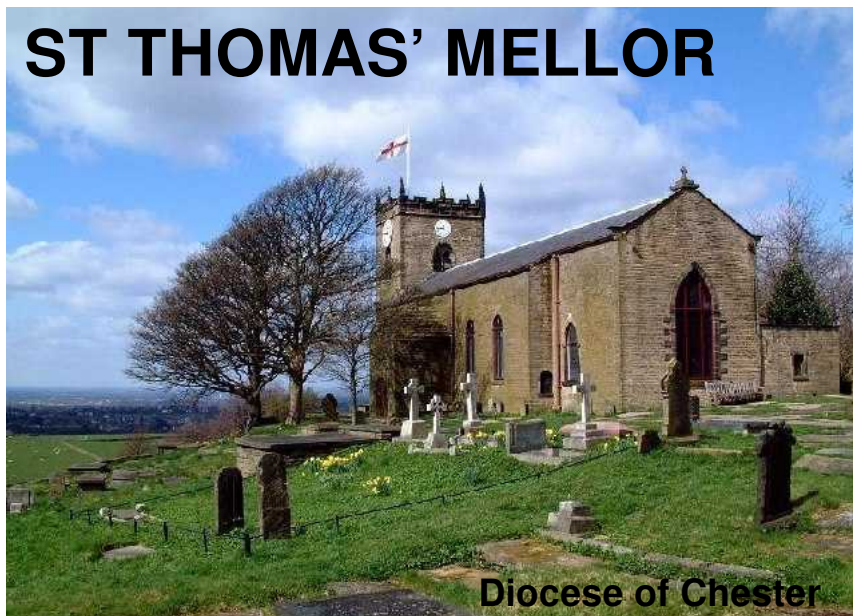


ST THOMAS' MELLOR



Mission Statement

Adopted by the PCC in February 2016.

To Share our faith
To Serve our community and
Work for Justice and Peace in
the world.

Our Values, towards which we strive, are:

to be inclusive and accepting;
to be outward facing and diverse
in our approach;
to value our worship, fellowship,
music and welcome.

There are 163 names on the electoral roll. We have several families in the parish with three generations involved in church activities. A number of families who live outside the Parish attend the church. Last year there were 18 Baptisms, 10 Weddings and 24 Funerals.

Churchmanship

The ethos of the church is liberal, and the churchmanship is mostly traditional. Common Worship is used, vestments are worn by the priest and robes by the choir, servers and lay assistants. We have a Reader Emeritus and a significant lay involvement in the services and the running of the church.



The Congregation and Services

Sunday services

8.30am Said **Holy Communion**. Attendance between 6 and 15.

10.00am Sung **Eucharist** with choir and Vestry groups for the children. The service is followed by coffee in the Parish Centre. Attendance between 80 and 100.

6.30pm **Evening Prayer**, except 3rd Sunday of the month - **Choral Evensong**

There is also a said service of **Holy Communion** at 10.00am on Wednesday. And also the occasional BPC Communion.



Holy Week Services

On Palm Sunday the congregation meets at the bottom of Church Road for an opening prayer and a hymn before processing up to church waving palms.

We have a Maundy Thursday service and Good Friday meditation, at which a large cross is carried into church after a brief pause outside.



Also on Good Friday there is a Churches Together In Marple walk up to the fixed cross on the neighbouring hill, Cobden Edge, stopping on the way for hymns and prayers. Well actually the cross is a "T" since the top blew off last year. Churches Together have just launched an appeal to rebuild the Cross.

Easter Sunday starts with an outdoor Dawn Eucharist around a fire, followed by breakfast, as well as the usual Sunday services.

Family Orientated Services

Mothering Sunday, Rose Queen Sunday and Harvest have been special services with no Eucharist.

This year 120 Mellor School junior pupils walked up to the church to celebrate Harvest.

Advent and Christmas Carol Services

We have a service of reflection and Advent music and a candle lit nine lessons and carol service.

Crib Service

On Christmas Eve we hold two well supported Crib Services complete with a real donkey and sheep dog (we are working on the camels).

All Souls' Service

A reflective service recently introduced which fulfils a need in the Parish.



Children's activities

Vestry Group

The Vestry Group for children of 3 - 8yrs and the Vestry Venturers for older children meet in the church vestry during the 10.00am service.

Every Autumn, a group of approximately 30 young people (8yrs+) spend a weekend at the Peak Centre in Edale.

