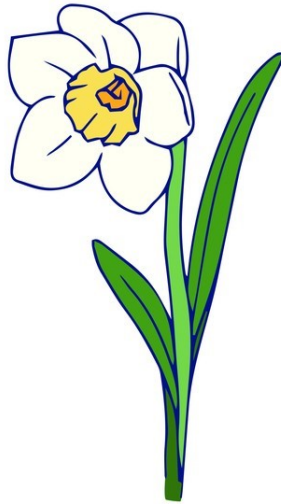




OUTLOOK



March
2026

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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 Marple	Helen Kennedy/Judith Shiel
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 April issue is March 15th please.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 2026

1 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	3.00 pm	Messy Church
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
3 Tues	7.30 pm	Lent group (Mellor Centre)
4 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
	9.00 pm	Compline (online)
8 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	10.00 am	Rose Queen Golf Event. Mellor GC
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
10 Tues	7.30 pm	Lent group (Mellor Centre)
11 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
	9.00 pm	Compline (online)
15 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
4th Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion (ExtraOrdinary Time)
Mothering Sunday	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
17 Tues	7.30 pm	Lent group (Mellor Centre)
18 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
	9.00 pm	Compline (online)
21 Sat	10.00 am to 1.00 pm	BIG CLEAN UP. At Church
22 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
5th Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	Cross of Christ Service (Choral)
24 Tues	7.30 pm	Lent group (Mellor Centre)
25 Wed	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Mellor Centre)
	9.00 pm	Compline (online)
29 Sun	8.30 am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday	10.00 am	Parish Communion (preceded by procession of palms from Devonshire Arms)
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (Mellor Centre)
30 Mon	7.45 pm	PCC meeting (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



Lent 2026

Have you noticed how much longer the days are getting? That's exactly what Lent means. The name comes from an old English word meaning 'lengthen' and refers to the longer days as spring is arriving. I always love it when the clocks change in spring (on Sunday 29th March this year). I never mind losing an hour of sleep for the gain of an extra hour of daylight in the evenings.

I wonder if you are marking Lent in any way this year? I prefer to take something extra on rather than give something up, so this year I will be reading a book, 'Hearing God in Poetry' by Richard Harries (a thoughtful gift from a kind parishioner) which gives me one poem per day all the way through Lent, along with a helpful reflection on the poem.

By the time you read this, Lent will have begun, but it is not too late to join either of the Lent groups we are offering. On Tuesdays through Lent we will be holding a Lent course thinking about wellbeing. Wellbeing is a subject which I hope will be of interest to people from within the church and beyond - all are welcome to any of the sessions (don't worry if you missed the first). The dates are as follows:

24th February and 3rd, 10th 17th and 24th March at 7.30 pm in the Mellor Centre.

Because Longhurst Lane was closed this time last year, we held weekly online Compline services instead of a Lent course. They felt so intimate and special I thought we could do that again this year. Compline is an ancient service - a simple and peaceful way to end the day. Each service will last about 15 - 20 minutes, and you can join from the comfort and warmth of your own house.

If you would like to join the Compline services, just send me an email and I will send you a Zoom link. All you need to do then is click on the link shortly before the service starts. **The Compline services will be held on Wednesday nights at 9 pm on the following dates: March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and April 1st.**

Great to have Angie back on the ministers' rota

We have really missed Angie in recent months, so it is great to have her back preaching and presiding again - at least until the next hip operation! I would also like to say a huge thank you to Angie for all she does for the Friends of the Mellor Centre.

Congratulations to Clare Jackson, our ordinand

See below an announcement from Clare about the parishes she will be moving to in July. Clare has been studying and training for the last three years in preparation for ordination, and during this time she has formally been on placement with us here. Assuming she passes the course (I have no doubts about that!), she will be ordained on 5th July and will begin her ministry as a curate in her new parishes. She will be a great loss to us here, but a great blessing to her new parishes. Read on to find out where!

God bless you,
Andrew

News from our Ordinand Clare Jackson

For those wanting to know where Clare Jackson is going to be a curate, it is now official! She will be in the Benefice of Weston, which includes two churches and their villages south of Crewe; All Saints, Weston, and St.Marks, Shavington. Ordination will take place at Chester Cathedral on July 5th. More info tba.



