

OUTLOOK



April
2026

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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)
Church Wardens	Alex Eggeman 07772849657 Mary Heijbroek 0161 427 3241
PCC Treasurer	Richard Elliott contact via Parish Office
Assistant Treasurers	David Butterworth, Andrew Sanders
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, Julie Elliott, Richard Elliott, Rachel Howling, Sylvia Knight, Anthony Langford, Carol Langford, Angie Stanton, Emma Wilson (Safeguarding Officer), Sian Yeowell
Deanery / Diocesan	Mary Heijbroek/Rachel Howling/Judith Shiel
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 May issue is April 15th please.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2026

1 Wed	10.00 am 9.00 pm	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre) Online Compline
2 Maundy Thursday	8.00 pm	Holy Communion, stripping of the altar and vigil
3 Good Friday	10.00 am 5.00 pm	Proclamation of the Cross Churches Together walk to Mellor Cross (meet at Linnet Clough at 4.45 pm)
5 Sun Easter Day	6.30 am 8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Churches Together Dawn Service at the Ridge Methodist Church, Marple Holy Communion Easter Parish Communion Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
8 Wed	10.00 am 7.30pm	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre) WEF meeting. Helen Tawn talk. (Mellor Centre)
11 Sat	7.30 pm	Concert in church 'Mostly Baroque'
12 Sun 2nd Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
15 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
19 Sun 3rd Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Choral Evensong
Mon 20	7.45 pm	PCC meeting
22 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
25 Sat	3.00 pm 5.30-7.30 pm	Organ recital for International Organ Day Rose Queen Family Games Night (Mellor Centre)
26 Sun 4th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer (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 at 7.30pm (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



Welcome to Karen

I am very pleased to say that we had several applicants for the post of Office Administrator for the church and Mellor Centre and we interviewed some very strong candidates. As a result we have appointed Karen Morris as our new administrator. She will begin on 1st April which allows for a month of handover time with Val. If you are in the Mellor Centre on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, please do come and say hello to Karen as she settles into this role.

Farewell to Val

When Val retires at the end of April she will have been the administrator here for 22 years. During that time she has worked with four different Vicars - an invaluable point of continuity through all these changes. I have greatly enjoyed working with Val during the relatively brief time we have overlapped. When I arrived it was an immense help to me to have the support of someone like Val, with her vast wealth of experience of how things have been done here, and her knowledge of so many people in the wider community. But more than that, I have come to value Val's wisdom and judgement and I will miss the very helpful conversations we've had. I know I am not the only one. When Val is in the office I have observed a steady flow of people wanting to come and chat. Selfishly, I kind of hoped Val would just go on for ever - or at least until I retired! However I want to say a huge thank you to her personally and on behalf of the church and the Mellor Centre. Val, we will miss you!

And next we need to find a new caretaker ...

Although Mike and Val Wallace are both retiring from their roles at the Mellor Centre, they have very thoughtfully proposed to stagger their leaving by three months, so that we do not need to appoint two new members of staff at the same time. Mike will be retiring at the end of July, which means we will shortly be advertising for a new caretaker.

There will be more details in next month's Outlook, but if you are interested, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please do contact me or any member of the Mellor Centre Management Committee.

Easter dawn service at the Ridge Methodist Church this year

The Ridge Methodist Church, Marple, asked if they might host the dawn service for Easter morning this year. This is a Churches Together service and so it is appropriate for it to move around to other churches. This will start at 6.30 am and will be followed by breakfast. If you plan to come, please note the new venue!

The meaning of Easter

I wonder what Easter and the resurrection mean to you? For me, Easter sets the pattern of God's work in our world. Bad things happen - and I cannot explain why. It makes me cross when people say pious things like 'God must have a reason even if we can't see it now.' I do not believe suffering is ever part of God's plan or God's purpose. What I do believe is that wherever there is suffering, or tragedy, or pain, God is there, supporting, healing, and working to bring some good out of a bad situation. That's what we see at Easter. God took the crucifixion and turned it into the resurrection. That's the way God works. All the time God is turning death into new life. There is nothing so bad that God cannot bring good out of it. Resurrection is not just a historical event 2000 years ago. It is the power at work in you and me and in our world today. There is plenty of bad news in the world at the moment. So we need the power of the resurrection all the more. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God bless you,

