



OUTLOOK



February
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 (Safe-guarding 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 March issue is February 18th please.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

1 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
Presentation of	10.00 am	Parish Communion
Christ in the	6.30 pm	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
Temple		

4 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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8 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
before Lent	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)

11 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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15 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday next	10.00 am	Parish Communion
before Lent	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)

18 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
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22 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
1st Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion
of Lent	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong for Epiphany

23 Mon	7.45 pm	PCC meeting
25 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 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

Vicar's Viewpoint



Looking back to Christmas

By the time you read this, Christmas will already feel like a long time ago, but I wanted to celebrate all the good things we experienced in church over Christmas and give thanks to the many people who made them possible. It was wonderful to see the church filled to capacity for the service of Nine Lessons. Many people commented afterwards on our amazing choir. One said she felt tingles running down her spine as the choir sang. That is the point of well-performed music in church - not to induce admiration for the performers, but to move us to awe and wonder. The choir also sang carols in various places around the parish on five different occasions - a great way to connect church with the wider community.

The crib services on Christmas Eve were also full to overflowing. While many people come to that service every year, I know that many experienced this unique service this year for the first time and were enchanted by it. As several people said on the way out, 'I feel like Christmas has begun now'.

And then on Sunday 11th January we cast one last glance back at the Christmas story, with a Messy Church and Christingle service based on the story of the Wise Men visiting Jesus. We had the largest attendance at Messy Church since it was re-started two years ago. There was a very happy atmosphere and the exciting sense that something is growing there.

Thank you so much to those who decorated the church so beautifully with the tree and flowers, to the choir, to the Crib Service team, and the Messy Church team and everyone who helped in any way to make Christmas 2025 very special.

Exploring Mark's Gospel on Wednesday mornings

One of our growth points over the last year has been the Wednesday morning communion service. All last year we worked our way through Luke's gospel, with some really interesting discussions in the 'sermon slot'. This year on Wednesdays, we will read and study our way through Mark's gospel. If you are free on a Wednesday morning (10 am), why not come and join us? Each week we also have a time of refreshments and fellowship after the service.

Alternative Worship in the Mellor Centre

At the PCC meeting at the end of February, we will be discussing holding occasional Sunday morning services in the Mellor Centre, instead of church - perhaps once every three months or so. Some of you may remember that such services were held in Peter Jenner's time? The thinking is that the more informal setting may attract some people who would not usually come to church. And for those who come to church regularly, the change may be stimulating and refreshing. I would be very glad to know your thoughts on this, both from those who are enthusiastic and those who are not keen, so our discussion at the PCC may be representative of the views of the whole congregation.

Appointing a new Office Administrator

If you read on, you will find a formal advert for the post of Office Administrator for the Mellor Centre and Church, with a closing date for applications by 13th February. We are hoping we may be able to appoint someone to overlap with Val before she leaves, so she can show them some of what she does and give them the best possible start. Please spread the word!

God bless you,

Andrew

Job opportunity: Office Administrator for Mellor Parish Church and the Mellor Centre

Hours of duty : 15 hours a week, for a minimum of three mornings a week, usually Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Core hours are 9 am - 12.30 pm, with some flexibility to be negotiated with the successful candidate. A job share will be considered.

Rate of pay: Annual salary £10,677.84

Holiday: Initially 20 days holiday pro rata (which works out as 12 days per year), rising to 25 pro rata (15 days per year). In addition, 3 days off at Christmas, plus bank holidays.

We are looking for a person with good interpersonal skills to be the welcoming face of the Mellor Centre and the Church, and to provide a high quality administrative service to the Vicar, the PCC and Mellor Centre Management Committee

Responsibilities of the role include:

- Managing bookings for the Mellor Centre & maintaining the diaries for the Church and Centre
- Maintaining and updating the Church and Centre websites
- Dealing with administration and fees for weddings and funerals

Please contact the Vicar, Revd. Andrew Tawn, for more information and an application form: revandrewtawn@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: Friday 13th February

Interviews: Wednesday 25th February

A Creative Group!