Living in the cloisters at Westminster Abbey

Reading about Maggie's visit to The Abbey to mark the 85th Anniversary of The Battle of Britain reminded me of my twice a year weekly stay as day chaplain. The Abbey was the patron of the church where I was Associate Priest in the Oxford Diocese. As the vicar was very disabled, I had the privilege of representing him there, which he told me involved 'walking the aisles' throughout the day. But there was far more than that!

We had accommodation in the cloisters, the space not changed since the time of the monks: just a double bed in our sleeping quarters which we accessed by climbing in from the foot; there was only space for one person in the kitchen; a VERY small table in the living room, two upright chairs and two small armchairs. Oh, and a cramped area for a loo and shower.

My day commenced with the BCP Morning Prayer at 7-30 a.m. in St Faith's chapel, with all the ordained staff present and led by the Dean or the Precentor. After a cup of tea and a bowl of cereal in the kitchen, 'walking the aisles' began. This usually involved just being alert with the support of the stewards, but I also needed to know the 'geography' of the building: 'where is the memorial to some C19th literary figure or P.M.' etc. Occasionally there were challenges such as being asked to pray with a grieving visitor, or someone facing personal decisions who I would take to a private chapel. On one occasion a very distraught asylum seeker came to me, thankfully there was an official priest available who would handle such challenges. Another duty was to read set prayers at the tomb of Edward the Confessor. That often involved searching questions from continental visitors.

As in most Cathedrals I ascended the stairs to the pulpit and read prayers on the hour. This could be a challenge as I was meant to compile them

myself and ensure they could be relevant to individuals and 'cautiously', to political situations. It was always very affirming when I descended and saw a couple of friends from the parish or my family smiling at me. Just as at St Thomas', there was a midweek Holy Communion to officiate at, but thankfully no homily although I did have to process to the head of the nave to celebrate. My husband Derry's comment was, 'if only your father could see you now!' My main problem was that the vestments were too large for me. I did wear my own alb and cassock whilst walking the aisles however.



Revd Barbara Webb in her Westminster Abbey alb and cassock.

Again I had to be circumspect with the prayers. I found it very moving that those who were not participating in the service showed respect and the 'chatter' ceased for the duration, also the craftsmen restoring the beautiful tessellated Cosmati pavement in the chancel stopped working.

When the archivist discovered that my first discipline was history, he gave me a tour of the library with its wonderful collection of medieval manuscripts and artefacts. On another occasion, we toured the cloisters together for me to gather material for a paper I was preparing for an extra mural course at Oxford University. At Christmastide the cloisters were literally aglow with lights and illuminated Christmas trees. I was surprised and inspired by the beautiful

singing for the John Lewis carol service and for the Parliamentary carol service in St Margaret's Westminster, where I also 'walked the aisles.

When two of our little granddaughters visited, one of the steward's gave them the privilege of sitting in the Queen's stall: 'just for one minute'! Once my sister and her husband visited for the day. On leaving they were told there were no trains to Reading because of heavy snow, so they took to the two little armchairs in our accommodation for the night and complained they hardly slept a wink due to Big Ben bonging every 15 mins!

Cont...



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Derry enjoyed visits to galleries, shopping at sophisticated food stores for our evening meal, buying shirts from Austin Reed and managing to get returns for theatre trips.

On one occasion I was dressed for the theatre while attending Evensong! A very official steward approached me, "Madam you are in the day chaplain's stall. "I am the Day Chaplain" I replied! Those services at the end of the day instilled in me a real appreciation of Choral Evensong. My claim to fame was when on duty I was given access to the 'loo' reserved for VIP visitors. Not long after Pope Benedict's visit, I noticed one wall of the spacious room had been covered in glass, presumably to enable the pope to straighten his vestments.

Early one morning I was walking the side aisle during the Founders' Day Service for Westminster School, and was supposed to be keeping an eye on the boys, with support from one or two staff. I positioned myself so that I could see the clergy stalls and became aware that the preacher was grinning at me. It was my Bishop, the Suffragan Bishop of Reading, who preached a brilliant sermon. I decided to move down to the nave to watch the procession exit and the Bishop peeled off; 'what are you doing here, Barbara?' he asked. He then returned to the procession and I could hear him saying to the Dean 'Barbara is one of my priests' and the Dean's bland reply: 'I know'. The Bishop? Stephen Cottrell, now Archbishop of York.

Finally, I was by a side door just before my stint was ending and I saw two gentlemen in heavy coats, muffled in scarves, and caps pulled down over their eyes. 'Gentlemen', I said, 'the Abbey is about to close', the response came back: 'I am the Dean.'

