

Readers for December

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2nd Dec | Advent 1 | |
| Morning | M Ashton | Jeremiah 33. 14-16 |
| | M Woodward | 1 Thessalonians 3. 9-13 |
| | Celebrant | Luke 21. 25-36 |
| 9th Dec | Advent 2 | |
| Morning | A Smith | Malchi 3. 1-4 |
| | G Gill | Philippians 1. 3-11 |
| | Celebrant | Luke 3. 1-6 |
| Evening | M Watson | Isaiah 40. 1-11 |
| | N Hogg | Luke 1. 1-25 |
| 16th Dec | Advent 3 – All Age Worship | |
| Morning | All Age Worship | Zephaniah 3. 14-20 |
| | | Philippians 4. 4-7 |
| | | Luke 3. 7-18 |
| Evening | S Brindle | Isaiah 35 |
| | M Riley | Luke 1 57-66 |
| 23rd Dec | Advent 4 | |
| Morning | R Jones | Micah 5.2-5a |
| | D Summersgill | Hebrews 10.5-10 |
| | Celebrant | Luke 1.39-45 |
| 24th Dec | Christmas Eve | |
| Evening | S Gill | Isaiah 52. 7-10 |
| | W Shaw | Hebrews 1. 1-4 |
| | Celebrant | John 1. 1-14 |
| 25th Dec | Christmas Day | |
| Morning | G Gill | Isaiah 52. 7-10 |
| | D Chadwick | Hebrews 1. 1-4 |
| | Celebrant | John 1. 1-14 |
| 31st Dec | Christmas 1 | |
| Morning | F Ashton | 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 |
| | S Tipper | Colossians 3.12-17 |
| | Celebrant | Luke 2. 41-52 |
| Evening | N Hogg | 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 |
| | S Nelson | Colossians 3.12-17 |
| | Celebrant | Luke 2. 41-52 |

Dear Friends,

Christ the Light of the World

Many of you know by now how I hate to see Christmas celebrated too early BUT I do understand the reasons like for example in schools, but as Christians we must not forget the importance of the four weeks of ADVENT preparing us for the great festival of the Incarnation. I also realise the need for a Christmas message in this month's magazine.

It may come as a surprise to some to learn that the actual date of Christ's birth is unknown. December 25th was chosen by Rome around the year 300AD. Why this particular date ?

Going back a long time, before artificial light was invented, the season of winter was long, and dark, and dreary. And all of this was due to the fact that the sun had gone away. However, the people knew that at a certain point the sun began to come back, and things changed for the better. So they had a feast to celebrate this fact. It was known as the feast of the Unconquerable Sun (Sol invictus).

To counter this pagan feast the Church chose December 25th, which is close to the winter solstice, to celebrate the birth of Christ. Instead of worshipping the Sun-God, people were encouraged to worship Christ, the Son of God. The Church saw the coming of Jesus a fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah: `The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light;` Jesus described his mission in similar terms when he said: `I am the light of the World.`

December is the darkest month of the year (in the northern hemisphere). It is a time when we appreciate the value of light. Christmas means the coming of God's light into the darkness of our world. Someone described Christmas as a pool of light in the inky darkness of winter.

How dark the world would be if the Light of Christ had never shone. The Russian writer, Dostoevsky, put it like this: `While we are on

earth, we grope in the dark, and, but for the precious image of Christ before us, we would lose our way completely and perish.`

The teaching of Christ was truly a source of light to all who accepted him. But it was above all through his deeds and encounters with people that his luminous goodness manifested itself. Countless people came to him in darkness and went away bathed in light.

Christ`s light was not lit in Bethlehem once and then extinguished. Unlike the sun, Christ`s light knows no setting. It continues to shine for all who believe in him and follow him. The Light of Christ is a persistent light, and has the power to draw people to its shining. It is not an illusory comfort, or a false reassurance that all is well when this is clearly not the case. It shines in the midst of devastation, disaster and upheaval. The Gospel is a persistent and defiant light, which no darkness can overpower.

Christ`s light comes as a friend. It brings healing not hurt, freedom not oppression, life not death. Those who follow him will always have the light of life. He teaches us who we are and what our destiny is. We are children of God, destined for eternal life. May the Lord in his goodness give us a taste of that joy which the shepherds experienced when the light of God`s glory shone around them on that first Christmas night.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy, Blessed and Peaceful Christmas.