Sewing together the new Edale banner after the church service in January. Made in collaboration with the children and volunteers during the Edale Weekend and also with the wider church family. Workshops led by local artist Laura Jarvis.

A Feline Friend in Need

My name is Bella
I'm 14 years young, and fully vaccinated.
I'm looking for a kind and loving forever
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Mellor Birds



Saturday January 10th Mellor had a lot of black ice. Intrepid Helen K on her way to the War Memorial Garden work party, walked down the track from Townscliffe Farm towards Knowle Road and half way down heard a GREEN WOODPECKER!!! This is most unusual in Mellor. Helen hears them annually when she is in Devon. As soon as she heard the distinctive laughing “Yaffle”, she dropped her secateurs/loppers etc and accessed her Merlin app on her phone, which confirmed it was. There was talk of them beyond Strawberry Hill in the field between the railway tunnel and the Goyt. Their staple diet is ants. I presume Helen’s bird’s usual ant supply had frozen up and it was looking for food. They are shy birds, the size of a jackdaw with a striking red head, green wings and yellow tummy. Well done Helen. That made my day.



Kareen at the top of Fernhill said she had seen a greenfinch and redwings on her pyracantha bush by the road which is/was plastered with berries. Writing this I have just seen eight green finches in the park eating yew berries. To me their call is like someone wringing a cloth out or an old fashioned telephone ring. They are easy to see as they have two yellow flashes on their wings. Kareen said the redwings will only take the berries off the bush and leave the ones on the ground, which the blackbirds Hoover up.

Helen Taylor on Bogguard Road has seen a flock of fieldfares near Wimberry Wood. These members of the thrush family have spotted tummies like all thrushes but with a grey head and red brown back. There are two dippers under the viaduct at the Roman Lakes and Ian D has seen a curlew flying over five lane ends.

Maggie Williams

Laughs with Lynda

What happens when frogs park illegally?

They get toad.



Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut?

He just needed a little space.

If an orchestra plays in a thunder storm, who is most likely to get hurt?

The conductor.

Women’s Evening Fellowship News

This month we look forward to David Ireland's talk on Francis House Children's Hospice.

This was originally scheduled for January 2025 but had to be hastily rearranged when sub zero temperatures and black ice made getting to the Centre much too hazardous.

It will be interesting to hear what their current priorities and projects are and perhaps learn how the money we raised is contributing to these.

Visitors are, as always, welcome.

Lesley Fitcher

Apricot Crunchies

Jill Baker

Recipe from my grand daughter who enjoys making these (and eating them), they do not require melting the fat like many crunchy / flapjack recipes so are good for children to make— during half term.

Ingredients

200g soft dried apricots, roughly chopped
100g sultanas
50ml orange juice
200g butter diced
150g wholemeal flour
150g rolled oats
1/2tsp grated orange zest
75g soft dark brown sugar
75g soft light brown sugar
22x31cm baking tray 9x12 1/2 inches

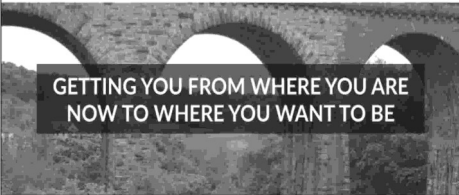


Set the oven to 170°C or Gas Mark 3 and line the tin with baking parchment. Mix the apricots in a bowl with sultanas and orange juice leave to soak whilst you place the butter, oats and flour in a large bowl and rub in the flour. Add the sugar and the orange zest. Drain the dried fruit and add to the mix, stir well and then press into the tin. Bake for 30 minutes or until deep golden brown in colour. Allow to cool in the tray before cutting into slices.

To make them extra special drizzle some melted white chocolate over.



