon as possible, and we'll book a date during Feb.

I look forward to hearing from you and your suggestions.

Before I sign off, don't forget the RSPB Big Birdwatch takes place on 24th - 26th January - apparently the biggest citizen science project (in the world!)

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch?>

NEW YEAR

Judith Shiel

An article on New Year might be most reasonably expected to appear in January Outlook, but the New Year happens at different times in various cultures. This partly depends on whether a solar or lunar calendar is followed. Most solar calendars start the New Year near the winter solstice, after which the days begin to lengthen again, and this means the seasons and the calendar are aligned whereas the lunar calendar moves around the solar year. **The early Roman calendar** had designated 1st March as New Year's Day and later other dates were used in different areas, such as 25th December, 1st March, 25th March and the movable feast of Easter, which must have made things even more complicated. There is also the question of whether any adjustments have been made in whatever calendar is used. In pre-Christian Rome and later in much of Europe **the Julian calendar** was used until the 18th century. By the 16th century this had become inaccurate in its relation to actual astronomical events and in 1582 the **Gregorian calendar** (named after the pope of the time, Gregory XIII) was introduced with 10 or 11 days being removed so that the two calendars aligned.

The ***Calendar (New Style) Act*** 1750 was passed to formalise this at the end of 1751 and 1st January was adopted formally as New Year's Day in the UK. Previously the UK, except for Scotland, marked New Year's Day on 25th March. One or two places in the UK – the Gwaun valley in Wales and the isle of Foula in Shetland still follow the Julian calendar and celebrate Christmas on 6th January and New Year on 13th of January. Elsewhere it gets even more complicated – countries in the area of the **Eastern Orthodox church** adopted the Gregorian calendar for secular purposes but maintained the Julian calendar for church purposes, and there is even more diversity in other cultures.

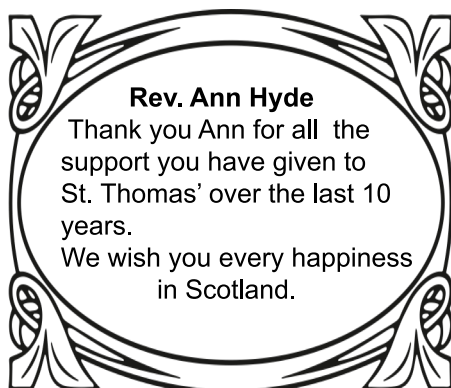
Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is celebrated on the new moon of the month Tishrei, the seventh month from the first month of spring, and falls in September or October. It is treated as a day of reflection and penitence, with readings from the Law.

Islam follows a lunar calendar so New Year's Day, which is observed on

the first day of the month of Muharram, occurs at a different time in the Gregorian calendar.

Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, has been marked in Persia since ancient times, the roots of the feast being in the ancient religion of **Zoroastrianism**, and it is now observed by many people in western and central Asia. It falls on the first day of spring, the March equinox, about 21st of March in Gregorian terms. It is still kept as a sacred day by **Zoroastrians** as the return of spring is seen as a triumph of good over evil, and joy over sorrow. One of the features of Nowruz is the setting of a table with various symbolic items such as water, candles, eggs and fruits, which symbolise fertility and abundance, just as in northern England a piece of coal would be brought into the house at midnight, as a symbol of prosperity when coal mining was the chief source of income. In **Scotland a first-footer** might bring in coal, salt, whisky and shortbread, symbolising plenty and hospitality. In **Scotland New Year, or Hogmanay**, was seen as the major midwinter festival, as Christmas was

banned in Scotland. The powerful and strait-laced Kirk frowned on frivolous celebrations such as Christmas so in 1640 the Scottish parliament passed a law making 'Yule Vacations' illegal – the baking of Yule bread became a crime. Hogmanay is still widely observed (weather permitting!). A more sober form of celebration is that of the **Watchnight Service** which is observed by various Christian denominations, particularly those in the **Reformed tradition**. There is opportunity for confession, reflection, preparation for the year ahead, and in some churches, a **Covenant Renewal service**, renewing one's commitment to Christ and the church at the start of the year. And then there is the Chinese New Year, but that's a whole other story.