Last year Derry and I spent a day in London attending lectures at the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery. We realised we were just in time for Evensong at The Abbey but were dismayed to see the length of the queue, it was a celebratory day for the Blessed Virgin Mary with Sung Mass. I remembered I still had my Abbey identity card in my purse, I flashed it, the barrier was lifted and we were escorted up to seats in the crossing.
Happy memories!

Barbara Webb

Laughs with Lynda

I have just finished a jigsaw puzzle in a day.
Dead chuffed because on the box it said 3 - 5 years.



*Don't trust atoms.
They make up everything.*

Trying to write with a broken pencil is pointless.

Easter Flowers



The glorious festival of Easter is approaching and the flower team are looking forward to decorating the church on Easter Saturday once again in celebration.

They will welcome any donations you may like to make towards the cost of fresh flowers. The Flower Fund is separate from church funds and it relies on donations either in joyful appreciation or in memory of someone close to you. Any gift will be most welcome. Jill Baker, Alison Allcard, Cathie Lowe, or Angela Muller (or any other member of the team) will be pleased to accept any contribution. Many thanks.

Women's Evening Fellowship News

Following last month's fascinating presentation from David Ireland on the wide-ranging, indeed at times international work of Francis House Children's Hospice we are now looking forward to our AGM and lunch. This takes place on March 11th at Marple Golf Club, Barnsfold Rd, Marple SK6 7EL, 12 30 for 1pm.

After lunch we will be electing our 2026 Committee and also having a raffle, our first fundraiser this year is in aid of Reuben's Retreat, our new charity. Hoping to see many of you there, *Lesley Fletcher*

New York Cheesecake

Jill Baker

An adapted Nigella recipe. The original was 1/3rd larger feeding 12. This feeds a good eight and may suit an Easter gathering. (It also freezes well in slices). You will need a 22 cm spring form tin buttered, make sure it is deep.

180g digestive biscuits crushed
100g butter
150g caster sugar
1 heaped tbsp cornflour.
500g full fat cream cheese
4 large eggs separated
100ml double cream
100ml soured cream
Grated zest ½ lemon
1 ½ tsp vanilla extract.



Optional: a fruit compote to serve on or with. I made one for New Year with frozen morello cherries. Rhubarb, the early pink kind would be good at Easter. However, it's just as delicious plain with a dusting of icing sugar. (It is not supposed to crack but fruit on top will disguise it or prove it is not from M&S / Waitrose.)

Mix together the crushed biscuits and melted butter, press into the base of the tin. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour.

In a large bowl mix together the sugar and cornflour then beat in the cream cheese, egg yolks and vanilla. Slowly pour in both creams continuing to beat and finally add the lemon zest.

Whisk the egg whites to stiff peaks and fold in. Pour the mix onto the chilled base. Bake at 170°C GM 3 for one hour, it may take longer. The cheesecake will be golden brown on top and almost set. Turn off the heat and let the cake stand in the oven for 2 hours then open the oven door and let the cake sit for another hour. Chill and serve with compote or plain.

Ed MW: Everyone I gave a slice to enjoyed eating this.



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Eco Church Update Spring 2026

Setting the groundwork for some larger scale projects After our successful Bronze campaign, Silver level Eco Church starts to challenge the depth of engagement as well as putting in place new activities around land, buildings, social action and personal lifestyle. We will be asking for suggestions, as well as encouraging you to keep thinking about how you treasure creation. Its great to welcome frequent visitors Marple Naturalists who will be setting up a year-long biodiversity survey in the churchyard this year. It will compare findings from one done nearly 30 years ago, an essential bit of citizen science to help to understand how our environment is changing. If you would like to find out more about what else we are doing as we work towards Silver Eco Church, please contact the office.

Church Christmas Card

Thanks to everyone who signed the Church Christmas Card and made donations to the Wellspring. We sent this local charity the total of £131.60 to go towards keeping this centre for the homeless open. They provide hot meals, snacks and a warm welcome every day of the year. Additional services include welfare advice, medical care and housing support. Although many people donate gifts of food and clothing, the cost of keeping the centre open is high; to provide the meals alone for one month costs nearly £2000. Many people volunteer their time and others get involved with fundraising and campaigns. The Wellspring has been open for 35 years now in the midst of our community. Let's hope that it continues to be a place of sanctuary for anyone in need. Thanks again for your donation.

