



OUTLOOK



October
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

Email revandrewtawn@gmail.com Tel 0161 604 4993

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

For all enquiries and bookings for the church & Mellor Centre please contact 0161 484 5079 or email office@mellorchurch.org. The office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am—12.30pm

Parish Office Admin	Val Wallace (Mon, Wed, & Thurs mornings)
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Gift Aid Secretary	Karen Greenough
PCC Secretary	Julie Elliott, 64 Ernocroft Road 0161 427 5981
Director of Music	Tom Howling (email: t.howling@nhs.net)
Elected Members of PCC	Ian Dayes, Rachel Howling, Julie Elliott, Richard Elliott Sylvia Knight, Angie Stanton, Sian Yeowell, Anthony Langford, Carol Langford, Emma Wilson (Safeguarding Officer)
Deanery / Diocesan	Judith Shiel/Mary Heijbroek/Rachel Howling
Churches Together in	Helen Kennedy/Judith Shiel
Marple	
Pastoral Care Grp Co-Ord	Lesley Futchter 0161 449 0977
Editors of Outlook Magazine	Julia Mann and Maggie Williams

*We welcome articles for **Outlook** which should be submitted to the editors (preferably by email) to melloroutlooksubmissions@gmail.com - deadline for the November issue is October 15th please.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2025

1 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
4 Sat	7.30 pm	Organ Recital Richard Brocklehurst

5 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
Harvest Festival	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	12.30 pm	Baptism
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)

8 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
8 Wed	2.00 pm	Women's Fellowship. (Mellor Centre)
11 Sat	10.00 am	Wellspring Walk (Holy Spirit Church)
11 Sat	7.30 pm	Quiz Night (Mellor Centre)

12 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
17th Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
after Trinity	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)

15 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
18 Sat	7.30 pm	Autumn Baroque Concert

19 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
18th Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
after Trinity	6.30 pm	Choral Celebration of the Nicene Creed

22 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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26 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
Thanksgiving	10.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Arts and Crafts Exhibition (Mellor Centre)
	4.00 pm	Bible Sunday (Marple URC)
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)

27 Mon	7.45 pm	PCC meeting (Mellor Centre)
29 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)

Prayer Group meets every Monday from 10.30am to 11am (Mellor Centre)
 Women's Evening Fellowship meets on the second Wednesday 2pm (Mellor Centre)
 Toddler Group meets in term time on Thursday each week 10am—11.30am (Mellor Centre)
 Knit and Natter meets on Thursday each week 10.30am –12 noon (Mellor Centre)
 The choir practises each week on Friday at 6.30pm (church)



Vicar's Viewpoint

Every Sunday in church we say the Nicene Creed. These words, in various languages and translations, have been said week by week in churches all over the world for 1700 years. This year is the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD at which the wording of the Nicene Creed was agreed, and we are marking this anniversary with a special choral service on Sunday 19th October at 6.30 pm. Here is the full text:

*We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is,
 seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.*

The creed falls into 3 paragraphs, one for each member of the Holy Trinity. The first paragraph relating to God the Father consists of just 21 words, while the second about Jesus is much longer - 129 words. That is not because Jesus was 6 times as important as God the Father! It is because the creed arose out of a context of controversy. There was no disagreement over God the Father - so there was little that needed saying about the Father in the Creed. But there were many unresolved questions about the nature of Jesus: in what way was he both human and divine? Was he equal with God the Father, or subordinate? If he was fully divine and therefore immortal, did he really die on the cross or did he just seem to do so? (Notice that the creed jumps straight from Jesus' birth to his death. Again this is not because his teaching and ministry is unimportant but because there was no disagreement about it and therefore no need to mention it in the creed.)

As the early Christians were exploring these questions about Jesus they came up with many different possible answers. The church then discussed these ideas until they settled on one that seemed right. That idea was henceforth accepted as orthodoxy and others were rejected as heresy. The word heretic nowadays may suggest someone who deliberately departs from the orthodox faith, but these early heresies were an important part of a lively and evolving theological debate.

