

MELLOR PARISH CHURCH

Vicar

Rev'd Dr Sue Williams
01254 812154

Church Wardens

Graham Tipper 813565
Deputies: Geoff Gill Graham Calvert

Organist

Mike Wilcock 01254 581816

Parochial Church Council
www.mellorparishchurch.org

Chairperson Rev'd Dr Sue Williams
Clerk & Secretary Jim Saunders
Treasurer Graham Tipper

Marilyn Watson (2017) Graham Tipper (2017)
Sue Saunders (2017) Geoff Gill (2015)
Rita Gorman (2015) Debbie Summersgill (2015)
Debbie Chadwick (2016) Sue Nelson (2016)
William Shaw (2016) Karen Walsh (2016)
Barbara Lucas (Youth Coordinator)

Sidespersons

Alan Bibby Graham Calvert Peter Cowell
Chris Davis Mark Hodson David Holroyd Paul Hughes
Barbara Lucas Ian Moss Joan Moss Sue Nelson
Geoff Peake Jim Saunders Alan Smith
Sonia Tipper Noel Walsh Pat Webster

Calendar for December

December 7 Second Sunday of Advent
10.30 Parish Communion
(Rev'd Gary Hunt)
6.30 Evensong
(Amma Sue)

December 8 2.00pm 'Little Angels'

December 9 7.30pm Mothers' Union Christmas Party

December 14 Third Sunday of Advent
10.30 Parish Communion

		All Age Worship (Canon John Hartley)
6.30		Evensong Mrs Linda Leadbetter
December 19-21		Christmas Tree Festival
December 21		<u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u>
10.30		Parish Communion (Amma Sue)
6.00		Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols (Amma Sue)
December 24		<u>Christmas Eve</u>
4.00		Christingle (Geoff Gill)
11.30		Midnight Mass (Canon John Hartley)
December 25		<u>Christmas Day</u>
10.30		Parish Communion (Rev'd Dr John Darch)
December 28		<u>The Holy Innocents</u>
10.30		Parish Communion (Canon John Hartley)
6.30		Holy Communion (Amma Sue)

**Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel every Tuesday at 9.30am
followed by Coffee in the Narthex**

Dear Friends

A few years ago I was invited to preach at a Mothering Sunday service. Similarly to our own traditions, the parish had arranged for small posies of flowers to be given to the children in Sunday School so that they could then give them to their mothers, grandmothers, aunts etc. Dutifully the children marched into church after Sunday School and handed over their flowers. Except for one little girl who determinedly stamped up the aisle to the vicar and presented him with the flowers; "Who are these for?" he asked, and with all the withering contempt of a six year old, she replied, "Jesus' mummy of course!" Suitably chastened he placed them on the altar in the Lady Chapel.

Of course at this time of year our thoughts once again turn to Mary, the Mother of our Lord. And as you all know I have a particular devotion to Our Lady. It's an aspect of my spirituality that folk often find surprising when they also find out that I used to teach Feminist Theology to trainee priests! However, I don't believe that the two things cancel each other out. The problem is of course that for most of the church's history Mary has been imagined as meek, submissive, gentle – and not a little soppy! Of course, not having any detailed biography to go on, Mary, like all saints before the advent of mass communication has most often been made in a particular cultural or ecclesial image. It's a process to which I and other Feminist theologians, are no less immune as we re-assess our own and the church's image of and relationship to this amazing first century Jewish woman.

That said it seems to me that we can infer quite a lot about her life and character even from

the small amount of information we have in the Gospels and Acts.

First of all there is her amazing faith and courage. It was her heroic trust and faith in God that led to her Fiat – her wonderful response to God’s request that she enter into partnership with God in bringing about the Kingdom. “Behold the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to you word!” For a first century Jewish woman found to be pregnant outside of marriage this could have been a death sentence. Mary was prepared to put her life on the line for God and God didn’t let her down! From a worried mother of a lost child, through the agony of watching her son die, to the faithful disciple awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, Mary is the supreme example of faith and faithfulness.