A Message from the Shaw family

Anne and family want to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards and flowers we received in December following Arthur's death. We were amazed and delighted to have such a full church to celebrate his life at the funeral. Thank you also to Andrew for his support and kindness planning the funeral at a time when we were all in shock, we also want to thank the organist who played the hymns so joyfully.

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Mellor Birds



A report from Rosalind after being up near Meadows Farm:-

“I saw two stonechats, one paler, so I think they were probably male and female on Tuesday 20th January. It was really interesting what they were doing too as usually on a heath or shrub you would see them up and down into and out of gorse or blackberry but they were investigating all the tree saplings with protective sheaths. I'd be really interested if anyone else has seen these traditional heathland birds in Mellor before.” Then on Monday, February 8th Helen Taylor told me that she saw a stonechat on one of the newly planted trees as she walked past the rewilding project and was nearly level with the Meadows farmhouse. (Its mate was nearby on the ground; a drab brown colour.)

Male stonechats are easy to identify, they are the size of a robin, have a black head, white collar and red breast. They like to perch, in the open, on top of a bush or fence post. Their call sounds like two stones being banged together. The majority stay all year with their mate.

For the Big Garden Bird Watch 2026, I decided to do an experiment. I normally walk around the bedrooms looking out of the windows. This time I opened the windows and placed my mobile phone on the windowsill and put the Merlin app on to record any bird song while I was looking out. I saw 11 different birds which Merlin agreed with me. Blackbird, blue tit, jackdaw, woodpigeon, goldfinch, long tail tit, sparrow, coal tit, robin, magpie and starling. BUT the Merlin app heard another 13 birds, which I did not:- dunno, greenfinch, wren, great tit, parakeet, chaffinch, song thrush, crow, rook, collared dove. All of which I have seen in the past. BUT the Merlin app also showed it heard a coot and a moorhen which I cannot believe!

Maggie Williams

Exciting news of a Film Première coming soon!

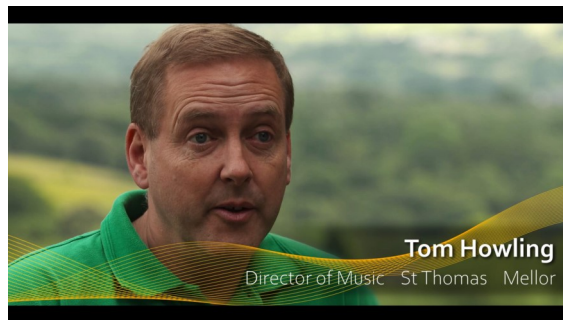
Last summer Mellor Choir were filmed as part of a huge project about the history and future of Choral Evensong in this country to be shown in Mellor Centre! Musical director Tom Howling, organist John LeGrove and Bass Ian Dayes were interviewed as part of this special film along with a recording of the choir at rehearsal. Producer and Director, Steven Benson writes,

Lighten Our Darkness—Illuminating Choral Evensong

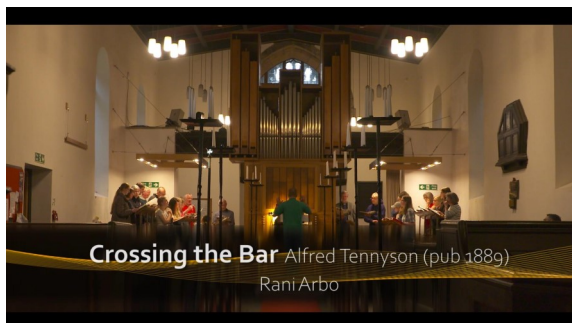
This is no ordinary project and it has come about through no ordinary means. This crowd-funded filmic snapshot of the English Cathedral Choral Tradition at the beginning of the 21st century is unique. It tells the story of a glorious past and present, but with an eye to a less certain future. However, unlike commercial recordings and broadcasts of church music, it will also let you into the mind and heart of some of the world's finest church musicians as they go about their daily work across a repertoire spanning over 500 years. Yes, we recorded in cathedrals like Salisbury, Lincoln, Guildford, Truro and Chester, and yes we hear from Bob Chilcott, John Rutter and Philip Stopford. But we also came to St Thomas' Church, Mellor. We also saw the work of Steel City Choristers in a church and in a primary school. We discovered how Grantham parish manages to sustain 3 choirs. We spend time with Joanna Forbes L'Estrange explaining why writing music for choirs of all standards and in all types of places is a passion of hers. We hear the Mag & Nunc set in plainsong and jazz. We enjoy settings from the 16th century through to the 21st century. We hear what the RSCM is doing to engage the next generation of musicians and we hear John Rutter develop his assertion that “*a church without a choir is like a body without a soul*”.