Fr Roland.

From The Registers

| | Communicants | Collections |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| October 21 | 39 | £285.28 |
| October 28 | 68 | £468.07 |
| November 4 | 72 | £529.05 |
| November 11 Remembrance Sunday | 105 | £610.59 |
| November 18 | 65 | £484.82 |

** Of the Remembrance Sunday collection £244.90 was sent to the Royal British Legion.

Funeral

We commend to God's keeping the soul of

Albert Kinder
Sandra Procter
Jeanette Carter

Come and join us at:
MELLOR YOUTH CAFE

The Youth Café@ Mellor Village Hall is from 7pm – 9pm and we welcome children from Year 7 and upwards.

This is simply a place to meet up with friends – now that 'X FACTOR' is back, why not come and watch it with your friends?

Free entry – free hot drinks, juice and biscuits.
Also tuck shop and hot dogs for sale.

You can just pop in anytime between 7-9pm or stay all the time, it's up to you.

So come along and join us, bring your friends.

The next date is:
Saturday 22nd December

Calendar for December

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2nd Dec | Advent 1 | |
| | 10.30am | Parish Communion (Rev'd Dr John Darch) |
| | 4.00pm | Advent Service (Rev'd Roland Nicholson) |
| 9th Dec | Advent 2 | |
| | 10.30am | Parish Communion (Rev'd Roland Nicholson) |
| | 6.30pm | Evensong and Sermon (Rev'd Dr John Darch) |
| 16th Dec | Advent 3 – All Age Worship | |
| | 10.30am | Parish Communion (Rev'd Dr John Darch) |
| | 6.30pm | Evensong (Rev'd Toby Webber) |
| 23rd Dec | Advent 4 | |
| | 10.30am | Parish Communion (Rev'd Roland Nicholson) |
| | 6.30pm | Evensong & Holy Communion (Rev'd Roland Nicholson) |
| 24th Dec | Christmas Eve | |
| | 4.00pm | Nativity & Christingle (Geoff Gill) |
| | 11.30pm | Midnight Communion (Rev'd Roland Nicholson) |
| 25th Dec | Christmas Day | |
| | 10.30am | Rev'd Roland Nicholson |
| 31st Dec | Christmas 1 | |
| | 10.30am | Parish Communion (J Hart) |
| | 6.30pm | Parish Communion (Rev'd Roland Nicholson) |

Flower arrangers

| Date | Donator | Arranger |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| 2nd Dec | Advent | No Flowers |
| 9th Dec | Advent | No Flowers |
| 16th Dec | Advent | No Flowers |
| 23rd Dec | Christmas | All |
| 30th Dec | Christmas | All |

Sidespersons

| Date | Morning | Morning | Evening |
|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| 2nd Dec | S Nelson | S Tipper | P Webster |
| 9th Dec | N Walsh | C Davis | P Cowell |
| 16th Dec | G Peake | J Saunders | H Hilton |
| 23rd Dec | A Bibby | P Cowell | G Tipper |
| 24th Dec | - | - | G Peake |
| 25th Dec | G Tipper | - | - |
| 30th Dec | I Moss | G Henderson | G Calvert |

Chalice servers and Intercessors

| Date | Servers | Intercessors |
|----------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 2nd Dec | Eileen Peake & Rita Gorman | Geoff Gill |
| 9th Dec | Geoff Gill & Marian Hunt | Linda Livesey |
| 16th Dec | Graham Tipper & Eileen Peake | Karen Walsh |
| 23rd Dec | Marian Hunt & Linda Livesey | Sonia Tipper |
| 24th Dec | Rita Gorman & Marian Hunt | Frank Ashton |
| 25th Dec | Geoff Gill & Linda Livesey | Geoff Gill |
| 30th Dec | Geoff Gill & Rita Gorman | Linda Livesey |

Cleaning

| Week commencing | Cleaners |
|-----------------|---|
| 2nd Dec | Jean Freeman, Sheila Turner & Joan Venables |
| 9th Dec | Debbie Chadwick & Barbara Lucas |
| 16th Dec | Geoff & Eileen Peake |



Mothers' Union

Linda Sawley was our November speaker. She told us much about Christmas through the ages, the customs and their meaning.