Andrew



Mellor Afternoon Tea Concert

Mellor Parish Centre

Sunday 10th May 3pm

Pleyel Ensemble

Janet Hilton clarinet

David Aspin viola

Harvey Davies piano

Music by Mozart, Schumann, Bruch and Rebecca Clarke

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Mellor Birds



Excitement this month was Julia Mann sending me photos of 'TC' - Topcat the mute swan, holding up the traffic on Clement Road for a couple of hours on Sunday March 1st. The RSPCA came to the rescue. Julia was told that Topcat had been chased off the lake at Etherow by bigger swans. His leg was wobbly but he was fine, Julia was very impressed by the swan lady. Her young daughter caught him and the RSPCA put him in their van to return to Etherow.



There is a Facebook page "Friends of Etherow Wildlife". This shows a video of Topcat on March 11th. He had crashed by the Andrew Arms pub on to the road and lovely people got him into the car park. Whereupon they realised his leg with the blue ring on was swollen. So there was a big thank you to Chris Mulroy for taking TC to Kirklees Valley Wildlife Rescue, near Bury.

If you get the bus to the top of Mellor and walk down Rush Lane you will hear curlews "bubbling", see lapwings tumbling and hear skylarks too. There is a barn owl that flies over the fields as you go down the road to The Little Mill in Rowarth.

At the local RSPB meeting in Marple at the Senior Citizens Hall, the speaker was Ashley Grove on the subject of Sweden's Crane Migration. He showed photos of cranes throwing their necks and heads back when courting. Hence the saying "Craning your neck back". Ashley was staying at The Little Mill in Rowarth and had seen a dipper by the pub. If you want to see cranes in this country he recommended going to Slimbridge Wetland Centre near Gloucester.

Maggie Williams

PS Topcat now on Elton Lake near Bury and very happy!



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How Green is Your Garden?

Judith Shiel

We are probably really enjoying seeing our gardens come to life again after the winter – and seeing what has survived or what needs replacing. We also probably think that gardening is a 'green' and ecologically sound pursuit, but is it really? There are lots of issues, but one of the main problems flagged up over the last few years is the use of peat in potting composts and mulches. This has been produced by draining peat bogs which have been acting as carbon stores, vital in the effort to combat climate change. When peat dries out, carbon dioxide is released which is damaging. Peatlands are also home to plants and animals which need these specific conditions to thrive. Composts containing peat are still available but there are alternatives. Environmentally responsible composts can be identified by looking for the Responsible Sourcing Scheme logo on the package.

Buying plants from garden centres is difficult as many sell plants potted in peat and while both the National Trust and the RHS are committed to going peat free it is not always easy to buy from their gardens. Horticultural journals and books tend to feature exotic and tender plants which are very attractive but buying plants imported from abroad raises another issue, as there is a risk of also importing diseases such as xylella. This affects a variety of plants such as lavender, rosemary and olives which are grown in various European countries. The UK government and horticultural importers are trying to prevent the disease arriving into the UK so perhaps we should try to find out more about the plants on sale, or think about going back to a more traditional type of gardening and grow plants raised from seeds or exchanged with other gardeners. Another major concern is the use of poisons in weed killers and pesticides.. A product which will kill the insects we don't want on our plants might well also kill bees which are vital to pollination.

There are organic pesticides which are available from firms such as Garden Organic (<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/>). I don't really want to spend long evenings prowling round the garden with a torch collecting slugs and snails by hand and I haven't been successful with using barriers of grit round vulnerable plants. As used coffee grounds are given away now by some coffee bars I might try these instead. It seems more challenging the more one looks into it but perhaps we can try small steps, one at a time.

Laughs with Lynda

Why was the computer cold?

It left its windows open.

How do you organise a space party?

You planet.

What did the stamp say to the envelope?

"Stick with me and we will go places"



Women's Evening Fellowship

With the arrival of Spring (we hope!) our meetings will be taking place in the evenings at 7.30pm from now until October.

This month we are very much looking forward to welcoming Helen Tawn who will be talking about "Recorders through the Ages" and together with friends also playing some instruments for us.

Wednesday 8th April at 7.30pm in the Mellor Centre. Visitors very welcome.