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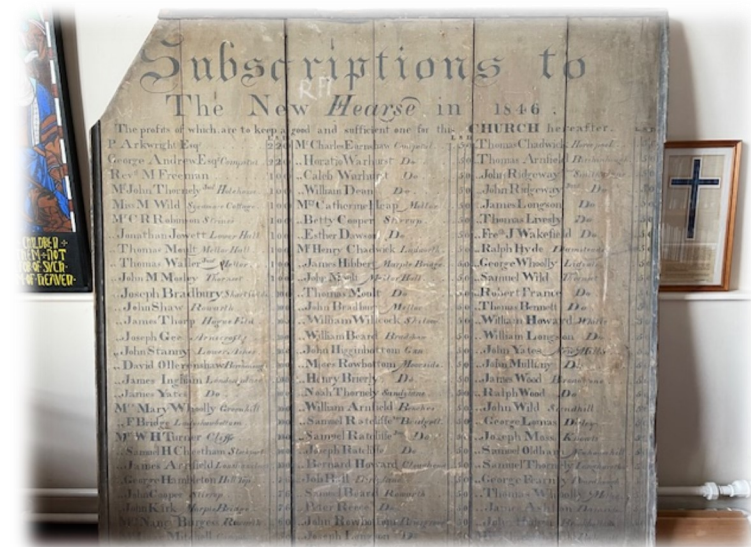
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/mellorlta/Membership/Join>

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

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

Belfry Appeal

This year, 2026 is the centenary of *Old Paddy* the Mellor Church bell. In 1925 three bells dating back to the 1600s were deemed to be unsafe and taken down. They were recast to make the present bell at John Taylor Bell Foundry in Loughborough. Records of this work are still held at the foundry but there seems to be no record or photographs of the bell returning to the church. This would have been a complicated operation given the great weight of the bell. This work was done by *William Chadwick builder and contractor of Longhurst Lane, phone number Marple 76*. To mark the anniversary of the return of the bell in 1926, the bell ringers are launching an appeal. They would like to fund a weather protective case that could be mounted on the side of the hearse house, holding the donation board showing the names of those who funded the new hearse house in 1846. They will also repair the hearse house doors damaged in a recent storm. Any donations or fund-raising events for this appeal will be greatly appreciated. Please contact any bellringer.



Remembering S.S. Stockport

The annual service of remembrance at Norbury Church is on Sunday February 22nd between 3pm and 5pm.

As Ann Preston reminds us -

Captain Ken and Allwyn always went to the memorial service at Norbury Church in Hazel Grove every February, in memory of the crew of the S. S. Stockport which was torpedoed during the war.



The ship was built by Earle's Shipbuilding of Hull and launched in 1912. Her convoy rescue service began on 22 October 1941. She rescued 413 survivors from sunken ships while sailing with sixteen convoys. On 21st February 1943 she was part of convoy ON166 and went to the assistance of *Empire Trader*. *Stockport* rescued all 106 crew men before she in turn was torpedoed and sank with the loss of all her crew and the survivors that she had rescued from other vessels. She is commemorated every February in a parade and commemoration service organised by Hazel Grove Royal Naval Association.

Tales from the Garden

Verbena/Vervain

*'Trefoil, John's Wort, Vervain, Dill
Hinder witches of their will'.*



This is a piece of traditional lore, quoted in *Thorneyhold* by Mary Stewart, among other places. The cultivated Verbena is a genus in the Verbenaceae family of plants which also contains the wild Vervain. It is native to Europe but also widely found across the world.

Verbena was associated with divine or supernatural forces in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome and the Druids considered vervain to be sacred and used it to bless holy places. In English Mediaeval texts vervain is associated with prophecy and used as a tool against witchcraft and as a protection against evil magic. A more benign view of Verbena is given in 'The Language of Flowers' by Mandy Kirkby which gives the meaning ascribed to plants in English tradition and verbena means 'pray for me'. In the 19th century some Christians practised flower missions - giving flowers to the poor and sick as they felt that the disadvantaged needed encouragement and inspiration as well as practical gifts such as food and clothing. The name 'vervain' derives from the Celtic words for iron and stone and the common names for the plant in several other European languages also associate it with iron. The plant does not contain iron but was thought to strengthen metal if added during the smelting process.