But Mary also stands for us, for she is “everyone”. Mary the human mother gazing in love at her new born baby in the manger didn’t have an easy life. She like her son knew the fear of the refugee; she knew the ups and downs of everyday life; she shared the puzzlement of Jesus’ friends and disciples as he engaged with his earthly ministry. And through it all she ‘pondered these things in her heart.’

Far from being the sappy girl on a Christmas card she was a faithful and heroic disciple of her Son, the Word made Flesh. And she remains an example to us all of perfect discipleship as we celebrate once again her willingness to enter into partnership with Almighty God to bring about God’s plan for the salvation of the world –the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

Wishing you all a blessed and happy Christmas
Amma Sue

*****A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY*****

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH MARK!

*A four session study group for Advent
taking a look at Mark’s Gospel*

Wednesday 3rd December,
Tuesday 9th December
and Tuesday 16th December

7.00pm – 9.00pm
Venue to be arranged.

From The Registers

		Communicants	Collections
October	19	55	£495.58
	26	86	£575.36
November	2	65	£778.05

9	125	£821.48
16	63	£477.90
23	78	£554.17

Wedding

We ask God's blessing on:

Jessica A Holroyd & Gordon W Hayes

Funeral

We commend to God's care

Hedley Sharples

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.

FOSMS NEWS

FOSMS have had a great start to the academic year with the children's disco held in October. This was followed by our annual bonfire and fireworks event, a great evening enjoyed by many on the 5th November. We would like to thank all the volunteers who supported the event by giving their time to sort out the BBQ, served hot drinks, looked after the sweet stalls and built the bonfire. All our efforts have raised an amazing £1,100 all of which goes back to the school children via the teachers' wish list. One of the items on the list is the Tipi, the outdoor canvas structure which is already here on the school Field if anyone would like to take a look.

We are currently planning our Christmas fund raising events, the first one being the production of the Christmas Concert Magazine through which we are able to raise money through local advertisers, we appreciate your support.

In addition we are preparing for the Father Christmas Run, which is to be held mid December. Please look to our FOSMS newsletter distributed via the children's reading packs.

If you would like to join the FOSMS team please contact Emma Hilton or Vicky Dewhurst.

*Kind regards
The FOSMS Team*

Mellor Connections

Well, it's taken me more than 50 years to realise it but it's true what your parents tell you - time really does pass more quickly when you get older !! I really cannot believe it's 12 months since our singing group started rehearsals for our Christmas concerts and here we are doing it again in 2014. Some new (and quite challenging) songs as well as old favourites are being dusted off and polished up for events this Christmas at the Methodist Chapel and St Mary's. The singing group goes from strength to strength and meets every Tuesday evening in the Village Hall if you would like to give it a go. I'd like to thank Faye for putting up with us and everyone involved in the group, regular and occasional alike, for contributing so much and making every practice session so much fun.

This year we have continued to develop a number of other social events on the back of our singing group - these meet on a regular basis and include a cake club, a walking group and a dining group. My thanks go to the various hosts and organisers of these events and to Anson and his team at The Millstone for the fantastic food!

John Hymas

Church Rotas December

Sidespersons

		Morning		Evening
December	7	S Nelson	S Tipper	N Hogg
	14	J Saunders	B Lucas	S Nelson
	21	P Hughes	I Moss	G Tipper
	24			N Walsh
	25	M Hodson		
	28	A Smith	G Peake	

Chalice Servers

Intercessors

December	7	Graham Tipper	Rita Gorman	Linda Livesey	
	14	Marian Hunt		Geoff Gill	Debbie
Chadwick					
	21	Eileen Peake	Linda Livesey	Sonia Tipper	
	24	Linda Livesey	Marian Hunt		Frank Ashton
	25	Geoff Gill			Geoff Gill
	28	Geoff Gill		Eileen Peake	Linda Livesey

Flowers

Thank you to all who have donated flowers throughout the year and to those who have arranged them.

