

# MELLOR PARISH CHURCH

www.mellorparishchurch.org

## Vicar

Rev'd Charles D Jefferson  
01254 491464  
revcjefferson@uwclub.net  
(day off.. Friday)

## Licensed Lay Reader

Mrs Pam Daunton 01772 877017

## Church Warden

## Parochial Church Council

<b>Chairperson</b>	Rev'd Charles Jefferson
<b>Clerk &amp; Secretary</b>	David Wain
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lorna Shaw with David Adams

Barbara Lucas (2019) Geoff Gill (2018)  
Rita Gorman (2018) Derek Haworth (2018)  
David Holroyd (2021)  
Lorna Shaw (2018) Mark Smith (2019)  
Debbie Summersgill (2018) Graham Tipper (2018)  
Dorothy Walsh (2018) Marilyn Watson (2020)

## Sidespersons

Sue Brown Graham Calvert Peter Cowell  
Nanette Hogg Paul Hughes Ian Moss  
Joan Moss Sue Nelson Alan Smith  
Frances Thompson Noel Walsh  
Pat Webster

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## View From the Vicarage

### 'Fools for Christ?'

**April 1st** is here again and with it All Fools Day but what lies behind this unusual event? Well its origins may lie in several pagan festivals. For instance there was the Roman end of winter orgy 'Hilaria', and the Celtic celebration when the god Lud cured the curse of demons by spraying them with a brew of crushed insects in water! There is also the story of Persephone. In this Greek myth she was snatched away by Pluto, the god of the underworld, from her mother the corn spirit Ceres who followed the trail of Persephone's indignant shrieks across the land to no avail – the original 'fool's errand'!

Or there again, All Fools may simply be the day commemorating Christ being mocked and tormented before his crucifixion (Luke 23:32 – 43, Matthew 27: 32 -43). Whatever the background, at noon the foolery must cease!

But in the New Testament we meet two other sorts of 'fool'. There is the fool whose foolishness is seen not simply in the rejection of wisdom but particularly in the rejection of the source of all wisdom, God Himself (Psalm 14:1, Romans 1:18 -32). In fact, it was the failure of Jesus' disciples to understand that the death and resurrection of Christ had been foretold by the prophets which led the risen Jesus to say, 'How foolish you are' (Luke 24:25),

because as he had said to the religious leaders, “You are wrong because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22).

However, there is yet another sort of ‘fool’ in the Bible and this is the ‘fool’ whose life has been transformed by Jesus. Saint Paul, one of the ancient world’s greatest thinkers, could later speak of himself as a **Fool for Christ (1 Corinthians 4:10)** once he had encountered the risen Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). For it was this life changing experience which then impelled him (2 Corinthians 5:14) to preach Christ crucified and to live for Christ (1Corinthians 1).

So who might be a fool today? Well we are all conscious of times when we have acted foolishly. We have said or done things we later regret, we have allowed ourselves to be fooled by others, or we know we have acted unwisely. None of us are perfect!

But if it’s true that Jesus Christ is ‘the power and wisdom of God’ (1 Corinthians 1:24) then surely the wisest thing would be to listen to what he has to say. And what God requires and desires is this: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as you love yourself.” Or as another translation puts it, “Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence. Love others as well as you love yourself” (Matthew 22 - The Message).

For after all, said Jesus, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’ and yet don’t do what I tell you? Anyone who hears my words and does not obey them is like a man who built his house without laying a foundation; when the flood hit that house it fell at once – and what a terrible crash that was!” (Luke 6) So, if you want to build your life on sure foundations listen to Christ even if others may think you are a Fool for Christ!

*Charles*

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## **Mothers’ Union**

We had an excellent meeting in March when we invited friends from the village to hear our speaker, Mrs Maureen Baxter.

Maureen held our attention for almost an hour as she related her experiences as an air hostess (cabin crew, these days) travelling to all four corners of the globe.

Later she realised her life’s ambition and became a pilot, working with St John Ambulance and often flying body parts for transplant operations. What a worthwhile and rewarding career!

We meet twice in April, on Monday, 9th for a short service in church at 9.30am to celebrate The Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and then the following day, 10th, for the monthly meeting at 7.30pm when we welcome the Reverend David Kennedy as our speaker.

