

Readers for April

7th April

Morning

2nd Sunday of Easter

M Baldwin

Acts 5: 27-32

M Woodward

Revelation 1: 4-8

Celebrant

John 20: 19-end

Evening

S Nelson

Isaiah 53: 1-6, 9-12

S Brindle

Luke 24: 13-35

14th April

Morning

3rd Sunday of Easter

G Gill

Acts 9: 1-20

D Summersgill

Revelation 5: 11-14

Celebrant

John 21: 1-19

Evening

M Watson

Isaiah 38: 9-20

G Hill

John 11: 17-26

21st April

Morning

4th Sunday of Easter

All Age Worship

Acts 9:36-43

Revelation 7: 9-17

Celebrant

John 10: 22-30

Evening

S Brindle

Isaiah 63: 7-14

M Riley

Luke 24: 36-49

28th April

Morning

5th Sunday of Easter

R Jones

Acts 11: 1-18

S Gill

Revelation 21: 1-6

Celebrant

John 13: 31-35

Evening

S Dobson

Acts 11: 1-18

G Tipper

Revelation 21: 1-6

Celebrant

John 13: 31-35

5th May

Morning

6th Sunday of Easter

M Ashton

Acts 16: 9-15

M Eccleston

Revelation 21:10 – 22: 5

Celebrant

John 14: 23-29

Evening

S Nelson

Zephaniah 3: 14-end

M Riley

Matthew 28: 1-10, 16-end

My dear friends,

May I begin with a huge **THANK YOU** for your welcome and to everyone who came to the Induction and Installation Service on the 12th March. It was a very special occasion made more so by being able to inaugurate the United Benefice at the same time. The Churchwardens' choral speaking was particularly impressive as they, in unison, read the Letter of Intent for the United Benefice before signing it; especially as they had had no time to rehearse before the service! Another thank you also goes to them for all their efforts in organising all the details over invitations, parking, and overseeing the catering. Thanks to Graham Tipper and Jim Saunders for sorting out the Order of Service which proved a particularly trying task (isn't information technology wonderful – sometimes!) And if there's one thing that can be said about this new United Benefice – they can really lay on a 'cracking spread'! So thank you to all who made sandwiches, baked cakes, cooked pies, arranged flowers laid the table, sorted out the chairs and tables – and laboured long and hard making gallons of tea and coffee! (As I watched on the news broadcast the new Pope Francis give his inaugural Pontifical blessing from the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square I couldn't help wondering if he too would go on to enjoy a good 'Jacob's Join' in the Vatican afterwards!)

Celebrations are wonderful things – there's a lot to be said for a good party; and of course Our Lord himself wasn't averse to the odd "knees-up", even one occasion providing enough wine to leave everyone with a headache the next morning! I remember attending a mission and outreach service in a pub many years ago where the worship leader opened proceedings by announcing "I like pubs – and God does too, after all, his Son was born at the back of one!" Whatever we may think about the historical veracity of that statement I think we can all understand the motivation behind it. And this time of year is for the Christian Church the greatest celebration of all as we give thanks to God for, and rejoice in, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Human joys and sorrows, weddings, parties, and wakes, beginnings and endings are at the very heart of God in Christ, the Second Person of the

Trinity, very God from very God. Not for us a God who sits on a cloud far above the strains and stresses and the “slings and arrows” of life for our God is a God who “risked an incarnation” and entered into creation for love, love of me and love of you. The heart of the good news of the Gospel is the fact that “in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself (2 Cor. 5,19).” Our Creator God saw all that God had made and saw that it was good (Genesis 1,31), and even after humankind had rejected God’s will in favour of their own conceit (Genesis 3. 21) continued to find it very good, continued to long for individual women and men to enter into relationship and partnership with God to bring about the kingdom. And out of that yearning love the Word became flesh and lived among us (John 1, 14). Out of that yearning love the Holy Spirit came with rushing wind and tongues of fire (Acts 2, 2&3). And out of that yearning love God continues to call young and old, men and women, you and me to respond with joyful love and praise – and to go out and tell the good news to all (Matthew 28, 19).