Our stall at the Autumn Fair raised £161. Thank You to all who brought cakes etc and to those who helped on the stall.

We are to enrol and welcome new members on Sunday 2nd December during the 10.30am Eucharist. I hope that as many ladies as possible will come along.

Our Christmas Party will be on Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm. We will have a buffet meal and entertainment by the Day School children and some of our own members. Tickets are £7 and available from Pam Jackson and Christine Redwood.

May I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Margaret Ashton

Mellor Youth Fellowship

Firstly I would like to *thank Matthew Cooper* for joining us at our November All Age Worship service where he read the gospel exceptionally well. The All Age Worship is an opportunity for everyone to come together once a month and it would be great if more Youth Fellowship children and families could join us in the future.

Please note the following change to our December date:

We will now meet on **FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER** (not 7th) in the Church Narthex when we will hopefully be able to use our new television in the Childrens Corner to enjoy a DVD and Pizza night.

We have also been invited to join the Sunday School Christmas Party again - date to follow shortly.

The YF leaders are currently planning our 2013 dates and events. To ensure we can continue with the group we still need parent volunteers to help us on a rota basis - if you are able to help please contact Karen Walsh. Remember if we have plenty of volunteers you may only have to help once a year!

All YF children have been asked to return their completed 'Emergency Contact Forms.' Please can we ask that these are returned as soon as possible, it is very important that we have these details in case of emergency. **We cannot stress the importance of this enough.**

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Youth Fellowship Leaders

'AR ILDA'

I am sad that Hilda has decided to retire as Church Warden.

There is no doubt that the Church owes Hilda a tremendous debt of gratitude as she has tirelessly worked extremely hard to keep the Church going through several difficult years of interregnum.

Hilda took over as Churchwarden during the last stages of the Reverend Peter Hudson's stay in Mellor, and had to shoulder the full weight of responsibility when he left. This was no easy task and virtually took over her life.

I hope Hilda continues to work for the Church in an unofficial way as her knowledge and experience is considerable.

Thank you Hilda!

John Ibbotson



Sunday School News

Lessons

2nd Dec – no Sunday School - Advent service 4pm in Church

9th Dec – in school

16th Dec -All Age Family Service

24th Dec– Nativity + Christingle 4pm

**NEW* Advent Sunday Service*

St Mary's has a new parish service to begin the Advent season. 'Taking home the Light of Christ' is a family service where each family takes home the light from our church candle. All will become clear on the day. We would love everyone in the parish to come along, to mark the beginning of our preparations to celebrate the birth of Christ in this special way.

To make us feel even more full of love, fellowship and the joy of the season, we will have a free family games + quiz afternoon in school from 2-4pm. Refreshments provided. Please come along for an old fashioned family day. Everyone welcome

Autumn Fair

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the fair and who came along to help us. We hope the children enjoyed the games on offer, and the PCC would like to thank you all for your generous support of the rest of the stalls also.

Nativity

We are beginning to plan our Nativity for Christingle and hope that all the children will be able to take part. If your child is given a part but can't attend please let us know ASAP.

Christmas Party

We don't have a date as I write this, but we will make sure all the children get an invite as soon as its sorted

Merry Christmas from all of us xxxxxxxxxx



“A Very Happy Birthday”

December's birthdays from the baptism, Sunday School and Youth Fellowship registers are:

| | | | |
|------|------------------------|------|-------------------|
| 6th | Amelia Redwood | 16th | James Hogg |
| 6th | Matthew Waller | 17th | William Guilfoyle |
| 6th | Bleu Alistair Kimpton | 17th | Thomas Robinson |
| 7th | Thomas Walsh | 18th | Michael Popadiuk |
| 7th | Sophie Baron | 18th | Scarlett Venables |
| 10th | Charlotte Dawson-Smith | 20th | Ruby Baker |
| 13th | Megan Clarkson | 21st | Emily Guilfoyle |
| 13th | Joshua Clarkson | 28th | Harvey Johnson |
| 15th | James Teare | 29th | Charlotte Cleasby |

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



Hometime Afternoon tea.