All arrangers are requested to help with preparation for **The Christmas Tree Festival** which will take place in Church during the weekend 19th- 21st December. Donations towards the cost of flowers would be very welcome –

please see Joan Moss.

Church Cleaning

Week commencing . . .

December	1	Joan Moss & Sonia Tipper
	8	Debbie Chadwick & Barbara Lucas
	15	Janice Ball, Linda Livesey & Lorna Shaw

PCC Assistant Wardens

December	7	J Saunders	S Saunders
December	14	S Nelson	W Shaw
December	21	S Tipper	B Lucas

December 24 G Calvert
Christmas Day G. Gill
December 28 J Saunders

K Walsh
M Watson
S Saunders

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News

Christmas Around the World is the theme for our Christmas worship in 2014 with hymns and prayers from several different countries. This worship starts with Advent Sunday at the end of November and follows the Christmas story until the last day of term.

Plans are going ahead for the four Christmas Concerts which start on Wednesday 3rd December with the first performance of Mellor Christmas Cracker. This is a concert full of Christmas treats with lots of singing, dancing plus Dickens' story of A Christmas Carol. If any parishioner would like to attend on Friday afternoon, please contact Mrs Skupski on Monday 1st December. We are also pleased to be asked to provide entertainment for the Mothers' Union Christmas party on Tuesday, 9th December.

On Monday, 15th December, the whole School will be travelling to Blackburn Cathedral to lead a service of Lunchtime Carols at 1.00pm. Parents and friends are very welcome to join us. We all look forward to the Christmas parties on Tuesday 16th December and Christmas dinner on Wednesday 17th December. Mrs McPherson will be taking the Reception class to sing carols at the Little Angels Service on Monday, 8th 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 19th December at 2:15pm when we look forward to seeing all the Christmas trees including our own school tree in church. The Foundation Stage will re-enact the Nativity 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 happy and peaceful Christmas time.

Christine Taylor
Headteacher

Village Carol Service at Mellor Methodist Church

Tuesday, 16th December at 7.30pm

With the Village Choir.

A very warm welcome to everyone.

Remembrance Sunday Service

A very moving service, with a thought provoking sermon, was lead by Canon John Hartley. The beautiful blending of voices, and the stunning soloists, of the choir were particularly memorable. It was lovely to see so many children in church - we had a little group behind us who, prior to the start of the service, kept us amused with their discussions and knowledge, particularly of the First World War.

Having lost my own Father during the last War, the reading of all those names of Mellor Men who lost their lives is always very moving: all those families who lost sons, husbands, sweethearts at a time when the village was a much closer community - they would all have been known to one another.

There would have been much collective, as well as private, grief.

Following the service, in lovely autumn sunshine there was a very well attended special joint Service of Remembrance at the Village War Memorial where we were joined by congregations from St Mary's Osbaldeston and Mellor Methodist Church. Wreaths were laid by representatives from the Churches, the Parish Council, Mellor School and Lancashire Constabulary.

Afterwards there were refreshments, delicious soup and cakes, in the school where there was a display of WW1 memorabilia and the singing of war time songs by the school choir and by Mellor Singing Group. A lot of work has obviously taken place in school investigating all those Mellor Men who had lost their lives in the First World War. They should be congratulated on that, as we should never forget those sacrifices.

Ian Crooks

Christmas Tree Festival

19th – 21st December 2014

On Friday, 19th December the tree lights will be switched on at 7.00pm and we invite you to come along and see the beautiful trees donated and decorated by local businesses, church and village groups. Tickets costing £5 include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie and entertainment by the Village Singing Group.

On Saturday 20th December church will be open 10.00am - 4.00pm with lunches available. with Father Christmas popping in to say 'Merry Christmas' between 2.00pm – 3.00pm

On Sunday, 21st December refreshments will be available from 2.00pm – 5.00pm

On both days there will be an admittance charge of £2 (children free).

The weekend concludes with the Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.00pm to which everyone is cordially invited.