The council of Nicaea was one of the most significant moments in that process of establishing an agreed orthodoxy in the history of Christianity. But it was not the only one. Questions about Jesus dominated the council of Nicaea, but by the time of the council of Constantinople in 381 AD the focus had shifted to the nature of the Holy Spirit. The version of the creed in 325 AD dealt with the Holy Spirit in just one line. In 381 AD this was expanded into the third paragraph we have now. So the Nicene creed arose from a particular context and in response to some specific theological questions. I sometimes wonder if we began from scratch today, in our current context, what are our most pressing questions of faith, and what might a contemporary creed look like?

Looking ahead to November, some dates for your diaries:

- Sunday 2nd November 4 pm: All Souls' service. This is an annual service of remembrance of those we have loved who have died before us. All are welcome. If you have any names of the departed you would like including, please let me know.
- Saturday 8th November: Choir concert performance of John Rutter's Requiem (to mark the season of remembrance).
- Sunday 30th November: 6.30 pm Advent Carol Service

God bless you, Andrew

Harvest Festival Service

10am October 5th 2025



A reminder to please bring tinned and packet foods to the Harvest Services on the 5th October. Please do check the Best Before dates. These will then be distributed to homeless charities. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Rose Queen News

Rose Queen Thea will be holding regular cake sales in the Mellor Centre after the Sunday service in aid of her chosen charity, The Christie Hospital on October 19th, November 23rd and December 21st. More news to follow on future Rose Queen events. Thank you for your support.



Bible Sunday Service



The Churches Together service for Bible Sunday will be held on October 26th at 4.00 pm in Marple URC (on Hibbert Lane). Do come and join us as we celebrate the Bible together.



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Mellor Birds



At the top of Church Lane Helen and Lucy T made me laugh when they said they had a “**Chorbler**” on their bird feeder! She was not sure if it was a **Chiff chaff** or a **Willow warbler**. They are notoriously difficult to tell apart if they are not singing. I was told that they both flutter their wings but only the Chiff chaff flits its tail.



The last thing I would expect to hear in church is a **Kaua'i O'o** singing, but I did. On September 13th at George Herbert's superb organ recital. He played a piece called *Silent Spring*. The O'o lived on a Hawaiian island. They were long-lived and mated for life. The last male of the species

outlived his mate by a decade and was often recorded singing for a mate who would never come. The piece starts with a recording of the O'o and the organ music fills the gaps in the song, imagining how the female O'o might have responded. I found it very moving. If you would like to hear it, go to St Thomas Church, Mellor website. Scroll to Live streaming, and click on the George Herbert organ recital - 33mins in.

Down the road near to the **Devi**, lucky David K has two juvenile **bullfinches** coming to his feeders. Last week I took our 6 month old labrador Chloe for a walk on Townscliffe to show Glenis how brilliant the harness she recommended to stop the dog pulling was (*PetSafe Easy Walk*). Chloe then did a poo which included my husband's sock she had wrestled off him 16 days previously! After shopping at the Post Office, I crossed the road to look down at the Goyt and there was a **dipper** bobbing up and down. Great to watch..

Maggie Williams

Laughs with Lynda



My timeline has been recently inundated with pieces of music from the Enigma Variations, mainly Nimrod.

On further investigation, it seems to be the fault of an Elgar Rhythm.

A truck loaded with Vicks VapoRub overturned on the motorway. Amazingly, there was no congestion for four hours.

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve. It was an apple with very little memory- Just one byte and everything crashed.

Women's Evening Fellowship Report

As the year turns and the evenings become darker and colder we are returning to holding our monthly meetings in the afternoons. Our October meeting is on **October 8th at 2pm** in the Mellor Centre when we very much look forward to welcoming Laura Stevenson as our speaker.

She will be talking about her cake-making business in Marple Bridge, "**Bridge Bakes and Cakes**". I have been lucky enough to sample some of her creations: they are delectable.

All members, families and friends are encouraged to put the date on your calendars and to come and see for yourselves.