Lesley Fletcher

Appeal for more Intercessors

We are very grateful to our current team who regularly prepare and read the Intercessions Sunday by Sunday. BUT - we really do need some more people to join us so that no-one is called upon too often. Only writing or only reading the Intercessions are also options if you would prefer to do one or the other rather than both. Guidance and weekly resources are provided. Please do talk to me if you feel this is something you might be able to take on.

Lesley Fletcher

Churches Together Marple Area

Easter services change of venue

The **Walk to the Cross** on Good Friday starts from
Linnet Clough, meeting at 4.45pm.

There is a change to the **Easter Sunday Sunrise service**

This year for the first time it will be held at the
Ridge Methodist Church at 6.30am Easter Sunday

CHRISTIAN AID PLANT & CAKE SALE 2026

At Marple Methodist Church, Church Lane SK6 7AW

Saturday 9 May 2026 10.00 am – 12.30pm

INVITATION TO GARDENERS AND PLANT GROWERS

It's that time of year again to prepare for the annual **Christian Aid Plant Sale**. This is a general request to all gardeners and growers. Please plan to have some extra bedding plants to sell or find some herbaceous perennials that you can split and pot up for the Plant Sale to support Christian Aid.

Thank you

Toad Safety

March is a peak time for toads to leave their winter retreats to reach a pond for spawning. Many are in danger as they cross roads or car parks. Brabyns Park has just been registered with Froglife as a patrol site and a number of volunteers are already making a difference - in the last fortnight between 6 and 9pm volunteers have helped more than 200 toads cross the road in a bucket from the car park by the Midland to the Pond in Brabyns.



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New members welcome - join for the 24/25 season starting 1st April at

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Contact Lucy Greenaway for more information at
lucygreenaway@hotmail.co.uk

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

From Rosebud to Rose Queen Mum

Celebrating the 90th anniversary of Mellor Rose Queen

Trudi Combey

In September 1979 after a house move I found myself in a new school with beautiful views and old traditions. I was in Junior 2 at Mellor Primary School and during assembly we were asked to consider if we might like to be part of the rose queen retinue for the next rotation of the rose queen. The previous June I had attended the summer fête on the field by St Sebastian's hall on Longhurst Lane. There were all the things you can imagine at the fête: a tombola, raffle and games for the children and this is where I encountered the Rose Queen for the first time. The happy groups of smiling youngsters processed up from Brabyns park in fine attire and entered the field at the lower gate to great fanfare. They processed up to the main stage and sat excitedly waiting for the crowning ceremony. After the retiring Queen said her thank yous, the new Rose Queen was crowned on the main stage and opened the fete.

Sometime later a visitor to the school assembly asked whoever had an interest in becoming part of the Rose Queen to tell our class teacher and they would put our names down. I did want to be considered so I asked Mrs Jowett, my teacher. A week or so later my mum took a phone call at home and after calling me into the kitchen said "is there something you would like to tell me?" She was unusually short with me and I couldn't think what I might have done to upset her, "apparently you have volunteered to be part of the Rose Queen this year? You should have checked with me first!" Mum agreed and what followed was great fun. Rachel was to be the new Rose Queen, Rachel was my sister's piano teacher's daughter the famous Paddy Cunningham. Mum made a pink dress with flowers and a big sash, I had a ring of flowers that were to be placed on my head. I remember Patrick, Rachel's younger brother being the crown bearer with a velvet cushion and a matching bow tie.

Manchester Cotton Exchange 1958-1963

Memories by Joan Combey

My friend Susan and I did well in our science GCEs at Harrytown Convent School and decided to go into the Sixth Form to study science subjects. After a term we decided it wasn't for us and had to choose what to do next. The only careers open to girls were doctor, nurse, teacher or secretarial. We chose the latter and enrolled at Miss Wilkinsons Secretarial College for Gentlewomen in Manchester. It was the start of our working lives in the Manchester commercial scene. The college attracted nice girls from the surrounding areas and our friendships with the girls we met there have lasted over the years to this very day. Getting to grips with Pitman shorthand was quite daunting and typing on the old fashioned Underwood typewriter was quite a feat. Sometimes we typed to music which made it more enjoyable.