Classes to prepare children and adults for Confirmation are run every other year.



We were delighted when Bishop Libby came to St Thomas' Mellor for her first Confirmation Service as Bishop.

Messy Church

Started a year ago with just 6 families and now has grown to 26 families in Nov 2017- about 80 people, some new to church. We have a very experienced team of 21 long standing members of the congregation leading all the messing - once every four months.



Praise and Play

For 2 to 5 year olds, takes place in the Parish Centre once a month after the Toddler Group. Around 8 families attend, sometimes a lot more.

Away Days

As a congregation we have made camping weekend excursions to the Peak District and the seaside transferring our usual Sunday family communion service to local churches.



Mellor Church Choir



There is a strong choral tradition at Mellor with 16 adults and over 18 children in the choir. As well as supporting worship on Sundays, the choir undertakes tours of British cathedrals and also European venues. In 2017 the choir for a week sang all the services at Winchester Cathedral and sang in Wakefield and Bradford Cathedrals. In 2018 the choir plan to go to Leicester and Rochester Cathedrals.

The choir is led by the Director of Music, Andrew Dean, FRCO. In 2017 Andrew gave monthly candlelit Twilight concerts, performing the complete works of JS Bach – (one more to go). Andrew raised over £5000 for church funds. He is committed to training young organists for liturgical playing. Two members of the choir have been offered organ scholarships at Oxford subject to exam results. The choir attracts several families from outside the parish.

A recent visit to Chester Cathedral where seven of our members have been awarded RSCM gold awards.



The church boasts a Mander organ built in 1977 and designed specifically for this building. It is maintained regularly and tuned to Vallotti temperament.



The Choir visiting the Menin Gate.



In preparation for Christmas services the choir stays at Fort Belan in Wales for two days of intensive practice (and play).



The Parish Centre which is adjacent to the church, houses the Parish office and is used not only as the church hall but by many local groups including art clubs, yoga, WI, pilates, Textile Art Group and toddler group. It is used frequently by groups such as the Rose Queen and the Friends of Mellor Parish Centre to hold social and fund raising events. It is also available for hire for conferences meetings and receptions. A lot of cake gets eaten here over a year.

www.mellorparishcentre.org.uk/



A popular event has been our “Film On The Hill”



when good old fashioned black and white movies are played – complete with ice cream in the interval.

The Parish Centre is run by the Parish Centre Management Committee, which oversees the practical maintenance of the building.

Administrative support

We have a Parish Office Administrator who works three mornings a week. Volunteers work the other two mornings.



Groups and Activities

There are many groups and volunteers who help in the maintenance and running of the church and the church community. The PCC - 19 members, elected on a three-year rolling basis at the APCM.

Prayer Group – meets weekly

Outlook Parish Magazine

Pastoral Care

Thanksgiving Committee

Mellor Rose Queen

Church Preparation Group

Church Library

Church Building and Graveyard Committee

Altar Linen Group

Patrons

Intercessions

Toddler Group

The Pilgrim Group - meets fortnightly

Communications Group

Women's Evening Fellowship

Fête Committee

Flower Arrangers

Churchyard Strimmers

Bell Ringers

Children's Society

Brass Cleaners & Holy Dusters

Publicity Group

Vestry Venturers

Tea and Friendship

The library

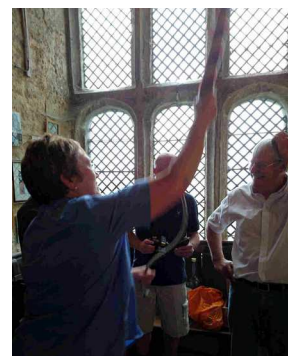
Judith Shiel looks after our library in the Parish Centre which is also where the Prayer Group takes place.

Pastoral Care

Four of our Lay Assistants take communion to people in their own homes if needed. We try and visit the lonely and sick but worry there must be people we miss.

The Bell Ringers.

Four men ring the bell for the 10 o'clock service, weddings and funerals. For the Queen's 90th birthday they rang the bell 90 times helped by paying volunteers including the local MP. They have various fund raising schemes. At present they are selling a "Bell Ringers Breakfast" recipe book. They keep the clock working on the tower.



Embroidery

The church has uniquely designed embroidered altar frontal, cushions and kneelers made by 36 members of the congregation starting in 1980. A pamphlet has just been published with the history and reflections suggested as one wanders around the earth, air, fire and water themes.