Saturday 1st March



The Sacred Veil

Sung by Mellor Church Choir and singers from Xaverian College

In support of



Including music by Todd, Clausen, Stopford and movements
from Whitacre's "The Sacred Veil"

St Thomas' church, Mellor | 7pm | Free entry (retiring collection)

The Sacred Veil is a conceptual concert that surrounds the themes of love and grief.

There will be an interval, with free refreshments served. It is our first concert with an all young team so we'd really love for it to be busy.

Nathan is accompanying on piano, Oscar is conducting and Alice Thomson is playing cello, they will also be joined by singers from Xaverian college.



Church circa 1970.
before the Manders' organ
Mike Miller points out the glass
light fittings which must be 55
years old now.

From the Belfry

This

year marks the start of a two-year anniversary in the belfry. In 1925 it was decided that the three bells dating from 1615 and 1639 were not only unsafe but dangerous. The famous foundry Taylor of Loughborough melted them down and cast one very large bell with a weight of 15cwt, now known as Old Paddy. This was returned to the church the following year and has since been heard every Sunday. Other than records of the casting, held at the foundry, there seems to be no information about the bell being placed in the tower.

In 2024 the bellringers Festival of Bells raised £1020 for cancer charities



This painting by A. Robinson has kindly been donated to the belfry to raise funds for Festival of Bells. Any offers to the bellringers please.

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Lancashire Cheese and Onion Pie

Jill Baker

Serves 4

This is based on a Simon Hopkinson recipe from episode 6 of BBC's *The Good Cook* (his mother's, suitable winter fare.) Simon was born in Lancashire and after retiring as a chef in 1995 he has been a best selling food writer.

Pastry

60g butter

60g lard

200g SR flour

Pinch of salt

2-3 tbsp ice cold water

Tin 20cm x 4cm deep

Filling

25g butter 3 onions thinly sliced.

1 teacup of water

Salt and Pepper (white pepper is recommended for an authentic taste).

250-300g Lancashire cheese.

A little milk to seal and glaze the pastry.

- * Make the pastry by cutting the butter and lard into small chunks and place in a large bowl with the flour and salt. Gently rub fat and flour together until the texture of coarse breadcrumbs. Use just enough water to bind together.
- * Knead lightly and chill for 30 mins.
- * Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas Mark 4. Put a baking sheet to heat as placing your pie on it will help give a crisp base.
- * Melt the butter in a large pan and add the onions and stew slowly for about 10 mins without colouring. Tip in the water and season, continue to cook slowly over a gentle heat until half the water has evaporated, stirring occasionally. Spread the onions on a plate to cool.
- * Line your tin using two thirds of the pastry.
- * Use the final third to roll out a lid. * Cover the base of the pie with half the onions and cover with half the grated cheese, repeat.
- * Brush the edges of the pastry with milk to seal the pastry lid pressing together. Trim the edges of the pastry. Brush the pie with the remaining milk and make three incisions in the centre of the pie. * You can use a fork to decorate the edges as you press together if you wish. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until golden and you can see bubbling onion juices and oozing cheese through the slits. * Leave to cool for 20 to 30 minutes serving warm or at room temperature.

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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



On 4th February 2025 Mellor Lacrosse Club will celebrate 100 years of existence. The club was founded by young men living in Mellor who had been playing for Marple and other local clubs. A meeting to form the club was held on 4th February 1925 following advice from Mr Fred Oldham, an older and well known lacrosse player in his time; this was the first event in the history of the club. Mellor has had several homes over the years, the first ground was on a field just above the present sports field after Mellor Football club disbanded. By 1930 there was a strong movement to find a better ground and after scouring Mellor for a suitable flat field with complete lack of success the Weirside ground in Marple Bridge was taken on short time rental, with changing rooms at Ludworth School. This new home was not without its problems. If the wind was unfavourable there was a threat of Chlorination from the local gas works. Other hazards often used in Mellor's favour were electric cattle fencing, strategically placed trees, a fiendish pattern of cow pats laid like a minefield and, at the last resort the river.

Success of the club grew gradually and by 1928-29 the First Team won the Third Division comfortably. Lacrosse had by now become firmly established in Mellor and membership and the turnout of spectators continued to increase. By 1931 a dream came true and Mellor entered the First Division of the North of England Lacrosse Association and by 1934-35 they would be Champions.

The club has continued to enjoy many successes over the years with an army of willing volunteers and the support of many of the original families still involved. Today it has a thriving and enthusiastic Junior section, a senior Women's team and three Men's teams which welcome new and old players.