So this Eastertide let’s have a celebration! Let’s celebrate the good news of Christ who lived, and died and rose again for love. But let us also remember that Christ’s risen body still bears the scars of suffering and crucifixion. Let us remember that when the celebrations turn to tears our God knows and knows just what it’s like – in fact only God can say ‘I know - I know how you feel’ and it be nothing more than the literal truth. Whether we’re celebrating or weeping, God knows and God is there.

With every blessing

Amma Sue



Hometime Afternoon tea.

The back of church becomes a tearoom!

Tea/coffee and cakes served.

Next date Friday 19th April 2.30-4pm

All welcome for a small donation

From The Registers

	Communicants	Collections
February 17	68	£390.79
February 24	62	£485.21
March 3	71	£616.10
March 10	95	£497.31

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

Ollie James Walsh

Funeral

We commend to God's keeping the soul of

Tommie Cook

Mellor Youth Fellowship

We will meet on **Friday 19th April** in the Church Narthex 7.30 – 9.00pm when the children will continue working on their personal canvas pictures that will be on display in the Children's Corner in the near future.

We are now able to welcome children **from Year 6 & above** to join us. Cost is £1 and there is a tuck shop available.

We are still short of volunteers to help us with Youth Fellowship. Please, Please can you let Karen Walsh know if you can join our rota to help us and provide for the children.

We look forward to seeing you
The Youth Fellowship Leaders

St. George's Day Disco

Sat. 27th April 7-10pm

Mellor Village Hall

Disco + family fun

Prizes for best fancy dress on theme.

Bring your own drinks + snacks.

Family £10, Adult £3 Child £1.50

All welcome, pay on the night.

**A great chance to meet up with friends,
the children have fun + you've no tidying
up after!!!**

Calendar for April

7th April

2nd Sunday of Easter

10:30am Parish Communion
(Revd Toby Webber)
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(Amma Sue)

14th April

3rd Sunday of Easter

10.30am Parish Communion
(TBA)
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(TBA)

21st April

4th Sunday of Easter

10.30am All Age Worship
(Amma Sue)
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(Amma Sue)

28th April

5th Sunday of Easter

10:30am Parish Communion
(Revd Roland Nicholson)
6.30pm Holy Communion
(Amma Sue)

5th May

6th Sunday of Easter

10:30am Parish Communion
(Revd Roland Nicholson)
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

Flower arrangers

Date	Donator	Arranger
7th April	None	Di Ibbotson
14th April	None	Joan Moss
21st April	Marion Hunt	Debbie Summersgill/Lorna Bowes
28th April	Karen Walsh	Margaret Eccleston
5th May	Sheila Turner	Di Ibbotson

Sidespersons

Date	Morning	Morning	Evening
7th April	S Nelson	S Tipper	N Walsh
14th April	C Davis	S Saunders	J Moss
21st April	A Bibby	P Cowell	G Tipper
28th April	N Walsh	M Hodson	J Saunders
5th May	J Moss	P Webster	S Saunders

Chalice servers and Intercessors

Date	Servers	Intercessors
7th April	Eileen Peake & Linda Livesey	Geoff Gill
14th April	Graham Tipper & Marion Hunt	Linda Livesey
21st April	Rita Gorman & Eileen Peake	Debbie Chadwick
28th April	Geoff Gill & Graham Tipper	Sonia Tipper
5th May	Eileen Peake & Linda Livesey	Frank Ashton

Cleaning

Week commencing	Cleaners
1st April	Debbie Chadwick & Barbara Lucas
8th April	Janice Ball, Linda Livesey & Lorna Shaw
15th April	Maureen Forrest, Hilda Hilton & Marilyn Watson
22nd April	Vicky Dewhurst, Jane Greenough & Katie Rolson
29th April	Marion Hunt, Di Ibbotson & Sue Ellison