Lesley Fletcher

Victoria's Apple Cake

Jill Baker



My daughter in law Victoria had to chase quite hard to get a colleague to share this recipe! She thought it was the best apple cake she had tasted – it certainly has a lot of spices, I did not have any ground cloves but allspice has a clove like smell so I added a little more, I ground some cardamom seeds I already had. Do not feel you cannot make the cake if you do not have all the spices.

225g softened butter	1 tsp ground allspice
220g caster sugar	1/2 tsp cinnamon
220g dark brown sugar	1 tsp grated nutmeg
3 eggs	¼ tsp ground cloves
280g plain flour	¼ tsp ground ginger
3 tbsp apple juice, (recipe says	¼ tsp ground cardamom
bourbon but you could use orange or	1 tsp baking powder
lemon juice).	½ tsp bicarb

3 granny smith type apples peeled and cut into chunks

120g whole pecans toasted (I used a packet that was slightly less than this and I am sure you could substitute walnuts)

The cake is quite deep – line an 8 inch round tin and set the oven at 160C, GM 3. Weigh out the flour and add the spices and raising agents. Peel the apples and cube and place in chosen liquid.

Beat the butter and sugar together and gradually add the eggs. Beat for 1 minute and then gradually add the flour one third at a time.

Toast the pecans in the oven whilst doing this for a few minutes. Chop but not too finely.

Now fold the apples and the liquid along with the pecans into the mix. Bake for 55 to 70 minutes, checking with a skewer that it is fully cooked. The cake does not have a topping to make it look pretty but you could save some of the chopped pecans to put on top as it comes out of the oven.

Ed: MW- Cake is delicious. I accidentally left it in the oven for an extra 40 minutes and it came out with a nice caramely crust.



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The Recorder - Not Just for Primary School



Like me, you may have heard or played the recorder (probably a descant, probably far too many of them in one room) as a young child, but also like me, you may have been encouraged to move on to a “proper” instrument and left it behind in the primary school classroom. About 16 years ago, I returned to the recorder and haven’t regretted it for a moment.

The recorder was certainly in use by the 14th century, becoming popular as a consort instrument (Henry VIII owned over 70!). As the renaissance gave way to the baroque, and the recorder became more of a solo instrument, its shape changed from a wide bored, straight instrument with a flared bell, to one with a more ornate shape, a tapered bore and smaller finger holes. The recorder’s sound has always been likened to the human voice and among its many names (flauto dolce = sweet flute, flûte à bec = flute with a beak, Blockflöte = flute with a block) is the voice flute (a small tenor recorder in D). Even in the 15th century, several sizes of recorder were played, ranging from the descant or soprano through alto, tenor, bass, great bass and contra bass. Today, the smallest recorder has the wonderful name of Garkleinflötlein (very small little



‘Big Babe’ and its maker, Adriana

flute) and the largest recorder ever built (nicknamed Big Babe) is the sub contra bass in Bb which measures 3 metres tall! While the recorder is often associated with early music (it largely gave way to the flute in the later 18th century), it enjoyed a revival in the early 1900s due to Arnold Dolmetsch's influence and there is a large body of 20th century music written for it. More recently it features in a wide variety of contexts - large recorder orchestras, on pop albums (think *Stairway to Heaven*, *Ruby Tuesday*, *The Fool on the Hill*) and contemporary compositions with electronic looping. You may have heard the recent Radio 4 programme, **Artworks: Rocking the Recorder** with Susan Calman, which highlighted how instrument makers, players and composers continue to push the boundaries of technique and sound to create new possibilities for this "simple" wooden pipe. It is the recorder's apparent simplicity and versatility, its expressive capability, the purity of its sound and the vast amount of repertoire from medieval to contemporary that I continue to find so attractive. Do come along to our concert on 18th October and see if you agree!

Helen Tawn

Organ Recitals

Saturday 4 October, 7.30pm: Organ Recital by Richard Brocklehurst

Free admission, refreshments, donations to church funds.