The back of church becomes a tearoom!

Tea/coffee and cakes served.

Next date Friday 14th December 2.30-4pm

All welcome for a small donation.

Friends of St Mary's School

The FOSMS AGM was held on the 19th September during which Christine Taylor thanked the Friends' Committee for another very successful year, in the Head teacher's report. Over £5000 has been donated to the school through FOSMS with all transport costs paid for, school visits, the furnishing of the Key Stage 1 outdoor play area and new goal posts on the school field. We have also provided extra resources for the Jubilee and Olympics celebrations and musical and PE equipment. FOSMS also fund the Life Education van, which supports much of the PSHE work. We welcomed new members to the committee and the appointment of our new Chair Julie Olsson and Daleen Ten-Cate and Vice Rachel Strand.

The October disco for year 1 to 7 pupils was held on Friday 5th October. Once again this proved very popular, with over 115 children practicing their dance moves in the hall and enjoying the hotdog supper.

The school Bonfire and Firework evening was held on Monday 5th November and raised an amazing £500. Everyone enjoyed the hot chocolate, mulled wine, BBQ and fireworks, appreciated even more on a clear, dry night.

Father Christmas Run

On Friday 14th December the sleigh will be travelling around Mellor Village and on Monday 17th December it will head to Mellor Brook. Now is the time to start saving any spare pennies you may have please.

We will be having Christmas drinks in the Feildens Arms on the 19th December from 7:30pm and the date of our next meeting is Wednesday 16th January at 7:30pm in the school.

FOSMS always welcomes new members and you can give as much time as you like. If joining the committee is not possible, but you are interested in volunteering to help at our events, please contact Julie or Daleen via the school.

Zoë Metcalf
Secretary



Invitation to Christingle + Sunday School Nativity

Christmas Eve 4pm

Please join us for this lovely All Age Worship service. Celebrate the birth of Christ, the Light of the World with family and friends.

Fill a Christingle collection candle and your donations will help children in the North West who are in need.

Bring your collection candle to the service and exchange it for your Christingle.

Collection candles available from church, Sunday school and a letter is sent to each school pupil

ALSO.....Sunday School Nativity

The Sunday School will remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas when they recreate the Nativity story.



Everyone Welcome, please join us, we'd love to see all the children in their angel, shepherd or wise man costumes to join the Sunday School in telling the story.

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 December we will be meeting on Friday 14th for our Christmas Party with 'Zumba Tots'

1.45pm – 3.00pm

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

£2 per family including refreshments

*** We now offer a loyalty scheme – attend 6 sessions then receive 7th session FREE*

Contact: Karen Walsh 01254-814922 / 07507-293484

Cancer Research UK

I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone for your kind support and generous sponsorship of my runs this Autumn. The Great North Run was a fantastic experience and one which I would recommend to anyone who enjoys running. The Preston Guild Marathon was a challenge! It was run on a very cold, wet, windy day over an undulating course and I was delighted to finish in 3 hours, 43 minutes and 24 seconds.

Most importantly, due to everyone's wonderful generosity, £1066 (£1265 with Gift Aid) was donated to Cancer Research UK.

Thank you all so much for your sponsorship,

Michael Oddie

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News

December means Christmas to everyone in school. Services, concerts and surprises are arranged so that every child has a special time which they will always remember. Throughout 2012, we have been discussing Christian values in our daily worship and our main theme this month is the feeling of joy.

All the children look forward to the four Christmas Concerts which start on Wednesday 5th December with the first performance of Peter Pan and the Pirates. If any parishioner would like to attend on Friday afternoon, please contact Mrs. Skupski on Monday 3rd December. We are also pleased to be asked to provide entertainment for the Mothers' Union Christmas party on Tuesday, 11th December. On Wednesday 12th December, the whole School will be travelling to Blackburn Cathedral to lead a service of Lunchtime Carols at 1.00pm. Parents and friends are welcome to join us. We all look forward to the Christmas parties on Monday 17th December and Mrs McPherson will be taking the Reception class to sing carols at the Little Angels Service on Tuesday, 18th December at 2:30pm.