Recycled Cards

Thanks to your generous support recent donations totalling £246 include:-

<u>January</u> 2013	St Mary's Church Mellor	£200
	(From sale of Church Christmas Cards and "Display Cards")	
	St Mary's Church Mellor	£6
	(Tea towels for Narthex kitchen)	
<u>February</u>	Mothers' Union A G M fundraising	£10
	Marie Curie (Lory Barreau Fundraising)	£20
<u>March</u>	Comic Relief	£10
	(via Day School Red Nose Day)	

Many, many thanks to Joan Hak and Joan's daughter, Fiona for the beautiful Easter Cards they made for us to sell.

Also, for the 36 'chickens' (filled with Crème Eggs) knitted by Joan – what a great supporter!

We are at present working on a design for this year's Confirmation Cards which will be available soon.

Jean, Rita, Sheila and Sonia

Coffee Morning

Thursday 11th April from 10.30 - 12.30 at Cuerdale Hall Farm, Cuerdale Lane, Samlesbury, by kind permission of Edward and Joanne Eastham.

Tickets are £2, children free, including biscuits and coffee, there will be children's games, a produce stall, and a raffle etc. Samlesbury St. Leonard social committee have arranged this.

Mellor Baby & Toddler Group

Come along and join in the fun with the babies, toddlers and their mums / dads / grandparents from Mellor and the surrounding community.

In April we will be meeting on **Friday 12th and 26th (Zumba Tots)**

1.45pm – 3.00pm

St. Mary's Court Community Centre (opposite Church)

£2 per family including refreshments

Contact: Karen Walsh 01254-812939 / 07507-293484

Churchyard Spring Cleaning

Once again it is time for our annual churchyard spring clean to remove the dead leaves, broken branches and general litter that has accumulated over the winter. This will enable our dedicated team of mowers to once again start mowing and keeping the whole area looking neat and tidy, making the churchyard an attractive place for visitors to come to as they attend the graves or just to look around.

The date for the clean-up will be **Monday 8th April** and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible with rakes, forks and wheelbarrows from 6.00pm onwards to help with this task.

Sunday School News



Lessons

We don't return to Sunday school until 21st April for All Age Worship. It is hoped that Amber will be able to cut the ribbon on our Jubilee project of updating Children's Corner at this service. Please try to come along.

28th – in school

Mothering Sunday

Thank you to the mums and children who took part in the Mothering Sunday service. We hope all the ladies of the parish had a lovely day and enjoyed their flowers.

St Georges Day Disco.

We have organised a family disco for 27th April 7 -10pm. Dress up as a knight, princess or hero. Grown ups get your costumes on too. Tickets are the usual £10 a family. Amber will be face painting & selling hotdogs to raise money for her charity. Bring your own as usual. A good chance for a family night to meet up with friends.

Rumble in the Jumble.

Amber will be having her bring and buy in the village hall on Sat 13th April 10- 2pm. We need donations of goods to sell, cakes for the cake stall but especially help on the stalls. Goods can be dropped at Sunday school any Sunday, or left with any of the S.School teachers. A list for helpers will be in the back of church. Even half an hour of your time would help to raise some money for our brave soldiers.

Any child is welcome to come and join us in Sunday School. Please don't feel that they if they can't come every week it is a problem. We love to see them whenever they can get here!

From All the teachers x



“A Very Happy Birthday”

April birthdays from the baptism, Sunday School and Youth Fellowship registers are:

2nd	Molly Baron	12th	Joshua Jarrald
3rd	Lucy Taylor	15th	Albert Moss Evans
5th	Olivia Hussey	17th	Jacob Waddicor
5th	Leo Brown	20th	Alexander Bedford
9th	Matthew Cooper	21st	Jessica Smith
10th	Oliver Rolston	29th	Ethan Broomes
11th	Hannah Pickering	30th	Ruby King
11th	Emma Hilton		

Do you have a Special Birthday coming up? Would you like us to mention it in the Church magazine? Let us know.