Intercessions

19 people take it in turns to write the Intercessions for our Sunday services.

The Fête



The church holds a traditional fête on the last Saturday of June, which includes the crowning of the new Rose Queen.

The Rose Queen and her attendants run events throughout the year to raise money for their chosen charity, this year's being "Young Minds". Her first event was a pop up dog show.



The Fête brings the community together helped by a beer tent, Parachuting Teddies, Punch and Judy, Human Fruit Machine, Hog Roasts, teas and cake and lots more.

The marquees are used in the evening for Bands on the Hill music events.



Coinciding with the Fête the ancient Derbyshire custom of Well Dressing has been brought to Mellor and a team of dedicated volunteers painstakingly create a series of pictures in flower petals to adorn the well neighbouring the churchyard.



The Parish of Mellor

The parish of Mellor was in the Diocese of Derby until November 2006 when it transferred to Chester. Within the parish of Mellor, in Marple Bridge there is a United Reformed church, a Roman Catholic church and a Methodist church. We are part of Chadkirk Deanery which spans rural and urban areas. St Thomas' is a member of "Churches Together in Marple and District". A covenant agreeing to work for closer unity was signed in 1994 and renewed in 2009.

Church Buildings



St Thomas' church occupies a prominent position near the top of the village. There has probably been a church on the site since Saxon times. It seats 200.

It is thought to have the oldest oak pulpit in the country dated from 1330.

And the stone font is the oldest object in the church dated around 1000AD with primitive carvings of men and horses.

The Parish Centre is 100 yards down the hill from church. The buildings are in good condition. This used to be the Village School until 2000 when it was converted for the Parish and a new school built a mile down the hill.



The Vicarage is at the top of the hill, adjacent to the church and in the centre of the parish, though 1.8 miles from the PO and shops and 0.4 miles from the nearest pub. It was extensively refurbished and modernised in 2012. Upstairs it has four bedrooms, one ensuite, and a family bathroom. Downstairs there is a kitchen, lounge, dining room, study and utility room with a downstairs toilet. The house also has cellars and an attic. It is heated by an oil fired boiler. There is a garden.



The Community

The population of the parish is about 5,500 and consists of the villages of Mellor and Marple Bridge. Mellor is an old established community on the edge of the Peak District 12 miles from Manchester, less than half an hour by train. It benefits from being rural with suburban settlement. The church, two primary schools, the sports club, golf club, the many local pubs and the Parish Centre all provide focal points for the community and its activities.

Churches Together in Marple and District

In the last few years "Churches Together" has taken steps to mark major points in the church year with joint services. There is an ecumenical service on Ash Wednesday, dawn service on Easter Day and an ecumenical evening service on Ascension Day.

There are also united services for Bible Sunday and a week of prayer for Christian Unity as well as the walk up to the "Cross" on Cobden Edge mentioned above.

Educationally there is a small modern primary school in Mellor which, whilst not a church school, enjoys close links with St Thomas'. The vicar attends Christmas and Harvest services at the school. The parish is also home to Ludworth primary school where occasional assemblies for key stage 1 are taken by the vicar. There is also St Mary's Catholic primary school. Neighbouring Marple has a comprehensive school (Marple Hall School) and Marple Sixth form College. Marple Bridge has a Day Nursery. The Church runs a popular Toddler group in the Parish Centre.

Mellor Sports Club is home to the world renowned Mellor Lacrosse team. The sports club on Longhurst Lane also has tennis courts, a badminton hall and cricket pitch.

Mellor Society keeps an eye on planning applications and goings on in Mellor.

Linnet Clough Scout Camp is used by children from all over the country and world.

Mellor Archaeology Trust keeps finding interesting things to dig up such as an Iron Age Hill Fort by the church. A 4000 year old amber necklace was found recently at Shaw Cairn stone circle a mile from the Church. Down the hill, Mellor Mill built in 1792 was the largest in the world at the time, is now in ruins and being excavated. They have an excellent website;

www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk/



Replica roundhouse built next to the churchyard with the help of local school children.

Every four years **Mellor Open Gardens** is held where locals open their properties to the public for the benefit of Cancer Research UK and our Parish Centre.



We are fortunate to have a wide range of birds in the parish, from kingfishers and dippers on the river Goyt to skylarks and curlews at the top of Mellor.