The school Nativity Service will be held in St. Mary's Church on the last day of term which is Friday 21st December at 2:15pm. The Foundation Stage will be involved in the nativity scenes with the older children telling the story of baby Jesus and singing carols.

The children, staff and governors would like to wish all parishioners a very joyful, peaceful Christmas.

Christine Taylor
Headteacher

???? The Village Quiz ????

Once again we will be holding

The Village Quiz in

St Mary's Church School

Date will be Friday 15th February 2013

Further details will be announced shortly, but in the meantime make a note in your diary. The event was very popular last year, and there will have to be a limit on the number of tickets sold.

The Social & Fundraising Committee

Flowers in Church

There are still some 2013 dates available if you would like to donate to the Church flowers during the year.

Please contact Joan Moss on 81-3581 if you would like to donate one week.

Autumn Fayre

The Autumn Fayre held in School on Sat 10th November was a great success. The Social Committee and I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make it so successful, both on the day and beforehand, and also of course everyone who came on the day to spend money with us. Without that support we would never have been able to raise so much money for the Church. Thanks must also go to Alan Bell who opened the event for us.

| STALL | TAKE |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Door | £196.40 |
| Prize Draw | £611.00 |
| White Elephant | £35.10 |
| Choir & Books | £232.20 |
| Cards & Gifts | £245.55 |
| Bottle Stall | £187.50 |
| Mothers' Union | £161.00 |
| Sunday School | £122.56 |
| Day School Tombola & Father Christmas | £49.10 |
| Sweets | £177.20 |
| Cafe | £302.54 |
| Fashion Jewellery | £136.10 |
| Donation | £10.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | £2466.25 (Last year £2078) |
| *The Meat Raffle this year was included in the Prize Draw | |
| *The total for Day School was low due to administrative reasons, but this will be balanced out next year. | |

LANCASHIRE SINGS CHRISTMAS

Mellor Village Hall

Thursday 20th December 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

As part of “Christmas in the community”, we at Mellor Methodists would like to invite your congregation to join us at Radio Lancashire’s Lancashire Sings Christmas event on the Thursday before Christmas at Mellor Village Hall.

All standard of singers welcome and if your Choir would like to take a lead that would be most welcome. First half hour will be to warm up!! then the Radio broadcast will be between 7pm and 8pm from various venues across the County.

Hot Refreshments will be served.

All welcome so come and join us for well known carols and plenty of fun.

For more details please contact either Phil Taylor on 01254 813630 or Fiona Murtagh on 01254 813663

***TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST HOME
A FAMILY SERVICE FOR ADVENT***

There is to be a special FAMILY SERVICE at 4.00pm on
ADVENT SUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd. at ST MARYS MELLOR.

This service is a joint service for all the churches at which children
will receive the Light of Christ to take home plus an ADVENT
CANDLE for each family.

Please come along and join in this short service of music and
words....approx 40 minutes.

Fr Roland

Thank You

A sincere Thank You to all those who said prayers, sent cards or
made telephone enquiries during my recent stay in hospital.

Your moral support is appreciated and helps speed the road to
recovery.

Thanking you,
Geoff Peake

Appointment of Churchwarden

At the Extraordinary Vestry Meeting on Monday 12th November, chaired by our Area Dean, the Reverend Michael Woods, Jim Saunders was unanimously elected to serve as Churchwarden. Jim will be formally admitted to the position by Archdeacon John at a short service to be held on Thursday 13th December.

Please remember Jim in your prayers and give him your support as he undertakes this important role.

Graham

Jesus, the Light of the World

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving.

Amen.

Remembrance Sunday 11th November 2012

This year the Annual Service of Remembrance took place on Sunday 11th November when the service was conducted by the Rev'd Roland Nicholson. The names of the servicemen from Mellor who had died serving their country were read out by John Ibbotson and the Last Post and Reveille were played by George Barnes.

Following the service in church the choir and congregation processed to the village War Memorial where wreaths were laid by:

Joseph Greenhough and Ben Holtom on behalf of the children of Mellor

P.C Jo Dolan on behalf of the local police force

Councillor Fiona Murtagh on behalf of Mellor Parish Council

Hilda Hilton on behalf of St Mary's Church

Following the service a cheque for £244.90 has been sent to the Royal British Legion.