Autumn Fayre

The Autumn Fayre held in school on Saturday, 8th November was a great success. The Social Committee would like to thank all who worked so hard, both beforehand and on the day, as well as everyone who came to support us by spending their money.

A special word of thanks to Janet & John who opened the Fayre.

Door	122.00	Sunday School	97.19
Prize Draw	754.00	Day School	134.74
Choir	265.00	Sweet Stall	134.10
Cards & Gifts	354.50	Café	242.10
Bottle Stall	208.00	Glass & China	66.00
Mothers' Union	132.35	Julie's Jewels	43.40
		Donation	50.00

Total raised £2,603.38

LITTLE ANGELS

Mrs McPherson and the children in Class 1 will be visiting us at our early Christmas meeting when they will sing Carols and Christmas songs.

You are all welcome to come and join us at 2.15pm in the Narthex on MONDAY, 8th December to share our celebration as we hang our own decorated 'little angels' on the Christmas Tree.

Special 90th birthday wishes to Irene who has been part of the team since started in 1998 from all 'Little Angels' past and present.

Wishing everyone Joy and Peace at Christmas.

Margaret, Rita, Hilda and Gillian

Recycled Cards

2014 has been a very busy year for the card makers and their friends – we have made donations as follows:-

St Mary's Church £300 (Vacuum cleaner and lamps for Narthex)

FOSMS Gala Day £20

East Lancashire Hospice £25

Diabetes UK £25

Orchid Men's Cancer Charities £25

Shine Ovarian Cancer Charity £25

Mothers' Union Harvest Appeal for Rwanda £10

McMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning £20

St Mary's Church Autumn Fayre donation from card sales £34

St Mary's Church Autumn Fayre Prize Draw first prize £100

Children in Need £20

TOTAL £604 so far this year

Your generosity has made this possible – you provide us with the materials and buy the cards – all we do is cut and stick!!! Thank you.

We are pleased to be taking the cards to the Millstone Christmas Market on Wednesday, 3rd December from 4.00 – 9.00pm. Come and see us there!

We have lots of Christmas Cards – recycled, Ann Minoprio's, those from a well-known supermarket, some made by Shelley Walsh (Dorothy's daughter) and this year's special WW1 commemorative card.

Thank you also to our friends, Joan Hak & Jean Price, for their contribution of delightful knitted goods.

Jean, Rita, Sheila & Sonia

"A Very Happy December Birthday"

December birthdays from the Baptism, Sunday School and Youth Fellowship registers are:

6th	Amelia Redwood	17th	William Guilfoyle
6th	Matthew Waller	17th	Thomas Robinson
6th	Bleu Alistair Kimpton	18th	Michael Popadiuk
7th	Thomas Walsh	18th	Scarlett Venables

7th Sophie Baron
10th Charlotte Dawson-Smith
15th James Teare

20th Ruby Baker
21st Emily Guilfoyle
28th Harvey Johnson

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

Mellor Youth Fellowship

Unfortunately we had to cancel our November meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, apologies if this inconvenienced anybody.

We will next meet on **Saturday 13th December (PLEASE NOTE DATE) in the Village hall** for our Christmas Party when we also hope to be able to watch The X-Factor as a group - time and location to be advised. Parents are also welcome to come along and bring nibbles and drinks. Children from **Year 7 and above** are welcome.

It is with regret that after 11 years of leading Mellor Youth Fellowship, Karen has decided to no longer carry out this role due to increased work commitments and related pressures. This has been a very difficult decision for her to make and she thanks everybody for their continued support. We are sure we will still see Karen now and again during our meetings.

*We look forward to seeing you.
The Youth Fellowship Leaders*

THANK YOU

I wish to thank you all for your prayers and cards, as well as concern and kindness shown to me during my recent spell in hospital.