Saturday 18 October, 7.30pm: Autumn Baroque. Helen Tawn and friends in a programme including music by Handel, Telemann, Pepusch

Saturday 8 November, 7.00pm: Mellor Church Choir
Programme to include John Rutter's Requiem

*By the way, the bird featured in Edward Picton-Turbervill's piece **Silent Spring**, in George Herbert's recent recital is the Kauai O'o (see Mellor Birds).*

Children's Harvest Wordsearch



There are 10 words hidden in the word search below, the words may be found across, down and diagonally. The hidden words are listed beneath the word search; circle the words in the word search as you find them and cross them out from the list.

E	G	A	T	H	E	R	G	J	G
F	T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L	I
I	S	R	A	I	N	T	S	C	U
E	L	N	T	A	S	E	A	S	O
L	I	H	S	E	T	S	O	I	L
D	U	I	V	T	A	S	E	E	D
I	H	R	E	E	T	F	I	V	E
T	A	P	A	R	A	B	L	E	D
H	H	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E
E	J	E	S	U	S	E	T	A	S

Field, Gather, Harvest, Jesus, Parable, Rain, Seed, Soil, Sunshine, Thankful

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Eco Church Event

Clare Jackson would like to encourage people to attend the following celebration/Evensong at **Chester Cathedral on 4th October.**

Programme of Events

1.30 - 2.00pm Arrival

2.00pm Cheshire Wildlife Trust 'A focus on the Eco Church Survey'

2.45pm Tea and Coffee

3.00pm Eco Church inspiration for your parish

2.00pm-3.45pm Outside activities

4.00pm Photography

4.15pm Special Evensong



Father of Mellor Church Choir Retires *Tom Howling*

After 46 years of loyal service to Mellor Church Choir, **Mike Benford Miller** has decided to retire. In conversation with me, he reflected on his experience and performance highlights:

What is your first memory of the choir?

Soon after arriving in Mellor in 1979, I was auditioned by Roy Taylor along with my son Richard and my daughter Anne. He got me to sight-read a setting of an evening service. After two pages I said, "Roy, I'm sorry, I'm really struggling with this." And Roy said, "So is the choir – we've only just started working on it." When I got there, everybody was really great. After a couple of weeks, I said "I can't understand this. The music seems so high." Arthur Brooke and Bob Norris laughed and said, "That's because if Roy doesn't want the congregation to sing, he transposes the key up!"



Had you been singing before your time in Mellor?

I started singing in Dronfield Parish Church from age 12. It was a huge choir of boys and men with only a few women in those times. It was the centre of life in the church community. The young people formed a youth club and then when we were too old, an over 21 group. That's where I started my experience of pantomimes – mainly playing the dame! I met Eileen there – she was the organist's daughter. After we married and had children we moved to Oxford and sang in St Aldate's choir before our move up to Mellor.

What would be your highlight of singing with the choir? There are so many. The choir has developed under each successive choir director. It was initially a small family affair under Roy Taylor. Peter Harle was full of enthusiasm and developed singing in cathedrals and taking the children on foreign tours. These tours continued with Marc Hall and Jonny Lo to Belgium and to Germany. I look back on the pictures and think what a wonderful time it was. It was very important to me and to everyone involved when the choir sang at the Menin Gate in Ypres on two occasions.

The 50-year choir anniversary celebration in 2018 was a major event. Someone asked me then how many people had been in the choir over that time, and I worked out that it must be over 250, and that was incredible.

What is your favourite music? The music we sing is so varied that I don't really have a favourite. Howard Goodall's *The Lord is my Shepherd* that we sang today is a very nice piece of music. It might not be as sophisticated as Mozart. Things like Mozart are good, and I enjoy that too, but sometimes it is the simpler pieces that are so effective. I try to think about the words and try to express that through the singing.

What about your favourite solo?

Probably the recent one in Stainer's Crucifixion. I was so nervous about coming in on the right note! I overheard you say to someone "You see - he's still got it." And I think that was a very good moment for me because I got it right in the actual performance. Singing a solo in Purcell's *Nunc Dimittis in G minor* when we sang in Westminster Abbey was another highlight.