Communications

There is a monthly parish magazine, called **Outlook**, which is distributed to 600 homes in the parish and beyond. Spare copies are for sale in church and in the Parish Centre for people to buy. There is a church website which gives details of services, the text of some sermons and information about activities relating to church and Parish Centre.



There is a Facebook page for "St Thomas Mellor" with 211 followers and 336 photographs giving a good idea of what we get up to. As well as a twitter feed on the website today showing our newest young member of the choir and the music they sang on Sunday.

The Web site is found at: www.mellorchurch.org

As a result of the GAP initiative several groups were established:-

- A welcoming group
- A publicity group
- A rebranding group
- A variation to church services group
- A parish magazine group
- A lonely people group

Financial Matters

All the figures quoted relate to the financial year ended 31 December 2016.

In 2016 the total income of Mellor PCC was £199,757 and total expenditure £195,468. The unrestricted reserves at the end of the year were just over £32,000.

There are four main elements to the Church's finances as follows:

1. Running the Church. In 2016 running the Church cost almost £133,000, which includes the Parish Share of £84,599 and income was almost £132,000, resulting in a deficit in unrestricted funds of just over £1,100. (For year end 2017 we hope to be in surplus).
A hard working group continues to explore ways in which we can raise income. An annual Thanksgiving day in March/April is important but in recent years it has not been possible to bridge the gap. In 2017 monthly organ recitals by the Director of Music have helped significantly, as well as the annual fête, which in 2017 raised almost £9,800.
2. The Parish Centre. This is a designated fund. Since it was created over 15 years ago the aim has been for the Parish Centre to be self-supporting. This has been achieved with the help of fundraising by the Friends of Mellor Parish Centre. The deficit for year end 2016 was almost £4,000, covered by a transfer from the Restricted Fund: Friends of Mellor Parish Centre. At the end of 2016 this fund held almost £30,000 in reserves.
3. The Church Building and Churchyard. There is a Restricted Fund to support major work on either the church or churchyard. The main sources of income is from dividends from shares invested in the CBF and donations, including the Patrons scheme. Significant sums have been spent over the last few years on the fabric (inside and out), the windows, the organ and the new churchyard. In 2016, just over £2,000 was spent on maintenance from this fund. The amount available in the fund (excluding shares) at the end of 2016 was £3,377.
4. Moor End Trust. In the 1970s the former Sunday School building in Moor End was sold and the proceeds invested in shares in the CBF. The income from this fund can be used for educational and mission purposes (primarily but not exclusively for children).

CHARITY GIVING

We have special collections throughout the year for The Mission to Seafarers and The Salvation Army. 60 people have collection boxes for The Children's Society. In 2017 the church established a separate charity fund and bank account for charitable giving to support up to four charities chosen at a meeting in November. We supported St. Ann's Hospice, The Wellspring, Médecins Sans Frontières and Bible Society.

We have a link with EducAid in Sierra Leone. Our Women's Evening Fellowship has supported Beechwood and the Rose Queen the RNLI. For the last 23 years we have entered the Ride+Stride for Churches and Chapels Preservation Trusts. We have a basket in the porch for donations to Stockport Food Bank.



The Mellor Roof



We have supported the Diocese of Aru (as big as the UK) in DR Congo. As a result of congregation member, David Ackroyd, joining the Chester Diocese trips to the Congo we have been honoured and delighted that Bishop Andi from Aru has visited Mellor.

We were pleased to pay for the new Bible College Roof. Students at the college often live large distances away from the college and need accommodation so we have also provided one motorbike.

"Mellor Roof". Photo taken by our Archdeacon on a recent visit.

We have a list of over 40 people we can ask to make cakes when needed.

In November 2017 a member of the congregation who was moving away after five years living in the Parish was asked what he thought should go into the Parish Profile.

He said "Mellor is Quirky.

It is unusual because people turn up to events.

It is unusual because people get on and respect others views.

The choir go to the pub after choir practice on Friday.

It is not essential but it would be good if a new incumbent enjoyed singing and wearing robes.

Need to have a sense of humour."

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We would ideally like our new vicar to be:

an accessible but challenging preacher with good communication skills on an individual and a Congregational level
willing to embrace the pastoral needs of both the church and of the wider community
open to diversity of liturgical expression, ranging from choral services to 'messy church'
keen to engage all ages in services and in other church activities

Full accounts and annual report, for this charity number 1130414, for the year end 2016 are available at:-

http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends14/0001130414_AC_20161231_E_C.pdf

30/01/17