For this project, these musicians and clergy have given freely of their time, not because they stand to gain anything individually, but because together they are passionate to see the glory of their musical world understood more deeply and brought to as wide an audience as possible. They have told their stories and shared their experiences in what I believe and hope will be a unique tribute to their work and achievement in keeping this glorious tradition alive – not just for its own sake, but because in a musical context it represents the best of human endeavour's response to the 'loving purposes of God'.

Steven Benson



For more information about the whole project and how to purchase the CD set, please use the QR code or go to <https://youtu.be/MwxFTLRVx4A>



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CAFÉ CONNECT @ Marple

At the entrance to church, you will find some cards with information about Café Connect, which is on Queen Street in Marple, opposite the Regent Cinema. Several years ago All Saints Church took over the building that had been Marple Evangelical Church, naming it "CONNECT" and turning it into a central hub for their outreach work in Marple. On **Mondays** it almost acts like the old Citizens' Advice Bureau, open **between 10.am and 12 noon**, becoming a drop - in session with free coffee and free Wi-Fi. Volunteers are available to help with a wide range of issues and problems-debt, job search, housing, benefits, cost of living, filling in complicated forms and anything else, all confidential and in a safe place.

On **Saturday** mornings **between 10.am and 12 noon** it becomes "The Pantry", again a drop - in session with free coffee but also offering food bags for those in need of a bit of help with basic provisions and an opportunity to chat with volunteers, and ideas for cooking with some ingredients in the food bags. It seems that there are plenty of people in Marple who really value the opportunity to access these sessions which are an important part of All Saints considerable outreach work. If you feel that you have any expertise you could offer at the café on Monday mornings do get in touch with All Saints Church or myself.

Helen Kennedy



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Mary Flowers

Quite a number of flowers are associated with the Virgin Mary, some because they actually recall her in their names. Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) is an example of this. The scallop-shaped leaves were thought to resemble Mary's cloak, so the plant came to be associated with protection and care, particularly for women. In the Middle Ages it was used to support women's health, especially during childbirth, and some modern herbalists consider that it has a positive effect on the immune system. Similar properties are attributed to Lady's Bedstraw (Latin *Galium verum*) which has also been used to treat skin complaints and for healing wounds. It also smells sweet and was dried and used to stuff mattresses so that its fragrance could be enjoyed in the bedroom. Another use was as a dye plant – the roots produced a red dye and the leaves and flowers a yellow colour. Another flower referring to the Virgin is the marigold (*Calendula officinalis*) whose name combines the words 'Mary' and 'gold'. The flowers were thought to represent Mary's spiritual wealth and were sometimes used as offerings or decorations by the poor instead of coins. Marigolds are still used in herbal medicine and have a variety of properties, being considered good for skin complaints and digestive problems. In Hinduism also marigolds are associated with prosperity and good fortune and are used in Diwali celebrations and at weddings. As the flowers are edible and contain a natural yellow dye substance they are sometimes used as a cheap substitute for saffron in rice dishes or to colour cream cheese. The Madonna lily (*Lilium candidum*) has figured in Christian art for centuries, representing Mary's purity and beauty. Pictures of the Annunciation often show the Angel Gabriel holding a lily as he addresses Mary. This connection and symbolism dates back at least to the Venerable Bede in the 7th century, as he wrote of the white flowers representing Mary's purity, and the golden anthers the radiance of her soul.



Judith Shiel

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If you would like to join us please contact our membership secretary on 07754775194 or membership membershipmellorart@gmail.com

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GOLF

EVENT

SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2026

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10:10 AM
10:20 AM
10:30 AM

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St Thomas Church

A Home for Used Stamps

Ann Preston collects used stamps for two charities. Than Royal Institute of the Blind and Bone Cancer Research. The Bone Cancer people are most appreciative. The stamps can be left at The Mellor Centre either through the letter box or inside in the pigeon holes at the bottom of the stairs where people put the stamps in the 'W' hole for 'WI'. Or you can give them to Sue MacAllister who passes them on. When cutting stamps out, try to leave plenty of space around the stamp.

Good Mews!