What would you say are the benefits for young people joining the choir today?

I think they are no different really from what they were back in the 1950s when I started. You grow up in a community of people who enjoy singing. They want to communicate with each other and be part of the family of the church. Singing together builds confidence especially as they get older and get to perform solos. There are many social benefits which I don't think they realise at the time. It gives them something which helps them in the world out there. They get to sing serious church music whilst having fun. And you may meet your wife!

Is there anything else you would like to say?

I'm grateful that I passed that audition to join Mellor Church Choir. We may have ended up in another church which would not perhaps have been such a good thing to happen to our family. In Mellor, we were soon very involved helping with the church fête and soon I became a Deputy Church Warden and then Church Warden.

So, it all started with joining a choir as a boy – a very good beginning and this is where we have got to. From now on, I'm going to be sitting with my wife in the church services because we have done very little of that over the years and I'll sing from there!

Mike's final service singing in the choir is the Nicene Creed Anniversary service on the evening of October 19th. All are welcome to come to that and a reception for Mike afterwards in the Mellor Centre. Please bring food for a 'bring and share' buffet. Drinks and entertainment will be provided. If you have any good photos of Mike, please send by email to t.howling@nhs.net.

AS SEEN FROM COW CORNER



The summer holiday season has arrived, which means the long break from school and the exodus of the Mellor cricketers to far flung destinations. This obviously deprives the cricket team of a few of the usual members, but happily the captain can use his influence to cajole some of his mates to try their hand at the game, so that the team do not take the field without a full complement.

Mellor's next game during this holiday period saw them visit Appleton, where the Mellor captain, after at first inspecting the wicket, called correctly and decided to bat. This might have seemed a poor idea as the first three wickets fell cheaply. Fortunately the middle order buckled down and, despite Appleton using seven different bowlers to undermine the batsmen's doggedness, two of the batsmen scored over a hundred runs between them, and with more double figure scores from the lower order ended up with 186 all out. In reply the home side started very slowly against Mellor's tight seam bowling, but there was no success for them, so the captain introduced his slow bowler who immediately took three wickets. The seamers were brought back into the attack and were rewarded by taking the remaining wickets, resulting in the home side being all out in the thirty fourth over for 99 runs. Another away match followed against Bowden Vale, where the Mellor captain called correctly on the toss of the coin and, in view of the success of the previous week decided to bat first. However there was not to be the same outcome as the visitors were all out in the thirtieth over for 121. Despite the fall of three early wickets the home side coasted to victory in the thirty second over with just the fall of one more wicket, leaving them winners by six wickets.

Mellor reverted to their Longhurst Lane ground on the following week, when they entertained Brooklands, whose captain after winning the toss, had no hesitation in choosing to bat first, probably in view of Mellor's lowly position in the league.

However he had overlooked the revitalised bowling attack of the home side, which showed considerable hostility, and despite some obstinate batting by some older members of the team, were all out in the twenty fourth over for 49 runs, with just one batsman reaching double figures. Whilst the bowling of Brooklands was adequate, Mellor had no problem in knocking off the runs in the twelfth over with just the loss of one wicket. This gave Mellor the distinction of wins, home and away, against the same opposition in the same season.

Silly Point



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Zip-wire Over the Zambezi

On our recent trip to Africa not only did we have wonderful opportunities to watch animals, but also extra 'activities' for those so minded; you could go up in a helicopter, bungee jump, or.....zip-wire over the Zambezi. Meg reacts like one of Pavlov's dogs to the words 'Zip-wire'. Where? When? Can you do it twice? Is it a very long one? The thought of doing it over the River Zambezi in sight of Victoria Falls made it a 'no brainer'.