The addition of the word 'officinalis' to the name Verbena indicates that it has been used in traditional or herbal medicine. It is thought to aid digestion and reduce inflammation and is considered to have anti-bacterial properties. A few modern studies have been carried out but results are not conclusive. Verbena bonariensis, the tall, thin, airy garden plant, became very fashionable a few years ago and was much seen in flower shows such as Chelsea. It makes a striking statement for borders as it reaches to 1m high and it is a magnet for butterflies and pollinating insects. Another useful garden form is Verbena rigida, which has similar flowers, but is small and shrubbier. There is also a range of Verbena hybrid cultivars which are small plants used as bedding in garden borders or containers. They come in a wide range of colours from white through shades of pink and mauve to deep purple. Altogether an attractive and interesting group of plants. (NB. DO NOT take verbenas as a medicine without advice from a qualified medical herbalist – and if you want to keep witches away, how about a nice rowan tree by the garden gate?)



Judith Shiel

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Mellor War Memorial Gardens

At the moment the snowdrops are starting to peep through. Most are under a yew with cyclamen. Half way up the roadside path is the glorious aroma from the winter flowering honeysuckle, which looks insignificant behind the bench and choisya. Hazel catkins are dangling.



White and purple Hellebores have come out in what was the stumpy bed. A lonesome primrose has been flowering there all winter. Nearby two shades of heather are in bloom. We are looking forward to the witchhazel and crocus coming out in the lawn and lots of other bulbs, which we are glad the badgers don't eat.

We are very grateful to CAM. (Climate Change Marple), especially Ann Papageorgio their treasurer. CAM will look after any donations we are given for the Garden, since Mellor Society are unable to do this anymore.

In August we asked the Council if they would be able to paint the railings. As it is a Listed Building Grade 2, the Council's Conservation Officer had to look first. SMBC are now waiting for a quote.

Intrepid volunteers have continued to work in the park on Thursdays after 2pm.

There is also the monthly Saturday work party on Feb 14th 10am to 12noon. Refreshments at 11am. We are always pleased to have new helpers. No previous gardening experience needed.

Did You Know?

The Woodland Trust Survey

A member of the **The Mellor Green Team** WhatsApp group encourages people to take part in the **Nature's Calendar citizen science project** run by the Woodland Trust. The plants, animals and fungi you can record have been selected to help understand how nature is affected by weather and climate change. The website tells you all about it.

Treasure Trails

Fun way to keep *all* the family entertained. Over Christmas we had children aged 7,9,12 parents, grandparents to amuse. They had refused pantomimes and museums so I downloaded a *Treasure Trail Map* with 20 clues to explore Bugsworth Basin Canal and Basin. It cost £9.99. We parked at Tesco and it took an hour and a half to go around. At the end you can submit your answers and you stand a chance of winning £100. There are over 1200 themed trails nationally. Everyone enjoyed it.

Borrow box

If you join the local Library you can access Borrow Box. FREE. This allows you to access daily newspapers, and magazines as well as books and audio books.

Compost Bags

FREE – the **green compostable food waste caddie liners** can be collected from any Stockport library for free. Marple Library is open in The Marple Scout Hut on Tuesdays between 12 and 6 and Thursday between 10 and 4. If you cannot get to a Library you can buy food waste liners directly from the supplier online. Most supermarkets now stock compostable liners. Look out for the EN13432 composting association logo to make sure the liners are suitable to be used in your food waste caddy.

Maggie Williams

Infinite Love



I have been drinking those Yogi Herbal Teas again, Ashwagandha, Acerola Cherry and Passion Flower this time. I do like them. Not just for the taste, but the little sayings on the back of the tags attached to each bag. The most recent one to strike a chord with me was *'Love is an infinite victory'*. I find this very positive and greatly uplifting. Something we are well to remember in our troubled world at present.

It also caused me to recall our eldest grandson (now 10) who always writes on his cards to us that he sends 'infinite love'. Occasionally we might have a double 'infinite'. I'll take that anytime, bless you Robin.