After a few months we were ready for the outside world. Companies in Manchester applied to the college for secretarial staff. First of all I went for an interview at an Insurance company offering £5.10s a week. The second interview sounded much more interesting....Secretary to the Master of the Manchester Cotton Exchange. On arrival I walked up the steps of the Royal Exchange building in St Ann's Square into an office adjoining the Cotton Exchange 'FLOOR'. I was shown into a very palatial office of the Master and he dictated a letter. I had then to go into a huge panelled room to type out the letter. Whether it was my expertise or my looks I don't know, but I was offered the job at £5.10s rising to £6, if satisfactory. The suite of offices were occupied by a gentleman and his assistant who dealt with all matters relating to the membership of the Cotton Exchange (now 4000 members as opposed to its heyday when there were 12,000 members). My office was adjacent to the telephone switchboard and general enquiries manned by my friend Ceris. My Boss had a very large office all of which is to the right of the building looking up from the Square.

Of course we had a good view of all the comings and goings. In the Square opposite was a car showroom where the first Mini car was kept under wraps before it was revealed and Lucy Clayton of model school fame would strut through at lunchtime. One of my duties was to type six copies of the Director's Report after the board meetings. This would be quite easy with today's technology, but on an Underwood typewriter it was to prove difficult. If one made a mistake a piece of paper had to be inserted between all the carbon papers to correct the mistake.



RQ Rachel and her retinue

Before I knew it, it was our turn to walk on to the field and on to the main stage for the crowning and I remember feeling very happy. Being the third daughter in the family often meant I had 'hand me down' clothes, so I loved wearing the new dress and shoes and felt very special to be part of this special day.

Fast forward to 2013 And I was asked if my daughter Lara might like to be a part of the Rose Queen retinue for Rebecca Mann. Rebecca was in my son's class and Lara was thrilled to be asked. Like me she had seen the Rose Queen at the fête, now located in the field at the top of the hill and we happily got stuck into the activities getting ready for the fête and the crowning. The Friday evening before the fête we decorated the little float with symbols showing we were to raise money for the Children's Society. Lara had a beautiful cream dress with a flowery sash and a lilac cardigan. With curls in her hair and a big smile, she enjoyed the trip up to the fête on top of the hill with the band playing along the way. There were fund raising events all year and it was great fun as well as being a wonderful way to raise money for charity and church. Little did we know it was also a practice for when Lara was asked if she would like to be Rose Queen herself. She understood what a



RQ Lara and her retinue

big commitment it was for her and me as the Rose Queen mum!

On 'change' day – Tuesdays and Fridays - some Directors usually visited my Boss. One was very arrogant. The door used to burst open and, still wearing his top hat, swept past me as I scuttled out of the office. My Boss leapt to attention and the atmosphere was strained. By contrast another Director would knock on the door and was charming as he wished us Good Afternoon. The highlight of the day was lunchtime when I met my friends from the College who also had jobs in the City. Our favourite place to lunch was in Kendal's basement cafe. We used to admire the rich ladies of Manchester with their lovely clothes and jewellery. When Princess Margaret got married we were allowed to go to Kendal's TV dept, to watch the wedding. My sister was very keen on the Ballet and we went to the theatre after work. We were lucky to see Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn. The premier of West Side Story was held in Manchester and we had a front row seats in the balcony. It was quite unknown but it was received with rapturous applause.

Ceris and I both had boyfriends doing National Service. We excitedly read our latest letters from them and I even drove my mother's car down to Shrewsbury to see her boyfriend. We were both married whilst working at the Royal Exchange and happily planned our evening meals going down to the grocers in the Square for a pound of mince for 1s 9d.

I was very happy working at the Cotton Exchange and everything seemed to run smoothly but there was trouble looming from London. Cotton and Clore, two famous property tycoons from London had their eyes on a takeover bid for the Company. My future Father-in-Law was a Stockbroker and I was sworn to secrecy not to divulge the information to anyone as it would have affected the share prices. The takeover bid failed. With the Membership of the Cotton Exchange severely depleted there was concern with what to do with the big area taken up by it. On quiet afternoons I was asked into my Boss's office to contemplate what to do with the space. First thoughts were to have it used as a ballroom. The Exchange closed in 1967 some time after my departure to become a full time housewife and mother as was the norm in those days. I'm not sure my Boss would approve of the scaffolding theatre erected on the FLOOR even though it is enjoyed by so many people. When I have visited the Royal Exchange Theatre I have looked up at the board, still retained, showing the last days trading figures and it brings back happy memories of my working life in Manchester.