The club has a series of celebrations planned over the coming season with a Centenary Ball planned in June.



FIRST TEAM 1935

Back Row Foy, K. Pott, H. Fairbank, T. F. Oldham, F. Oxley, F. Winterbottom, C.H. Hodgson.

Front Row C. L. Middleton, P. B. Sinclair(Vice-Capt.), W.S.Templeton (Capt.), H.K. Wilson-Smith, G.Johnson



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Women's Evening Fellowship



After the disruption caused by the icy weather last month we look forward to returning to our regular programme.

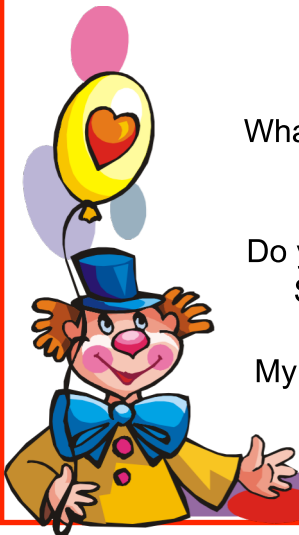
Although Craig Wright our speaker, has lived in Marple for 35 years, he was born and bred in The Potteries. His talk, "Great Potteries Lowdown", is about The Potteries he knew in the '50s and '60s and about how Stoke came to dominate pottery manufacture worldwide. It is an industry that was created by great people, women as well as men, and a talented local workforce but in a dismal industrial setting. Although only about a third the size it was, it is still a significant crockery manufacturer, particularly of hotelware. Craig will also show examples of ware produced in The Potteries.

I spent some years living on the edge of the Potteries and am still using some everyday pieces bought in the early '70s. I wonder if Craig will be able to recognise them!

David Ireland who was scheduled to come in January has very kindly agreed to come to the meeting this month to receive the cheque for Francis House and to say a few words at the beginning of the meeting.

So please join us on **February 12th at 2pm in the Mellor Centre** for what promises to be a very interesting afternoon.

Lesley Fletcher



Laughs with Lynda

What do you call a lazy kangaroo?
A pouch potato.

Do you want to hear a construction joke?
Sorry, I'm still working on it.

My granddad always said when one door
closes another one opens.
He was a lovely man but a terrible joiner.

Mellor Birds

Maggie Williams

Since David Hoults sighting of a **little egret** in Brabyns, Hilary H-T has seen one down by Bottoms Hall in the stream. One has been seen on a barn roof at Chadkirk and a few days ago Margaret O, at the Folds in Romiley, spent half an hour watching an egret in the wild garden there; sitting in a tree digesting and preening, then pottering in the brook snacking and investigating. Margaret took a video and just managed to see some yellow on the feet, despite all the mud. I am wondering if all these sightings are of the same bird?



Last week, before the ice, I was walking up Longhurst Lane. At cataract bridge I crossed the road opposite the Highfield Road junction and was stopped in my tracks by a delicious scent. I was told by Margaret Myatt years ago that when Longhurst Lane was straightened out at Cataract Bridge a row of Balsamic Poplars was planted. When I looked up at a tall straight tree with ridged bark, there was a **treecreeper** making its way up. The Balsamic Poplar is grown chiefly for its delicious scent, which is strongest in spring, just before the leaves unfurl.

Talking of flying things in Mellor, If you were one of the lucky ones who bought a Mellor Well dressing teatowel with the RNLI theme, you may have noticed an

Augusta Westland 192 Helicopter hovering in a corner, which Erica Jones had decorated with flower petals. I sent a teatowel to my brother in



Cardiff, who recognised it at once, as his son maintains the very same helicopters.

Viv N. on Clement Road tells me she had a **lesser spotted woodpecker** on her bird feeder on Boxing day, but not seen since. - that is very special.



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A story as old as the Ark..

AND the Lord said unto Noah: "Where is the ark which I commanded thee to build?" And Noah said unto the Lord: "Verily, I have had three carpenters off ill. The Gopher wood supplier hath let me down – yea, even though the Gopher wood hath been on order for nigh on twelve months. The damp-course specialist has not turned up. What can I do, O Lord?"

And God said unto Noah: "I want that ark finished even after seven days and seven nights." And Noah said: "It will be so." And it was not so.