Kareen Dayes

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TOUR DE FRANCE and TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES AVEC ZWIFT

The start and finish locations for the 2027 Tour de France and Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift have been unveiled, which will be the largest free sporting spectacle in Britain. Leeds is the start location for the **Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift, on Friday 30 July 2027**, before crossing the Pennines to Manchester, then returning to Sheffield via the climbs of the Peak District before concluding with a showpiece stage in London. The men's Tour de France will begin in Edinburgh on Friday 2 July 2027, with an opening stage heading to Carlisle, before visiting Keswick, Liverpool and Welshpool, finishing the UK leg of the world's biggest annual sporting event in Cardiff.

The event will need volunteers.



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The Wandering Chorister

Liverpool Cathedral



Liverpool is one of the world's biggest cathedrals, and visible from our churchyard 50 miles away. Construction began in the early twentieth century, and was completed in 1973. I can't help but reflect on how wealthy Liverpool must have been to build on this scale.

Visiting choirs can sing in the Lady Chapel, the size of a parish church, or accept the challenges of the main building. A well rehearsed choir can overcome the lack of feedback, and the choir stalls many metres apart. You will get an echo if your diction is clear. Choir supporters should climb the tower, which uses two separate (rather small) lifts and a further 108 steps. Halfway up you can look over a wall and see the bells a hundred feet below. T

The city centre is at least 15 minutes walk down the hill, if you must go outside, stroll over to the Philharmonic pub on Hope Street. I'd recommend you walk around the building; there's a great cafe, and a large souvenir shop.

I sang with the RSCM Northern Cathedral Singers, an auditioned choir who sing evensong around the Northern Province. Nice crowd, entry by audition.

Photo by Calflier001

Letter to the Editor

"The Walrus" writes about William Tyndale in the January edition of *Outlook*. He comments that Tyndale's translations of the original Hebrew and Greek were so accurate and poetic that they were used extensively in the "King James" Bible in 1611. Tyndale was, of course, burned at the stake in 1536 for heresy for his translation work.

However, there are other unintended results from his work. Today we are all too well aware that what we say about other people can create huge problems, some intentional others not. William Tyndale's translation in 1522 of the First Letter of Peter, Chapter 3 Verse 7 refers to women as "the weaker vessel". The "Homily of the State of Matrimony" which every priest was required to preach in church in 1563 spoke of the superiority of husbands and the feeble nature of all women. This way of thinking based on this translation had a profound and negative effect on all women. It was making it clear that women were inferior to men and should be gently taught rather than beaten. I understand that it is very difficult to translate from the original Greek, but the Revised English Bible first published in 1961 says that husbands should treat their wives with respect, "not only because they are physically weaker, but also because God's gift of life is something you share together". While it is not true that all men are stronger than all women it is clear that this more modern version is only referring to physical weakness and not intellectual or moral weakness as the Tyndale version was taken to mean. Tyndale did not get it all right!

See Phillipa Gregory's book "Normal Women".