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Mellor Tennis Club

Game, set and match – the wonderful game of tennis. So where did the game begin? The word tennis is derived from the French word 'tenez' (to be ready) 'ready' is still often used today when play is about to begin. Originally hands were used to strike the ball but over time wooden racquets were used and the game of 'real tennis' began. 'Real tennis' was played for centuries as an indoor game, initially in France and then England. There are still a few clubs in the UK where 'real tennis' is played today.

The modern game of tennis as we know it came into being in the 19th century when lawn tennis was developed. Major Walter Clopton Wingfield (there's a name!) took the game outdoors to be played on grass.

Tennis is a highly competitive sport played all over the world and is watched by millions of people. The four grand slams of Wimbledon, Roland Garros (France), Australian Open and US Open attract the very best of the world's tennis players. Founded in 1976, wheelchair tennis is now included at all

four grand slams too.

Tennis at Mellor began in the early 1920s on courts close to the Devonshire Arms. In 1953 courts were introduced as part of the wider Mellor Sports Club off Longhurst Lane where the club is still based today.

Tennis is a fun game to be enjoyed by all ages and levels of fitness – it's a great way to exercise and socialise. At Mellor our members are at the heart of our Club, we are a mixed bunch of varying abilities and fitness levels. We offer social and more competitive play opportunities and have men's, ladies' and junior teams in local leagues in both winter and summer. We offer a coaching

programme led by MAB coaching which includes individual and group sessions for both seniors and juniors. This season we are introducing monthly family sessions for parents/carers with free coaching for children. Our membership fees are very reasonable compared to other Clubs and the courts, which are our courts, are renowned as being the best in the area. We have a spacious licenced bar and together with onsite parking we have a lot to offer our members. If you have never played tennis or are a returning player and would like to come and have a go please let us know – we would love to meet you! *Libby Evans* Tel 07743691599

The membership email mellortennismembership@gmail.com



Leek and Asparagus Galette

Jill Baker

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Filling

3 medium leeks
40g unsalted butter
1 shallot or a couple of spring onions
Leaves from 6 sprigs of fresh thyme if you have it
1 tsp Dijon mustard
200ml double cream
50g mature cheddar grated
75g parmesan or similar grated
225g asparagus spears trimmed and halved length ways
1 tbs olive oil
1 tbs milk

Pastry

225g plain flour
150g chilled butter cubed
1 large egg

If you have a food processor put the fat and flour and a pinch of salt in the bowl and pulse until breadcrumbs, otherwise rub in flour. Add the egg slowly until the mix comes together. Shape and chill for 30 mins.

Trim two of the leeks, halve length ways and the finely slice. Slice the shallots or spring onions. Melt the butter in a large frying pan over a medium heat and cook the leeks, spring onion or shallot and thyme for 8 to 10 minutes until softened-you do not want to brown them. Remove from the heat and stir in the mustard and cream, both cheeses (leave a little for sprinkling over the tart just before you bake) and some black pepper. Trim the remaining leek and cut into long lengths the same width and length as the asparagus. Add to bowl with the asparagus and oil and toss to coat with oil. Lightly flour a large sheet of baking parchment placed on a baking sheet. Roll the pastry out to a rough 40cm circle. Spread the filling over the pastry leaving a 5 cm border around the edges. Top with the asparagus and leek mixture. Fold in the pastry edges to just cover the edges of the filling - it should look rustic. Chill for 30 minutes.

cont/

Preheat the oven to 200°C , 180°C Fan /GM 6. Brush folded edges with milk.

Sprinkle the remaining cheese over filling . Cook for 30 to 35 minutes until golden and crisp at the edges. Cool for a few minutes and then transfer to a board.

The pastry can be made with an additional 75g hazelnuts either ground or whole and ground in the food processor.



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Mellor Art Society

We are a self-help group of amateur artists who meet every Wednesday from **7pm to 9 pm** 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

MARPLE NATURALISTS

Wednesday 1st April 2026

A Different Australia. A Look at the Alternative & Interesting Wildlife of Australia by ERIC STEAD



A personal, photographic dip by Eric into the wonderful flora and fauna not usually seen in mainstream wildlife programmes. There will be less the furry, bouncy and more of the creepy, crawly & flying stuff.