Edith tells me that Bella the cat who was looking for new home in February's Outlook has found one in Chapel en le Frith. We hope this is purrfect for her. *Ed*

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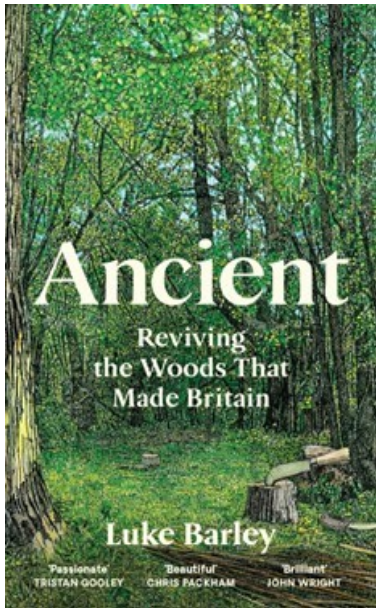
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It All Started Here!

You may remember that our son, Luke, gave a presentation to the Friends of the Mellor Centre, about his work as the Senior Advisor for Trees and Woodland with the National Trust. His love and



passion for trees all started thirty five years ago when he and Jake spent many happy hours after school, with Charles and Edward, exploring the woods behind the home of the Nicholls' family. Luke has written a book charting his journey over the years from that ten year old boy to the position he now holds with the Trust. He explores his developing passion for ancient trees and woodland, and how we, as humans, can rekindle our connection with these special places. We have been sent a copy, and I think we can say it is a very readable and informative book, which will be enjoyed by anyone who has a love of

trees and woodland. The book is called 'Ancient: Reviving the Woods that made Britain' and will be released on 3rd March. It is available now to pre-order from Waterstones and other outlets.

Meg and Mike Barley

Lunchtime Organ Recital in Manchester

John LeGrove will be doing a lunchtime organ recital at St Ann's church, Manchester M2 7LF. Wednesday 18 March at 13:00. The programme will include music by:-

Georg Böhm,
Brahms,
J S Bach

And the new piece by the Stavanger-based Timothy Miller John played recently in St Thomas's. Admission is free.

BIG CLEAN UP

Saturday March 21st

10am until 1.00pm

We would like to encourage as many as people as possible who use the church to come and help with the Spring Clean. Even if it is only for a short time.

Please bring any equipment you think may help.

There will be home made refreshments.

I have a friend whose son was recently married in a small church on Anglesey. At the wedding practice she realised she needed to spring clean the whole church herself before the wedding! We are very fortunate in Mellor to have so many helpers. Thank you.

If you are able to join the Holy Duster rota please contact Mary Heijbroek, 0161 427 3241

A Message About Revd Peter Jenner's Book

Thank you to everyone who has kindly purchased a copy or copies of Peter's book *The Very Narrow Bridge of Life*. It has been lovely to hear from many people ordering by email who have included their stories of Peter, Vicki, Stephanie and Alex; and from those who have used the book in their reading groups, as a Lent book or for Advent, or ordered copies for friends and as gifts. Please forgive us, but we do have rather more copies left over than we had hoped by this stage. So if you could help us with selling the remaining books so that we can get the maximum amount to Peter's chosen charity, we would be really grateful. Any ideas welcomed. Or if anyone who regularly attends Chester Cathedral could help by holding a stock of books and taking payment, that would be tremendously helpful, as we haven't managed to get any there yet - we do have a route into the Cathedral newsletter. Books are available by post, or we will try our best to move multiple copies around the country where we can. Books can be gift wrapped with an accompanying card at no extra cost if you need presents. Books are £10 + £3.10 p&p, 48 hours tracked, no signature required, and will fit through standard letter boxes. Please contact Louise on booksbyljr@gmail.com

PCC Meeting 19th January 2026

Our January meeting took place inside church, together with our newly appointed church architect, Mark Pearce. The reason for this was to aid discussion about possible alterations to the way the space is used at the back of the church, which was the focus of the meeting. This topic was raised last year when Tom Howling, our Director of Music, suggested that some pews could be taken out and replaced with flexible seating arrangements, largely due to the fact that the current choir stalls do not adequately accommodate the choir. However, we identified other reasons for considering the use of space at the back of the church, and behind the organ. Firstly, the urgent need to look at installing an accessible toilet somewhere in church, secondly the fact that the existing central heating system will need to be replaced at some point in the not too distant future, and finally the fact that there are currently many changes of level at the back of the church, which impinge on its accessibility. David Horsfall helpfully provided some old photos of the way the church looked in the past, and he and Mark gave a lot of information about all the changes that have taken place over past decades. David had also drawn up a possible plan for flexible seating, which we agreed was the most pressing issue. It was agreed that David and Andrew, our vicar, will work on a Statement of Need, to list our requirements. Thereafter Mark will assist us in looking at possible options, but our congregation will of course be consulted before any changes are agreed.