I decided on a welcome sit down and a nice cup of coffee. Meg did it, hurtling down and up, up, up, then gently descending with gravity to the bottom of the curve to await being hauled back to base. Waiting for 'retrieval' she admired the view: the old iron bridge linking Zimbabwe to Zambia, the Falls – astonishing – and also, floating in the river, a dead hippo. It was generally agreed that it had been swept over the falls, and was not a zip-wire casualty. She was also told to look out for a black mamba in a bush, but she hadn't got her glasses on. I am not very good at that sort of thing.

Last year I went on an alarming fairground ride with my granddaughter in Largs. When we came off, a stern-looking old lady, waiting for her grandchildren to appear, said to me in a strong Scottish accent, 'You need to act your age.' Now that would be like a red rag to a bull to Meg.

Mike Barley

Bible Society Around the World

We are very lucky here to be able to have as many Bibles as we choose, and the freedom to study and discuss our ideas safely and without interference. In other countries this is not the case, and one example is Iran. There it is an offence to convert to Christianity and Bible Society was expelled in 1990, after which it was made impossible to print Bibles in the country. In spite of the repression, an underground church movement is growing and many of the members wish for their own Bibles in Farsi. An exiled Iranian Bible Society worker has the aim of collecting 1 million Bibles for the country. As it is impossible for her to visit and distribute them at the moment, she and a small team are working with Iranians who have had to flee and now live in exile, who also need Bibles in their own language.



Another difficult type of situation is a country at war and sadly there are so many. Ukraine and the Middle East are much in our news at the moment. When people have had to flee and have lost all their possessions one of the things they won't have is a Bible, and Bible Society agents work to supply these to displaced people, but in addition they are providing services such as trauma healing workshops for the many people who are in despair and grieving. In Israel the Arab-Israeli Bible Society is bilingual and bicultural, rooted in the deeply divided society, and teams visit schools to teach peace and reconciliation to try to stem the ongoing cycle of violence.

Back in the UK, Bible Society works in prisons where chaplains run services and study courses, and distribute Bibles free of charge, including Dyslexia-friendly Bible books for prisoners who have a need for them. In British society in general, research by the Bible Society indicates that there is something of a 'quiet revival' happening.

Statistics collected show that more people, including more young people, are attending church than used to be the case, and there is a need for educational material such as the video Bible Course. Work in schools is also continuing. Children in many schools don't necessarily get the familiarity with Bible stories that most of us had, and the 'Open the Book' scheme which has been running for 25 years seeks to remedy this. Volunteers visit schools and involve the children in acting out Bible stories. Scripts are provided, plus introductions and reflections, so that volunteers don't have to keep re-inventing the wheel by constructing their own material. One child in Sheffield was so keen that he asked his teacher "When are the old people in curtains coming again?"

Judith Shiel

Eds: St. Thomas' has a team which regularly goes in to Mellor Primary School and tells Bible stories in this way.

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News from The Dark Peak Vineyard, Mellor

Last year Revd Andrew invited Tim and Katherine to give a harvest service talk about their new venture, The Dark Peak Vineyard and their hopes for future harvests. The editors thought it was a good time for a catch up one year on.



As summer turns into autumn, things begin to slow down on the vineyard. Our vines will drop their leaves, and over the winter we'll begin the task of pruning them back to get them ready for a big year next year. 2026 will see our first harvest, so all the groundwork and preparation we've done these past two years will hopefully come to fruition. A huge thank you to all our members for your help among the vines and for your support, as we build towards our first real grapes. There is fruit among the vines this year, especially on the Calardis Blanc, with excellent sugar content which bodes well for our first vintage...

While work on the vines slows, we're planning the next steps for our business. And looking ahead to Christmas. We'll have a stall at Marple Bridge Winter Wonderland, the Marple Makers Market, and plans are already underway for our second Christmas on the Vineyard event, which this year will be held on the 12th December from 5pm. All are welcome to come and celebrate with us, raise a glass of English wine, and enjoy the carols from Mellor Church Choir. www.thedarkpeak.co.uk for more information.