And the Lord said unto Noah: "What Seemeth to be the trouble this time?"

And Noah said unto the Lord: "Mine subcontractor has gone bankrupt. The pitch which Thou commandest me to put on the outside and on the inside of the ark hath not arrived. The plumber hath gone on strike."

Noah rent his garments and said: "The glazier departeth on holiday in Majorca—yea, even though I offered him double time. Shem, my son who helpeth me on the ark side of the business, hath formed a pop group with his brothers Ham and Japheth. Lord, I am undone." And lo, it was not fulfilled.

And Noah said unto the Lord: The gopher wood is definitely in the warehouse. Verily and the gopher wood supplier waiteth only upon his servant to find the invoices before he delivereth the gopher wood unto me."

And the Lord grew angry and said: "What about the animals? Of fowls and after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the Earth after his kind. Two of every sort have I ordered to come unto thee to keep them alive. Where for example are the giraffes?"

And Noah said unto the Lord: "They are expected today."

And the Lord said unto Noah: "And where are the clean beasts, the male and the female, to keep their seed alive upon the face of all the Earth?"

And Noah said: "The van cometh on Tuesday; yea and yea, it will be so."

And the lord said onto Noah: "How about the unicorns?"

And Noah wrung his hands and wept saying: "Lord, Lord, they are a discontinued line. Thou canst not get unicorns for love nor money."

And God said: "Where are the monkeys, and the bears, and the hippopotami, and the zebras and the hartebeests, two of each kind; and of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and female? And Noah said unto the Lord: "They have been

delivered unto the wrong address but should arrive on Friday; all save the fowls of the air by sevens, for it has just been told unto me that fowls of the air are only sold in half dozens." And Noah kissed the Earth and said, "Lord, Lord, thou knowest in thy wisdom what it is like with delivery dates.

And the Lord in his Wisdom said: "Noah, my son, I knowest. Why else dost thou think I have caused a flood to descend upon the Earth?"

This was sent to the editors several years ago. We have no idea who wrote it or where it came from. Ed

Friday Strollers

Here are the next Stroller dates.

We will continue to meet at Brabyns Park at 10.30am.

Friday 28th February

Friday 14th March

Friday 28th March

Contact Judy Cooper if you need more details. 07855 290958

News from our High Lane correspondent - Ann Preston

SS Stockport



Simon Howarth who led the flag bearing at Captain Ken's funeral confirmed that the annual commemoration service will take place for the **SS. Stockport at 1.30pm on**

Sunday 16th February at Norbury Parish Church. Simon said it will be packed and people should park across the road or in Torkington Park and walk across. Captain Ken in his Captain's uniform went with Allwyn every year and Ken took the salute.

The vicar at Norbury is husband of the curate here in High Lane. He and his family will be moving to St. Asaph's, Wales at the end of February.

This leaves High Lane with no vicar or curate.

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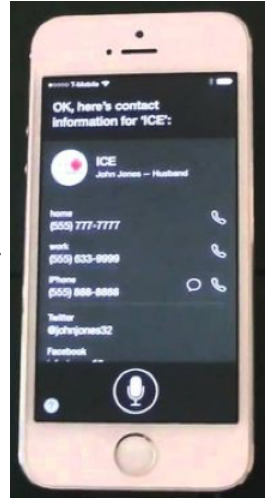
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Do you have an 'ICE' number in your list of contacts on your mobile phone?

ICE stands for 'In Case of Emergency'.

In your list of contacts on your mobile, and/or via google personal safety app, put in a contact labelled ICE. Under this contact put in a number(s) that any of the emergency services could call if you were to be involved in any medical or accident emergency. This ICE number helps the emergency services identify you quickly to get the appropriate help and support.

This scheme was launched by the emergency services in 2005, following the London bombings.



Between the Crib Services with a fantastic sunset

“God is the source of all life, so where we are when we feel most alive is where we are encountering God.”

These wise words are from the book of sermons by **Revd Dr Peter Jenner**. That’s an amazing book entitled: **“The Very Narrow Bridge of Life- Stories through the Church year “** (Louise Redshaw, 2024).

Where do you feel closest to God?

In a sacred building like a cathedral or in Mellor church? With those who you love? When you are outside in nature? Or maybe music or art or poetry touches your soul? Or when you are surprised by the kindness of a stranger? My response is yes to all those things but I’d say that some of my most profound encounters with God have come through prayer.