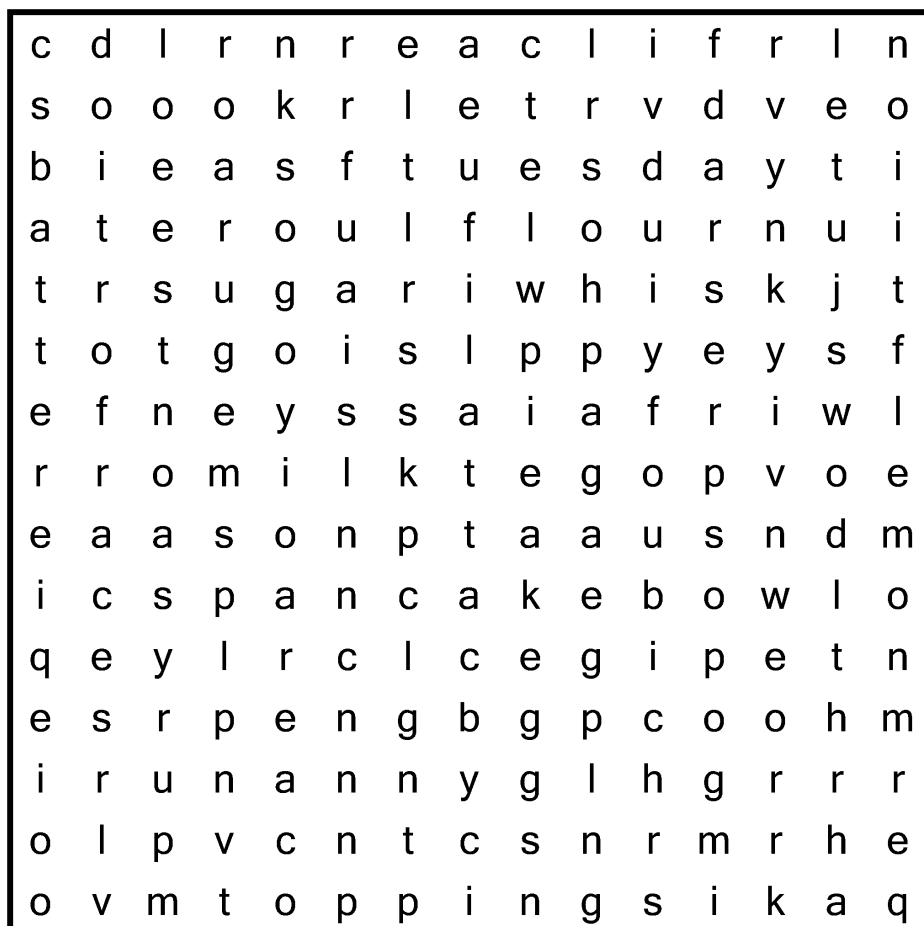
David Ackroyd

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A Wordsearch Puzzle for Shrove

Tuesday



Pancake
Flour
Races
Lemon
Batter
Toppings
Milk
Whisk

Syrup
Sugar
Tuesday
Flip
Lent
Eggs
Bowl
Pan

Thought for the Month

Words found written on the wall of Mother Teresa's room.

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centred,
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives,
Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some
enemies,
Be successful anyway.
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest anyway.
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

Jenny Johnson

Prayer for the Month

Walk with us, Saviour of the poor,
be a light upon our way,
travel beside the weary,
fill the broken-hearted with hope
and heal the nations,
that all may walk
in the light of the glory of God.



(from 50 Great Prayers from the Iona Community)

From The Registers

Funerals

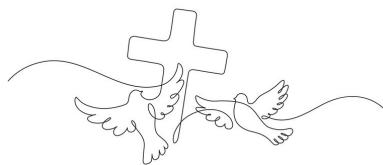
We remember before God and commend to His love and mercy

Arthur Shaw – 16th December

Jean Brassington – 8th January (Crematorium only)

Kenneth Ashworth – 9th January

Freda Keene – 12th January (Crematorium only)



A Message from the Moss Family

Malcolm Moss and family would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone at St. Thomas' Mellor for all their messages and cards of sympathy which we received after Joyce's death. Thanks to Andrew for conducting Joyce's funeral service, for the support over the past few months and for bringing Holy Communion to Joyce at our home, as Joyce greatly appreciated still being able to receive Communion and continue being part of the Parish community. To the members of the Women's Fellowship for providing tea and coffee in the Mellor Centre after the service and for creating the wonderful display of Joyce's needlework, and to the members of the Parish who attended the service to support us. We greatly appreciate everybody's thoughts, prayers and support for our family.

Stewards Rota

8.30am

Feb 1 P Cunningham
Feb 8 J Shiel
Feb 15 J Butterworth
Feb 22 P Cunningham
Mar 1 J Shiel

10.00am

A Muller and P Long
R and J Elliott
M Lowe and J Mason
P and L Forbes
K Hargreaves and C Langford

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

Flower Rota

1st Feb Alison Allcard
8th Feb Jenny Johnson
15th Feb Angela Muller
22nd Feb Lent

1st March Lent
8th March Lent
15th March Lent
22nd March Lent
29th March 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 1 J & D Butterworth
Feb 8 H Kennedy & M Lowe
Feb 15 J Cooper & A Muller
Feb 22 J & L Futchter
March 1 J Burrows & E Wilson

Brass Cleaning

Judith Shiel & Joyce Wood

The BIG CLEAN UP will be on Saturday March 21st 10 until 1.00pm

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

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