Annual Wellspring Walk October 11th 2025

This event, organised by **Churches Together**, is held annually to raise much-needed funds. You are invited to join the walkers, starting from the Holy Spirit church on Leigh Avenue in Marple at 10.00am, even if you can only do part of the walk. (It follows a route which takes in all the churches in our district). Or you could sponsor one of our walkers- details in church. Also needed are 1 or 2 people to help serve tea and coffee from the church vestry, as St Thomas' is approximately the half-way point. Get in touch with Helen Kennedy if you can help.

We asked Kate Johnson for her memories of Mellor Rose Queen to mark the 90th anniversary this year.

A Rose Queen Mother x Three!



One warm December morning in South Africa, where we were living temporarily, we received a phone call from Karen, our friend and neighbour in Moor End. Victoria, her elder daughter, had been chosen to be the Rose Queen. She was to be crowned at the church fête in June 1997. Victoria would like Eleanor, our eldest daughter, to join her retinue as a Rose Queen attendant. We were considering whether to stay abroad or to return to Mellor. Karen's call required us to make a decision: we returned in April 1997 with Eleanor and her sisters Anna and Lily. The Rose Queen was to become a significant part of our lives for the following twelve years.

Mothers of the retinue formed the committee, helping to organise fundraising events, as well as accompanying our Rose Queen and attendants to "At Homes" in nearby towns and villages. Karen asked if I would take on the role of Rose Queen secretary. Anna and Lily followed their sister's path as attendants to Sarah (Victoria's younger sister) and to Jenny Dayes respectively. The little girls loved their pretty dresses and garlands and were also a ready-made host of little angels for the Crib Service. The tradition is that the reigning Rose Queen takes the role of the Angel Gabriel, so with Richard taking on the responsibility of miking the performers, the Crib Service became an important part of our family's annual commitment. Anna had already played Baby Jesus in 1993! The girls grew up, and one by one

were chosen to be the Mellor Rose Queen in 2004, 2007 and 2008, with me being “promoted” to Rose Queen Mother! By that time, they were all in the choir.

Looking back through the scrapbooks I made for them, two themes emerge: music in the community and collaborating with charities helping children in the wider world. Eleanor chose *Lesotho Save the Children*, which supported children with HIV/AIDS. Prince Harry had a strong connection with this work at that time, and I was amused to find a letter thanking Eleanor for her kind letter inviting the prince to attend a gala screening of the latest Harry Potter film in Stockport. Sadly, His Royal Highness had to decline. That was a relief as it turned out—we didn’t manage to get that one organised! However, Eleanor held a family concert as part of her At Home, the final Rose Queen event of the year. Her sisters followed her lead when they organised their At Homes. Anna chose *Children of Amal*, a charity providing healing through music therapy to children in Nablus refugee camp in Palestine. Anna’s gala screening was *The Sound of Music* at the Regent Cinema in Marple. She had written to Julie Andrews, requesting a signed photograph for the raffle and this duly arrived!

Lily was chosen to be Rose Queen immediately following on from Anna. So one sister crowned another! Lily had discovered *EducAid* and was keen to support children affected by war in Sierra Leone. *EducAid* has been part of St Thomas’ giving ever since. Lily’s gala screening was *Mamma Mia*. She wrote to two of the stars: Julie Walters and Colin Firth. Julie sent a very nice email and Colin sent a very nice signed photo! Towards the end of Lily’s reign in 2009, Karen and I updated the Rose Queen Exhibition, which we had researched and curated for Victoria in 1998, and which Marple Library kindly hosted. The exhibition was updated again in 2019 for Rose Queen Lara.

We all wish Rose Queen Thea a wonderful year raising money for The Christie Hospital, and we say thank you to her and to all future Rose Queens.