If you would like to see the performance of 'Whistle Down the Wind' by Andrew Lloyd Webber at the Thwaites Theatre on Tuesday, 8th March, please see Rita Gorman. Tickets cost £11.

Margaret Ashton

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You are warmly invited to  
An informal evening of  
♪ *Praise and Worship* ♪

Sunday 6th May @ 4 pm

St Mary’s Church, Mellor

*‘Sing a new song to the Lord!’*

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# Church Rotas April

## Assistant Wardens

1	Apr	Lorna Shaw	Graham Tipper
8	Apr	Mark Smith	Rita Gorman
15	Apr	Barbara Lucas	Debbie Chadwick
22	Apr	Derek Haworth	Dorothy Walsh
29	Apr	United Benefice Service at Samlesbury	

## Sidpersons

1	Apr	J Moss	P Webster
8	Apr	F Thompson	
15	Apr	S Brown	G Calvert
22	Apr	P Cowell	A Smith
29	Apr	United Benefice Service at Samlesbury	

## Chalice Servers

1	Apr	Graham Tipper	Rita Gorman
8	Apr	Eileen Peake	Geoff Gill
15	Apr		
22	Apr	Graham Tipper	Eileen Peake

## Intercessors

1	Apr	Frank Ashton
8	Apr	Rev'd Charles
15	Apr	Debbie Chadwick
22	Apr	Geoff Gill

## Flower List

		<b>Given by:-</b>	<b>Arranged by:-</b>
1	Apr	Congregation	All arrangers
8	Apr	Karen Walsh	Ann Minoprio
15	Apr	Mrs N Alcock	Debbie Summersgill
22	Apr	-vacant-	Helen Holroyd & Helen Cooper

If anyone would like to donate a lily in memory of a loved one and/or help with the cost of floral decorations at Easter – please see Joan Moss 813581

## Church Cleaning

### **Week Commencing**

2	Apr	Di Ibbotson,	Sue Ellison & Anne Kirkpatrick
9	Apr	Pamela Jackson,	Christine Redwood & Susan Cousins
16	Apr	Berenice McKeown & Joan Venables	
23	Apr	Rita Gorman, Betty Green & Peter Cowell	

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## **Readers for April**

<b>Apr</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Easter Day</b> Mothers' Union	Acts 10:34 – 43 Mark 16: 1 -8
<b>Apr</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> Debbie Summersgill Noel Walsh	Acts 4: 32 – 35 John 20: 19 – end
<b>Apr</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> All Age Worship	

**Apr 22nd Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Alan Smith

Sue Gill

Acts 4:5 -12

John 10 : 11 -18

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**Apr 29th United Benefice Service at Samlesbury**

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## **THE ANNUAL CHURCHYARD SPRING CLEAN**

**Monday 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL Time From 6.00pm.**

Once again it is time for the annual churchyard spring clean to remove the dead leaves, broken branches and the general litter that has accumulated over the winter months.

If you are able to spare an hour or two that evening it would be really appreciated as the more helpers there are, the easier is the task.

Please bring **garden rakes and wheel barrows** if you have them.

Once the clean up has been done the mowers can start their summer grass cutting which makes the churchyard look so much neater.

HELP WITH MOWING THE GRASS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER  
WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU

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## **A MOVABLE FEAST!**

The Women's World Day of Prayer should have been held on Friday 2nd. March, but The Beast from the East meant that it had to be cancelled.

We were given permission to reset the date by Head Office, so, with not a little trepidation, we decided to try again the following Friday, 9th March.

The Service had been prepared by the Members in Suriname, a small country on the northern coast of South America. Entitled "ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD", it focussed on how we were looking after the world concentrating particularly on plastic, re cycling and caring for wildlife.

Imagine the state of my nerves when Thursday 8th dawned with 6 inches of snow! I began to wonder if the Lord was trying to tell me something! However, the sun came out and the snow melted and we went ahead with the new date and had a wonderful Service with the children and staff from St. Leonard's Primary School and at least forty faithful souls in the congregation.

Rev. John gave a short and very warm welcome, so we started on a bright note. The children had prepared a special song for us about trying to keep our earth tidy and in good heart for the next generation, very poignant. They also played their ukuleles and signed one of the hymns.

The colourful ladies rose to the occasion too, and I think it went well.