7.30 pm United Reformed Church
Hibbert Lane, Marple SK6 7NN. Visitors Welcome: £5.00
For further information call Jane Michael on 07917 434598 or Deb Cavanagh on 07810 450764

Rose Queen Memories

(cont from p15)

After choosing the cape/train she would like from the selection that have been used for many years, we coordinated dresses for her lovely friends who had agreed to be part of the retinue. We had chosen a charity that we already supported, "The Little Princess Trust". This charity supports children who have suffered hair loss by providing real hair wigs. Lara and I had previously made a donation of hair to the charity. The money given to charity helped fund wig making and also support research into childhood cancer.

Mellor Rose Queen has definitely made a difference and it has been a pleasure to have had a connection with it.

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Report on the PCC meeting of 23rd February 2026

Following on from the meeting with the church architect last month, it was decided that members of the church will be consulted about possible plans for changes at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in May. (A date has been set for Sunday 17th May.)

Also in relation to the fabric of the church, Andrew and the church architect had been working on getting the crack on the outside of the vestry wall surveyed and seeking tenders for the necessary repair work. Some quotes for the work had been received and one for £5,000 was accepted.

Another new internet provider for the church and Mellor Centre had been signed up for, and this seemed to be working well. It is understood that the old wires will be replaced with fibre in the near future.

Everyone was pleased to hear that the work to replace the kitchen in the Mellor Centre was under way.

Everyone was also pleased to hear that a very kind volunteer, who attended a baptism at our church last year, had offered to repaint the inside of the church, which now badly needs redecorating. He plans to carry out the work over the course of three weekends.

We heard from Clare Jackson that she had met with Marple Naturalists, who have offered to carry out a year long survey of the flora and fauna in our churchyard, with the aim of reporting back to the APCM in 2027.

Sylvia had also had a meeting to discuss the best places to put swift boxes, on the church. (These boxes are also suitable for house martins and sparrows.) Two places were identified but will need the Archdeacon's permission before they go ahead, and it was agreed to proceed with this.

Finally, Andrew was happy to tell us that Clare Jackson's ordination will take place on 5th July, at Chester cathedral. It was agreed that services in church would be cancelled that day, to enable everyone who wishes to attend to do so, and that a coach will be hired to transport everyone so they can support Clare on her special day.

Julie Elliott PCC Secretary

Mothering Sunday Alphabet 2026

Andrew Tawn

When I asked the children in the choir to write down words to describe their mothers for each letter of the alphabet. Here's what they came up with!

A is for amazing, awesome, angelic and always there for me

B is for beautiful and brilliant

C is for creative, cuddly, caring, classy, cool, cute and chatty

D is for daring, dog-lover, delicious and delightful

E is for excellent, elegant, and ethereal

F is for funny, friendly, fabulous, feisty, fearless and fantastic

G is for grateful, gorgeous and great

H is for helpful, hilarious, happy

I is for imaginative, independent, iconic, incredible, and 'I love her'

J is for joyful

K is for kind, knows everything

L is for loving, loyal and a good listener

M is for magnificent, mummy and marvellous

N is for nice to me, not mean, and nurse

O is for outstanding, open-hearted, omnipotent, and 'Oh wow!'

P is for proud, people-lover, picnics, powerful, protective, persevering and perfect