We heard that Neil Hamilton had done a lot of work on the feasibility of a new provider of internet coverage for the church and Mellor Centre, and it was agreed this should go ahead. And there was to be a meeting to review the Crib services that took place on Christmas Eve, but we heard how generally successful and well-received they had been. The PCC noted their thanks to Val and Jack Wallace for producing the Crib services this year.

Julie Elliott. PCC Secretary.

Thought for the Month

*This month a thought expressed by Helen Macdonald in her memoir, **H is for Hawk**. (Jonathan Cape 2014)*



“There is a Time in Life when we expect the world to be always full of new things. And then comes a day when you realise that is not how it will be at all. You will see that life becomes a thing made of Holes. Absences. Losses. Things that were there are no longer. And you realise too that you have to grow around and between the gaps, though you can put your hand out to where things were and feel that tense, shining dullness of the space where the memories are.”

“We all have our time machines don’t we?” says H. G. Wells, “Those that take us back are memories...those that carry us forward, are dreams.”

After a dull, damp Winter, Spring is on its way. Time to think forward, to dream of blossom and green leaf.

Jenny Johnson

What are you doing to mark Lent?

Observe Lent 18 Feb - 2 April



The Carbon Fast is organised by one of our A Rocha family organisations, Climate Stewards, and we are joining in!

As Lent draws us closer to God, the Carbon Fast helps us examine any excesses in our lives, and how we live more gently with God on His earth.

With a different focus each week, we'll learn more, ask questions, and focus on what God thinks about these areas of our lives:

Week 1: Nature

Week 2: Shopping

Week 3: Money

Week 7: Social Media

Week 4: Food

Week 5: Transport

Week 6: Energy and

[Climatestewards-org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/](https://climatestewards-org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/)

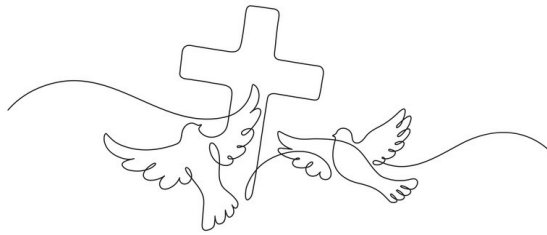
From the Registers

Funeral

We remember before God and commend to his love and mercy

Margaret Vaughan – 9th February - Service at Crematorium

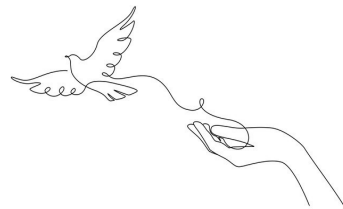
Barrie Maltby – 13th February



Prayer for the Month

Walk with us, Saviour of the poor,
to be a light on 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)



Stewards Rota

8.30am

Mar 1 J Shiel
Mar 8 J Butterworth
Mar 15 P Cunningham
Mar 22 J Shiel
Mar 29 J Butterworth
Apr 5 P Cunningham

10.00am

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

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

Flower Rota

March 1 Lent
March 8 Lent
March 15 Lent
March 22 Lent
March 29 Lent

April 5 Easter Flowers
April 12 Easter Flowers
April 19 Helen Tawn
April 26 Angela Muller

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

March 8 S McAllister & M Williams
March 15 J Mann & J Carr
March 21 **BIG CLEAN UP**
March 29 P Cunningham & I Morris
April 5 J & D Butterworth

Brass Cleaning

J Briggs & H Carlsson

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

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

Magazine Subscriptions

Readers of *Outlook* are reminded that subscriptions for the year 2026 are now due and should be paid to the person who delivers your magazine. The annual subscription, which is £10, should be paid as cash or by cheque payable to Mellor PCC., or by bank transfer, details as follows: This annual subscription represents a saving of £2 compared with 12 copies at the cover price of £1. The editors hope you have enjoyed reading *Outlook* over the last year and have found it useful. We welcome letters to the editor and ideas.

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