We then went to Mellor Brook Centre for a tasty lunch, served on PAPER plates and bowls and both the food and the fellowship were very special.

Later we went to Longworth House and the ladies and one gentleman really enjoyed the Service and Margaret's Special Sing Song afterwards.

I would like to thank all those involved for their great support and I am proud to say that I will be sending something over £200 to Head Office for their work both here and abroad.

Thank you all so much. **Sue Brown**

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### **From The Registers**

**Communicants**

**Collections**

Feb	25	55	£551.00
Mar	4	65	£541.00
	11	42	£201.00
	18	--	£108.00

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### **Pam's Paper Blog:**

Mindfulness is a current theme in the media with lots of advice on how we should 'live in the present' or find our 'inner smile'. It's a recognition of the problem that depression has become in our modern world with a particular increase in young men. All of us has that gremlin that sits on our shoulder, the one that only has something negative to say, but for some of us its voice is louder than for others.

When life is good it's so much easier to discard the gremlin's comments but when life is going wrong then its voice gets stronger. This can take us on a spiral down into a clinical illness that should never be taken lightly and we should always seek help with.

As Christians it's tempting to think we are immune from these things. After all doesn't God keep us safe and happy with his omnipotent care for us? But that isn't true is it? We've all heard that voice on our shoulder who says: "If God really loved you he'd have kept you safe from this." For some people that voice goes further when it says: "This terrible thing that has happened to you shows there is no God at all."

But Jesus isn't offering us something as insubstantial as happiness when he says:  
*"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30)

What Jesus is offering us is a relationship with him, side by side yoked together, so that we can learn from him. That relationship will involve us in service. This service will always have its joyful aspects because it is light but it will always involve suffering too because it is a load. It will give us something far more valuable than happiness; it will give us peace and joy.

At Easter we think again about the immense suffering Jesus underwent on our behalf to reconcile us to God. We rejoice that he overcomes this by rising from the dead. But do we truly believe he did or just vaguely hope that it's true?

As Jesus rose from the dead, we are yoked to someone immensely powerful, that's true and trustworthy. Mindfulness for us should include spending time with him in studying our bibles and prayer, especially when we come together to do it. Then Jesus can grow our trust in him. This means that we can start to ignore our gremlins who talk of our not being loved; or that sister version that talks of evil overcoming good. Even when our lives are hard and difficult we can know his presence with us and our value to him.

Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! So take that; gremlin.  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>  
[https://turn2me.org/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMI0rWum4HW2QIVxrftCh0V4wB-EAAYASAAEgKTX\\_D\\_BwE](https://turn2me.org/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMI0rWum4HW2QIVxrftCh0V4wB-EAAYASAAEgKTX_D_BwE)

Pam Daunton

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## **MESSY CHURCH**

On the last Sunday of every month we hold Messy Church in Mellor St Mary Primary School from 4 – 5.45 pm

### **What IS Messy Church?**

1. This is a form of church for ALL ages to **enjoy** together
2. We **explore** a biblical theme through getting messy involving crafts and games
3. We have a short **celebration** time with a story, songs and prayer
4. We end with a yummy sit down meal together, home made by our volunteers

Everyone from the Benefice is very welcome to join us each month. You can take part in as little or as much as you like. If you'd like to help with crafts or food we'd love to hear from you.

**Do come and join us!**

If you'd like to know more please contact  
Debbie Chadwick 07935 659004

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## Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News What's new from Class 2

As we enter into spring after a protracted winter, we look to the future and new beginnings, having very sadly said goodbye to Mrs Brindle. We now welcome Mrs James Bent to work with us on Thursdays and Fridays. Immense thanks are owed to Mrs Holroyd for her continuing support of us all in Class 2.

Our topic for the first half of the summer term is called "The Great Outdoors," so we shall be going out into our beautiful school field to explore the natural environment of "our green and pleasant land." We shall investigate which species of mini beasts live around our school and explore the human and physical geography of our grounds.

Thinking of the bounty of summer fruits available to us in our country, we look forward to making (and eating) our own fruit salads as part of our Food Technology.

The thought of emerging into a hopefully warm springtime is bliss for us all. We ask that we will feel God's warm presence in all our children's lives, in the lives of our wonderful staff, parish and village.