He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

**Come and join the celebrations
Easter Sunday**

**Take a short walk to our short
outdoor service**

**Back to church for bacon butties –
a lovely joyous way to start your
Easter Sunday.**

All welcome



Mothers' Union

We had an educational meeting in March when Dr. G. Jones spoke to us about the history and treatment of diabetes.

We meet in April on Tuesday 9th and welcome Mr Peter Tomlinson, a well known local speaker and singer.

On May 1st we are invited to Balderstone for the Mothers Union Whalley Deanery Festival and we have our theatre outing to see "Me and My Girl" on Tuesday the 14th. Please let Rita have your name and money (£9) for the theatre trip as soon as possible.

We were all saddened by the death of Mrs Tommie Cook, a very loyal and hard working member of our branch until she moved to Scotland 3^{1/2} years ago. It was good that many of us were able to attend her funeral. Our love and sympathy were sent to her sister, Jean, and the family.

Margaret Ashton

Amber Asks.....

I am holding a jumble sale to raise money for my charity. Please could you let me have any unwanted items. Anything welcome. We are also having a cake stall if possible. They can be given to Sunday school or taken to church and my mum will collect them each week, or bring them on the day.

If anyone could help with the stalls I would be very grateful. A list will be in church. Even half an hour would be a great help. This is my big event so I hope you will all come along and support all those soldiers who have been injured in the line of duty.

It's on 13th April in the village hall 10- 2pm

Thank you x

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School

The Spring Term has been short but very busy in school. During Lent, we have encouraged the children "to give up and to give". For our Lenten Project, we have been collecting food for the Blackburn Foodbank run by the trussell trust. Each Friday morning, children have been bringing a tin of fruit or a packet of sugar, cartons of fruit juice and milk plus tins of ham or tuna. There is no expectation that families will provide every week but the shelves in the corner of the hall are overflowing with generous donations. This food will be collected before the end of term and we thank everyone who has contributed to "A Blessing of Food this Easter".

In the last week of term, we shall be holding special acts of worship each day based on the events of Holy Week. A different member of staff helped by the children will lead the worship and each child will make a cross which will be held during prayers. These will then be taken home together with an Easter card to celebrate Easter Day.

All parents are welcome to visit School on Thursday, 28th March from 1.30 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. The afternoon will commence with a display of decorated Easter eggs and colouring pictures followed by the parade of Easter hats. The winners of the FOSMS Easter Raffle will be announced followed by playtime for the children. Tea and cake will then be served to parents and grandparents after which there will be the opportunity for parents to observe R.E. lessons in each classroom.

School will close as usual after prayers at 3.15 p.m. when all children will be given an Easter egg. If the weather is fine, the Easter eggs will be hidden around the school field for a treasure hunt.

School will close on Thursday, 28th March at 3:15pm and open on Monday, 15th April.

Happy Easter to all parishioners from everyone at school.

Chris Taylor Headteacher

OCMM OFFICE TIMES

As Amma Sue is a member of a religious community, the Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary (OCMM), she will be joined at the vicarage by the other professed Sister in OCMM, Sister Judith. Sister Judith is the Blackburn Diocese course director for the Called to Serve course and is the Reader in the parish of Christ the King in Blackburn. As part of their Rule of Life the Sisters' day is built around their set prayer times (Daily Offices); some of these Offices will take place in Church and everyone is welcome to come and join the Sisters for them (as the vicarage is in Mellor they will be using St. Mary's for their daily prayer). During these times the Sisters will be unable to answer the door or telephone – but that doesn't mean they are ignoring you, just that God has their primary attention at the time! So, please do leave a message on the answer phone or pop a note through the door and they will call you back as soon as they can. (The Sisters will keep Friday as their usual day off).

The Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary **Daily Office times – Monday to Thursday and Saturday**

7.00am	Lauds - Church
7.30am	Prime - Church
8.00am	Said Eucharist – Church (Sunday 10.30am Parish Eucharist)
12.30pm	Sext – Vicarage
5.00pm	Vespers – Church (Sunday 6.30pm Evensong)
9.30pm	Compline – Vicarage (<i>the Sisters keep Silence after Compline until after the 8.00am Eucharist and so will not be able to answer the telephone – except for emergencies- after 9.30pm</i>).

The Social Committees

of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury together were asked to organise the buffet after the Service of Induction for Amma Sue on Tuesday March 12th.

This was the first opportunity we had for all the Committees to work together on a joint venture and it proved to be a very enjoyable experience. Help from all quarters was enthusiastic and plentiful. The food was excellent, the atmosphere warm and friendly.

In future the Committees hope to be liaising with one another on other joint ventures, and we look forward to an exciting time as we enter into the future of our new United Benefice.

From all Committee members to everyone who offered help and support,

a Big Thank you!

Rose Queen 2013

Can you believe it is the time to think about our new Rose Queen already? Time flies so quickly.

For anyone new to the parish here is an outline of their roles and how they are chosen.

The Rose Queen and her retinue represent the children of the parish. They have many jobs to do. They visit other churches for their Walking Day and are all expected to take an active part in the year of our church. The Rose Queen is especially busy. Her roles include involvement in each All Age Worship, attending Sunday School each week to help the teachers in any way she can and raising money for her charity.

The Attendants are chosen from the primary age Sunday School children who have the best attendance. The Queen has always been the high school girl with the best attendance. This means that we don't have an age limit, the girls have an equal chance right up to the end of year 12. So keep coming to Sunday school! It would be unfair if a year 12 girl was Queen with 10 attendances, over a year 7 with 35 attendances, which is why it is not granted purely on age.

We are pleased to announce our 2013 retinue –

Rose Queen

Miss Emily Walsh

Cushion bearer

Matthew Walsh

Attendants

**Marcey Olsson, Lacey Finch,
Lucy Taylor and Neve Olsson.**

Little Angels



We are hoping for a good turn at our 15th birthday on Tuesday, 30th April at 2.15pm in the Narthex with the usual fun, friendship, games and a birthday cake.

The first meeting was held in April 1998 and some of the first 'little angels' are now at University!

Please remember that all little ones are welcome to join us.

Hilda, Irene, Margaret, Rita and Gillian

Fairtrade

- before and following the Parish Communion Service on Sunday, 7th April

"During a recent shopping trip to the Capitol Centre at Walton-le-Dale I chatted with a lady who was promoting Fairtrade goods on a stall at the entrance to the store. We next met at the Induction Service of Amma Sue where she asked to be introduced to Mrs Taylor with a view to visiting school to talk to the children about Fairtrade." – Rita

The Fairtrade Team

Welcome, Amma Sue!

The service for the Institution and Induction of Rev'd Dr Sue Williams took place on Tuesday 12 March at St Mary's, Mellor. Bishop Cyril Ashton led the service, which marked both Amma Sue's installation as our new Vicar and the foundation of the United Benefice of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury.

A large congregation from all three churches, together with Amma Sue's family, friends, members of the clergy, lay workers, civic dignitaries and representatives of our churches took part in and thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful occasion. Many people have commented on so many enjoyable aspects of the service, from the hymns and readings to the Bishop's meaningful – and humorous! – sermon, the organ music and the singing of the combined choirs. Thanks must go to all, too many to mention individually, who contributed in any way to the occasion, but a special mention must go to the flower arrangers for the beautiful displays and the volunteers from all three churches who worked so hard in providing the splendid refreshments afterwards!

In short, this was an uplifting experience which created a genuine feeling of togetherness, warmth and hopeful feelings for the future.

We welcome both Amma Sue and Sister Judith as members of the Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary and offer our sincere thanks to Fr Roland for all that he and other visiting clergy have done for us during the interregnum.