To “be still” in the presence of the Lord, either through prayers on my own or with other people enables me to connect with the source of all goodness and peace. I’m learning more and more to trust God to transform my faltering pleas into prayers for healing and wholeness. By allowing the Holy Spirit to revolutionise me I hope to become the person whom God created me to be.

So my question for you is - “How’s your prayer life?”

Would you like to experience the peace of praying in the power of the Holy Spirit? There are many ways to encounter God but for me the weekly prayer group is a special experience. We meet every Monday morning at 10.30am in the Mellor Centre for about a half hour of prayer. We stay on for a cuppa and we’re a friendly group. So I hope you will join us very soon. Come to encounter our loving God.

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.



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From the Registers

The Departed

Funerals



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

Vera Abram	Monday 9th December	Service at the crematorium
Kathleen Clarkson	Thursday 12th December	Service at the crematorium
Kirit Pathak	Monday 16th December	Church service
Ann Owens	Monday 16th December	Service at the crematorium
Sharon Goddard	Monday 16th December	Service and burial
Eileen Ogden	Friday 20th December	Church service
Barbara Kenyon	Monday 30th December	Service and burial

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside
the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear
no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

It is early January as I write this: time to think my thoughts again. Snow is lying. It is very cold. We hibernate, we older ones, until the thaw arrives.

So, time to think. Thoughts swirl around in my head like the flakes in another flurry of snow.

I think back 10 days to our ritual exchange of greetings "Happy New Year".

But will it be, can it be a happy year ahead? For so many people it cannot possibly be so.

Our world seems totally out of kilter, tipped somehow from its usual axis. The media feeds us, assuming we choose to partake, a daily diet of political, economic and fearful climatic instability: wars, disasters, fires, famines, and floods abundant everywhere. America, has recently inaugurated a convicted felon as its president!

How are we to deal with all this? All this uncertainty and anxiety. I believe it is damaging, all of it, to everyone's mental health. Christian hope can be hard to keep hold of in these challenging times. My thoughts turn to the exhortation given by the Apostle Paul to the Philippians: –

"Rejoice in the lord always. Rejoice I say.

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true

whatsoever things are just,

whatsoever things are pure

whatsoever things are lovely

whatsoever things are of good report

Think on these things"

I assume that even in St Paul's day the world was not an easy place. But, by way of finding a sense of balance, of courage and comfort in our threatened world, these words, to my mind, are very powerful.

Prayer of the Month

“Eucharistic prayer”

We break this bread for those who love God,
For those who follow the path of the Buddha
and worship the god of the Hindus;
for our sisters and brothers in Islam,
and for the Jewish people from whom we come.

We break this bread for the great green earth:
we call to mind the forests, fields and flowers
which we are destroying,
that one day, with the original blessing,
God's creation will be restored.

We break this bread for those who have no bread,
the starving, the homeless and the refugees,
that one day this planet may be home for everyone.

We break this bread for the broken parts of ourselves,
the wounded child in all of us,
for our broken relationships,
that one day we may glimpse the wholeness that is of Christ.

*The prayer was written by Revd Donald Reeves who died recently.
It is printed with his obituary in the Church Times dated 22/11/24.*

Come to this table, not because you must, but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.
Come, not because any goodness of your own, gives you a right to come,
Come because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more,
Come because he loved you and gave himself for you.
Come and meet the risen Christ for we are his Body.

Stewards Rota

	8:30am	10:00am
Feb 2	J Butterworth	P and L Forbes
Feb 9	P Cunningham	M Lowe and M Williams
Feb 16	A Mason	C Hamilton and K Hargreaves
Feb 23	J Butterworth	R and J Elliott
Mar 2	P Cunningham	S McAllister and C Starling

Flower Rota

Feb 2	Louise Driver	March 2	Angela Muller
Feb 9	Jenny Johnson	March 9	Lent
Feb 16	Gwenn Perks	March 16	Lent
Feb 22	Alison Dowdeswell	March 30	Lent

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

Feb 2	H Kennedy & M Lowe
Feb 9	R & J Elliott
Feb 16	J Cooper & A Muller
Feb 23	J & L Futchter
March 2	J Burrows & E Wilson

Brasses

J Shiel & K Dayes

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