Q is for queen, quick, quick-witted, and quirky

R is for respectful, reliable, ridiculously funny, and real

S is for silly, sunny and superwoman,

T is for trustful, talkative, 'total baddie'* and terrific

U is for understanding, unbelievably beautiful, up high, useful, and ubiquitous,

V is for valuable and very lovely

W is for wonderful, wavy, whimsical, and winner

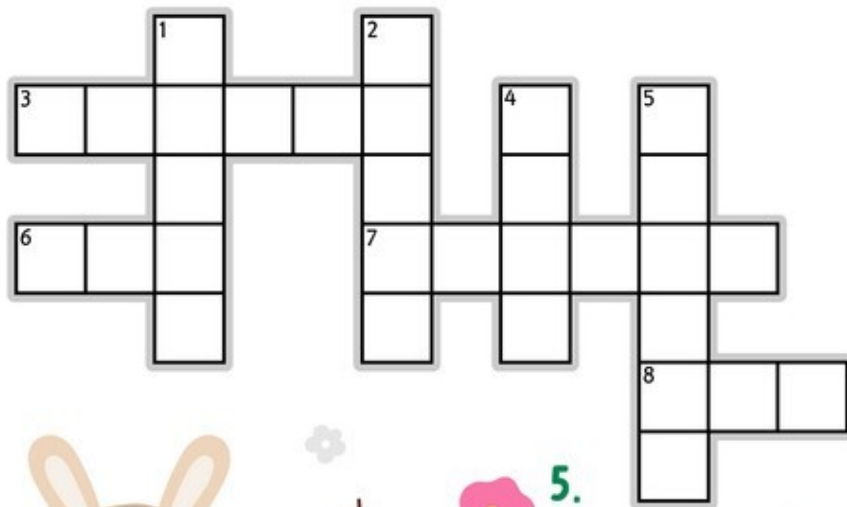
X is for exhausted, exciting, and exceptional

Y is for youthful, yearnful and yummy

Z is for zoomy, and with a zest for life.

* 'Baddie' is a compliment here, meaning 'a confident, stylish, and attractive woman who lives life on her own terms, embraces her femininity, and can hold her own in any situation'.

EASTER CROSSWORD PUZZLE



1.Bunny 2.Chick 3.Church 4.Bird 5.Flower 6.Sun 7.Carrot 8.Egg



Organ Day is on Saturday 25 April at 3pm when there will be a short demonstration of the organ and an invitation to anyone to come and play it. The Organ Day and the Baroque concert are free admission. Both sponsored by Swizzels Sweets.

WELLNESS DAY RETREAT

SATURDAY 25th APRIL

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Thought for the Month

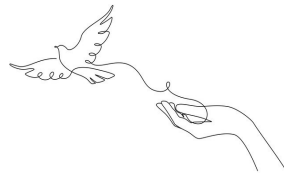
This month Easter will be celebrated once again: the sadness and sorrow of Good Friday followed by the joy and the incomprehensibility of Easter Sunday. It is really beyond any words of mine. I simply choose to share the following, a simple but favourite meditation.

A meditation from Hong Kong. So the Master of the garden took Bamboo and cut down and hacked off his branches and stripped off his leaves and cleaved him in twain and cut out his heart. And lifting him gently, carried him to where there was a spring of fresh sparkling water in the midst of the dry fields. Then putting one end of broken Bamboo in the spring and the other end in the water channel in his field, the Master laid down gently his beloved Bamboo. And the spring sang welcome and the clear sparkling waters raced joyously down the channel of Bamboo's torn body into the waiting fields. The rice was planted, and the days went by, and the shoots grew, and the harvest came. In that day was Bamboo, once so glorious in stately beauty, yet more glorious in his brokenness and humility. For in his beauty was life abundant but in his brokenness he became a channel of abundant life to his Master's world.

Jenny Johnson

Prayer for the Month

Beyond Easter
we go singing.
Having been grabbed
by resurrection
we are full of tears and laughter.
The way ahead is unknown,
it will always be like that.
But having danced in the light
we will look for glory everywhere.



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

Stewards Rota

	8.30am	10.00am
April 5	P Cunningham	M Lowe and J Mason
April 12	J Shiel	K Hargreaves and C Langford
April 19	J Butterworth	S McAllister and C Starling
April 26	P Cunningham	A Muller and P Long
May 3	J Shiel	R and J Elliott

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

Flower Rota

April 5	Easter Flowers	May 3	Alison Dowdswell
April 12	Easter Flowers	May 10	Karen Greenough
April 19	Easter Flowers	May 24	Malcolm Moss (Pentecost)
April 26	Angela Muller	May 31	Janet Jones

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

April 5	J and D Butterworth
April 12	H Kennedy and M Lowe
April 19	J Cooper and A Muller
April 26	J and L Fitcher
May 3	J Burrows and E Wilson

Brass Cleaning

Judith Shiel and Joyce Wood

Please arrange your own substitute. Any problems contact Mary Heijbroek 0161 427 3241

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