From Mrs Marshall and Class 2

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**Please come and join us at an**

## **Easter Dawn Service**

We will meet at 6.00am in the Sanctuary of Mellor St. Mary's Church and begin with the lighting of the Paschal Candle. This light will be shared before we make our way on to the Mill Hill, as dawn is breaking.

Geoff Gill will lead us in prayer and worship as we welcome Easter Day.

Coffee & Croissants

will be served on our return to church.

**All Welcome**

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### **Little Angels**

It's party time again as we celebrate 20 years of 'Little Angels' at St Mary's – and still going strong...

We are delighted that Sarah, from the Diocese, will be joining us and all preschool children will be most welcome at the party on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April at 2.15pm in the Narthex.

1 2 3 4 5

Thank you God that I'm alive

Rita, Margaret, Hilda,  
Gillian and Sandra

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### **Tuesday Coffee Mornings**

Thank you to all who attend and /or bake cakes – your support enables £50 to be donated to church funds every month.

Also, please continue to save your 'loose change' for Mission work supported by St. Mary's Church.

Hilda Hilton

Please note new contact details...

28 Brookfield  
01254 813681  
Mob. 07546 651817

Thanks from Hilda Hilton

I am happy that I have now been allowed to keep my old telephone number 01254 813681 at my new address- 28 Brookfield.

Also, thank you for all the New Home cards I have received as well as gifts and good wishes from so many friends.

Hilda

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### **Recycled Cards**

During February we made the following donations:-

R N L I	£25
Diabetes UK	£25
Cancer UK	£25

The total donations made so far this year is £175.00

Since cards have been on sale in Church we have been able to make donations to many and various charitable causes, both locally, nationally and internationally.

The total has now exceeded £10,000.00 – it is in fact **£10,101.95**  
It is thanks to your generosity, both in donating cards to us to recycle and buying our cards, that we have been able to achieve this remarkable total.  
Thanks to you all!

We couldn't do it without you!  
Thank you, the Card Ladies

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## Diary for April

- Apr 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Day**  
6.00am Easter Dawn Service  
(Geoff Gill)  
9.30am Easter Eucharist  
(Canon John Hartley)
- Apr 8<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Easter**  
9.30am Family Communion  
(to be confirmed)
- Apr 9<sup>th</sup>**  
9.30am Feast of the Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
see Mothers' Union –  
6.00pm Annual Churchyard Spring Clean
- Apr 10<sup>th</sup>**  
7.30pm Mothers' Union Meeting
- Apr 15<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Easter**  
9.30am All Age Worship  
(the Vicar)
- Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
9.30am Parish Communion  
(to be confirmed)
- Apr 24<sup>th</sup>**  
2.15pm 'Little Angels'
- Apr 29<sup>th</sup> United Benefice Service at Samlesbury**
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## Weekly Event

Every Tuesday 9.30am Holy Communion

Followed by Coffee & Fellowship in the Narthex

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### **Christian Stewardship**

Recorder Eileen Peake 813654  
Gift Aid Secretary Helen Adams 813108

### **Electoral Roll Officer**

Graham Tipper 813565

### **Deanery Synod**

Sue Gill 812928

### **Little Angels**

Margaret Baldwin 812360 Rita Gorman 812566

**Children's Society**

Debbie Chadwick 812091

**Social & Fund Raising Committee**

Rita Gorman, Debbie Summersgill,  
Jessica Hayes, Mark Smith

**Magazine**

ritagorman@tiscali.co.uk

Editors Rita Gorman Ron Hak

Advertising Rita Gorman 812566

Distribution Alan & Barbara Smith

**St Mary's C.E. Primary School**

Headteacher Mrs Joanne Embley-Peers 812581

Clerk to the Governors Mrs Pat Cooper

Site Supervisor M. Venables

Friends of St Mary's School (FOSMS)

Zohra Nisar (zohranisar@icloud.com) and Scott Hellier

**Mothers' Union**

**Altar Flowers**

Margaret Ashton 812616 Joan Moss 813581

**Rainbows** Lynn Fish (Wren)

**Guides** Helen Adams Phone 813108

Email helendentith@btinternet.com

**Police**

PCSO Caroline Pemberton

Tel 01200 458766 (Voicemail)

**Churchyard**

Chris Wilson Rob Cooper Tom Shaw

Stewart Woodward Bernard Whalley Gordon Hayes

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Volunteers still required