In the words of the document signed by all the churchwardens:

"We commit ourselves to working together with our Vicar to build the United Benefice of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury in order to reach out in love and generosity to our neighbours and our world; and to engender a spirit of Christian love and fellowship between the worshipping communities."

We hope and pray that this may be so.

Welcome, Amma Sue!

Graham and Jim

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BALDERSTONE, MELLOR AND SAMLESBURY

STATEMENT OF INTENT.

Throughout the centuries the people of God in the parishes of Balderstone St Leonard, Mellor St Mary and Samlesbury St Leonard have witnessed to God's unceasing love for the world by their faithful discipleship and commitment to Christ. In the continuing faith story of these communities the three parishes have now entered into a closer relationship with each other.

In obedience to God's call, God's people in these parishes now commit themselves to working together with their Vicar to build the United Benefice of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury in order to reach out in love and generosity to our neighbours and our world; and to engender a spirit of Christian love and fellowship between the worshipping communities so that we may better respond to Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations" [Matthew chapter 28 verse 19].

As the United Benefice of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury we commit ourselves to working closely together as God's family and we ask for the continued guidance of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit as we journey together in partnership, love and service in order to be better equipped for our mission and ministry as the Church of God in this place.

And so we pray:

Gracious and Holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ Our Lord

12 March 2013

Vestry Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

About twenty members of the congregation attended these meetings in church on Sunday 17 March, chaired by our new Vicar, Amma Sue. She opened with prayers and welcomed everyone to the Vestry Meeting. There being no other nominations, Graham Tipper and Jim Saunders were re-elected as churchwardens and Debbie Chadwick, Sue Nelson, Bill Shaw and Karen Walsh were re-elected to serve on the PCC. As no-one has yet come forward to be PCC secretary, Jim will continue to take this on in the meantime.

Most of the AGM focussed on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2012, ably prepared by our hard-working treasurer, Stewart Woodward. Graham outlined the positive aspects: income and expenditure were in balance, the Parish Share had been paid in full and planned giving had increased slightly. However, the bad news was that we had had to pay out £10,000 for the removal of asbestos and other work in the boiler house and the really bad news was that we are now faced with repair costs in excess of £40,000 for this area and repairs to the east end of the church. As this will exhaust our funds, we will need to launch an appeal.

Happily, Amma Sue lifted the feeling of gloom with her inspiring words for the future. We are all individuals with differing gifts and talents to be valued and our parishes will continue to be worshipping communities with their own distinctive ways and traditions. At the same time, we should embrace the possibilities which the United Benefice offers. In short, "...we will need to have the courage to explore new ideas, the wisdom to discern from our past, and the obedience to walk with Christ."

Graham and Jim

St. Mary's Rose Queen Charity Fundraiser for



Rumble in the Jumble

Grand Bring and Buy Sale

Saturday 13th April

10 – 2pm

Mellor Village Hall.

Come and grab a bargain
and support our brave
soldiers.

Refreshments available

Debbie and Katie report on the Children's Work Conference.

On a lovely Saturday we headed off to Morecambe to join leaders from the four corners of our diocese.

We began with worship, an uplifting experience with everyone in the hall singing and praying together. We really felt that God was in the room, blessing us in our work. During the day we had regular times set aside to come together for prayer.

Over the day we had presentations by the team from Fischy music. They produce songs for children, all based on Christian principles. Everybody was happy to do the actions, or the sign language, which accompanied the songs. It was fantastic fun and we bought a resource pack (from Afternoon Tea cash- thank you) which the children have already tried out and enjoyed.

There were lots of different sessions during the day. We had an example of the 'Open the Book' scheme, where volunteers get together to go into schools to bring the Bible to life with storytelling. There was Messy Church, a question and answer session and ideas for crafts and how to use them in lots of different ways from a basic idea. The only problem now is what to do first??? So many great ideas we could use in Mellor we are spoilt for choice.