Kate Johnson

Thought for the Month

Jenny Johnson

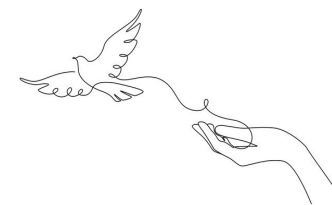
Andrew and Helen’s delightful Open Afternoon at the Vicarage on Saturday 6th September seemed like the last beautiful day of summer but then Autumn arrived in the following days and what a wretched arrival it was, with Russia’s renewed onslaught on Ukraine; with seemingly no end to the violence inflicted by Israel on Gaza and then the extreme gun violence in the USA with the shooting of Charlie Kirk. Once again, I wonder how we can process hearing constant news of such events. I remember a time when I saw a boldly written graffiti on the wall of a pedestrian underpass in Coventry, 60 years ago, when TV was often unreliable. In large black lettering it simply read:-

DO NOT ADJUST YOUR SET : THERE IS A FAULT IN REALITY. Does it help us to process the horrors to read such slogans? Does it help to remember that there are more good people in the world than bad? Does it help to read that instead of waiting for the storm to pass we must learn to dance in the rain? Such phrases can often sound so facile. St. Paul encouraged optimism and the benefit of thinking of all things good and true. And so we must. We can only live where we find ourselves and we must be positive. It is the little things in our own lives which can create our peace, however harsh is the wider world.

So, in the final words of Desiderata, “Be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all it’s sham, drudgery and broken dreams (and I add violence) it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.” Amen

Prayer for the Month

May God write a message
upon your heart,
bless and direct you,
then send you out,
living letters of the Word.



Letter to the Editor - A Farewell to Mellor

Some of you will be aware that 2025 has not been a good year for the Norris clan — broken hip, infection in the joint and five operations and anaesthetics. Only now after the fifth operation are we daring to feel optimistic. However, anyone who knows our house in New Mills will know that whichever way you turn there are steps or a slope. We should have moved years ago. That being the case we have decided to move to a bungalow in Wales very close to where Helen lives. (It was their idea.) The greatest wrench of all will be severing our connection with St Thomas's after fifty years. For fifty years Mellor Church has been at the centre of our lives, not just because of the choir but from serving on the PCC and as a warden to Morris Dancing and Parish Parties with The Ladies of the Parish expressing their various opinions. Helen and Gareth met at Mellor Church and were partly inspired by a sermon given by Charles Preston, a visiting preacher, to spend five years in Africa working for the USPG. Our friends at St Thomas's have been very good and pretty much lifelong friends, friends we will miss very much indeed. Mellor Church has been a source of inspiration and faith. Memories of Robin Phillips and Peter Jenner remain with us as two of the most inspiring and sincere people we have ever met. However the time has come to say farewell to Mellor and we do so with heavy hearts. Thank you to everyone at Mellor. We will miss you all and everything about St Thomas's. *Joyce and Bob Norris*

Eds: Our best wishes to you both and many thanks to Bob for all your help over the years with printing Outlook Magazine.

From The Registers

Christenings

*We welcomed into God's family -
Nellie Rhona Walsh - 24th August*

Weddings

*We offer our congratulations and best wishes to:-
Thomas Jackman and Annabel Cloughley - 20th August*

Funerals

*We remember before God and commend to his love and mercy
Nora Warburton - 29th August*

Stewards Rota

8.30am

Oct 5 J Shiel
Oct 12 J Butterworth
Oct 19 P Cunningham
Oct 26 J Shiel
Nov 2 J Butterworth

10.00am

R and J Elliott
P and L Forbes
M Lowe and J Mason
K Hargreaves and C Langford
S McAllister and C Starling

Please arrange your own substitute. If this is not possible contact Mary Heijbroek 0161 427 3241.

Flower Rota

Oct 5 Harvest Flowers	Nov 2 All Souls
Oct 12 Harvest Flowers	Nov 9 Remembrance Sunday
Oct 19 Helen Tawn	Nov 16 Margaret Lowe
Oct 26 Jane Priest	Nov 23 Emma Houghton
	Nov 30 Advent

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

Oct 5 D & J Butterworth
Oct 12 H Kennedy & M Lowe
Oct 19 J Cooper & A Muller
Oct 26` J & L Futchter
Nov 2 J Burrows & E Wilson

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Judith Shiel & Joyce Wood

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