Bill Thompson

Hedley Sharples 1932-2014

A bachelor and Bachelor of Arts, Hedley was one of the brightest boys of his generation. Winning a scholarship at 9, it was not until he was 11 that he left Mellor School to become a pupil at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn from where he went on to win academic awards. While at Mellor it was the Rev'd Ezra Ingham of St. Mary's Church who kept an eye on him – especially as a boy chorister! Being a self-taught pianist, Hedley was to acquire an encyclopaedic knowledge of musicals. While at QUEGS his mentor was the teacher of Spanish, L D Collier (recently returned from a Japanese P.O.W. camp), who produced school plays at the Community Theatre in which Hedley took part. Advised to become a barrister, he opted for academia.

Prior to that, he had to complete his two years of National Service and was drafted into the R.A.F. based on Anglesey where he was put in charge of the Orderly Office and where he learned to type and avail himself of the extra weekend passes! After National Service, Hedley took a degree at Newcastle University gaining the highest of marks. He carried out research into Spanish poetry at Glasgow University before gaining a Fullbright Scholarship to study educational practice in the U.S.A. at Michigan.

Upon his return to the U.K. he was appointed lecturer in Education and tutor to foreign students at Sheffield University. He remained in the post till taking early retirement and going to live in Blackburn.

Hedley took a close interest in his nephews and nieces and continued to keep in touch with many of his foreign students, but, above all, with Antonio whom he met on a train heading for Malaga and whose family were to welcome him on many subsequent visits. Each year he sent as many cards abroad as days in the year.

Hedley was methodical to the last and took pride in his closely-formed handwriting which was seen in his last act – a birthday card and present to one of his great nieces. His younger sisters, Pearl, Elsie and Dylis (who survive him) were undoubtedly in awe of him at times, perhaps because he was such an avid reader who liked his corner by the fire. As one who was an only child, I must admit to having been envious at times and admiring of the daily life of the family from Elswick Terrace, Mellor.

Derek Moulding (brother-in-law)

Hedley was missed by many at the Autumn Fayre where he could usually be found buying meringues from the Cake Stall, queuing for a turn at the various stalls and chatting to fellow Mellor "poults".

He will be remembered fondly by his many friends.

MOTHERS' UNION

I am so grateful to the Rev'd David Dickinson for coming to our November meeting and giving us a 'thought provoking' evening.

We next meet on Tuesday, 9th December for our Christmas Party. All ladies are welcome to join us. Tickets are £7 from Pam Jackson. We would appreciate help on the 9th at 3.30pm to set up the school hall and from 6pm with the supper.

We send our love and best wishes to Di Ibbotson who has been falling and to Irene Holt who is at home feeling and looking much better.

With every good wish for Christmas.

Margaret Ashton

Mellor Baby & Toddler Group

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

Lots of crafts and activities to do. Lots of toys to play with.

Our next meeting is Friday December 5th 1:45–3:00pm

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

£2 per family including healthy snacks & refreshments

Contact: Karen Walsh 07507 293484

St Leonard's Balderstone Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December at 2pm in school

Entrance Adults £1 Children 50p

Santa's Grotto-Stalls-Games-Raffles-Refreshments

Please come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

In Mellor Village Hall

Saturday 20th December 3-5pm

All Welcome

Tickets £3 party food included.

Bring your own small gift to be presented by Father Christmas.

Tel Louise for tickets 07971 010606

Sunday School News

Lessons

30th Dec – no Sunday school, Service at 4pm

7th Dec – in school

14th Dec- All Age Worship,

21st Dec – in school. Nativity rehearsal. Parents invited to stay for coffee and croissants.

24th Dec – Crib and Christingle service

Autumn Fair.

Thank you to everyone who helped/donated, It was lovely to see you all enjoying the stalls. Ellie Taylor was the winner of the 'Guess the Loom bands' competition

Taking Home the Light of Christ

Please come along to this lovely All Age Worship service. Everyone is welcome, young or old, in a group or on your own, let's celebrate Advent together. There will be no Sunday School on that morning.

Christmas Party

This will be on the 17th Dec in school, 5.30 – 7.30. If you have not had a letter please ask a Sunday School teacher. All children who have attended during this year are welcome.

Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday School will be decorating a tree for the festival. There will be many trees on display and church should look lovely. Please come along during the weekend to see our tree and have a bite to eat or a brew whilst you are here perhaps!

Nativity

If anyone has any costumes which are too small we'd like to ask if you could donate them to us so we have a supply which can be borrowed if needed.

At time of press we are just finalising this. If your child can't come to the Christingle service but has

been asked to take part in the nativity it's important that you let us know. Thanks.

Please can parents complete the new contact forms ASAP

May God bless you all this Christmas time.

Love and best wishes from all the team.

Fairtrade

The stall will be open for business before and after Parish Communion on Sunday, 7th December.

Remember:- every purchase from the stall makes a difference to someone struggling against poverty in the third world.

The Fairtrade Team

Readers for December

December 7th	Second Sunday of Advent	
10.30	M Baldwin	Isaiah 40: 1-11
	M Woodward	2 Peter 3: 8-15a
	Celebrant	Mark 1: 1-8
6.30	G Tipper	Isaiah 40: 1-11
	D Summersgill	Mark 1: 1-8
December 14th	Third Sunday of Advent	
	All Age Worship	Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11
		1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
	Celebrant	John 1: 6-8, 19-28
6.30	S Nelson	Philemon 4: 4-7
	S Brindle	Matthew 14: 1-12
December 21st	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
10.30	R Jones	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
	F Ashton	Romans 16: 25-27
	Celebrant	Luke 1: 26-38
6.00	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols	
December 24th	Christmas Eve	
11.30	A Smith	Isaiah 52: 7-10
	S Gill	Hebrews 1: 1-4 (5-12)
	Celebrant	John 1: 1-14
December 25th	Christmas Day	
10.30	N Walsh	Isaiah 52: 7-10
	R Jones	Hebrews 1: 1-4, (5-12)
	Celebrant	John 1: 1-14
December 28th	The Holy Innocents	
10.30	W Shaw	Jeremiah 31: 15-17
	G Gill	1 Corinthians 1: 26-29
	Celebrant	Matthew 2: 13-18
6.30	N Hogg	Jeremiah 31: 15-17
	M Riley	1 Corinthians 1: 26-29
	Celebrant	Matthew 2: 13-18

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who contributed bottles to create a wonderful selection on this year Autumn Fayre bottle stall. Also, thank you to all who entered the fun in attempting to pull out a numbered cork, Mums wanted the wine, Dads the spirits but the children were more than happy to go away having won a soft drink leaving a disappointed Mum and Dad.

Finally, many thanks to Alan and Chris for the successful running of the stall.

Graham Calvert

Christian Stewardship

Chairman / Recorder Geoff Peake 813654

Covenants Secretary Eileen Peake

Electoral Roll Officer

Sonia Tipper 813565

Deanery Synod

Sue Gill Sue Nelson Debbie Chadwick

Sunday School

Debbie Chadwick 812091

Youth Fellowship

tba.

Little Angels

Margaret Baldwin 812360 Rita Gorman 812566

Children's Society

Debbie Chadwick 812091

Social & Fund Raising Committee

Sonia Tipper, Rita Gorman, Debbie Summersgill,
Janet Hartley, Alan Smith, Jean Freeman

Magazine

ritagorman@tiscali.co.uk

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Advertising Rita Gorman 812566

Distribution Alan & Barbara Smith

St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Headteacher Mrs Christine L Taylor 812581

Clerk to the Governors Brian Topham

Site Supervisor Tony Dixon

Friends of St Mary's School (FOSMS)

Vicky Dewhurst and Emma Hilton

Mothers' Union

Margaret Ashton 812616

Altar Flowers

Joan Moss 813581

Rainbows

Lynn Fish (Wren)

Guides

Hilary Wensley

Police

PC Lee Forshaw 01200 458766

Churchyard

Chris Wilson Paul McBride Rob Cooper Tom Shaw

Stewart Woodward (Volunteers Welcomed)
