

MELLOR PARISH CHURCH

Vicar

Rev'd. Canon Dr. Sue Williams

01254 812154

Church Wardens

David Holroyd 01254 814391

Barbara Lucas 01254 580658

Deputies: Geoff Gill Graham Calvert

Organist

Mike Wilcock 01254 581816

Parochial Church Council

www.mellorparishchurch.org

Chairperson Rev'd Canon Dr Sue Williams
Clerk & Secretary Jim Saunders
Treasurer Lorna Shaw with David Adams

David Holroyd Barbara Lucas

Debbie Chadwick (2016) (Youth Coordinator)

Jean Freeman (2018) Geoff Gill (2018)

Rita Gorman (2018) Derek Haworth (2018)

Linda Livesey (2018) Sue Nelson (2016)

Sue Saunders (2017) Lorna Shaw (2018)

Debbie Summersgill (2018) Graham Tipper (2018)

Dorothy Walsh (2018) Karen Walsh (2016)

Marilyn Watson (2017)

Sidespersons

Alan Bibby Graham Calvert Peter Cowell Chris Davis

Mark Hodson Nanette Hogg Paul Hughes Ian Moss

Joan Moss Sue Nelson Jim Saunders Sue Saunders

Alan Smith Frances Thompson Graham Tipper

Noel Walsh Pat Webster

Dear Friends,

When I was a child, admittedly as my nephews and nieces inform me, was a long time ago (!) you could tell it was getting close to Christmas by the way the people greeted each other. Strangers would pass each other and call out a cheery "All the best!" Customers and shop staff would end each transaction with a similar greeting or a bright "Merry Christmas". Now I'm sure that things weren't all hunky dory even back then but nevertheless people at least made an effort to relate to the spirit of the season and attempted to be friendly, if only for a little space of time. As time has past, and the preparations for Christmas begin earlier and earlier we seem to have lost some of the joy surrounding the season. And it's not only Christmas that seems to have lost some of its spirit as more and more we are encouraged to see ourselves as individuals consumers, the star of our own personal movie, the centre of our own world. In her book "Talk to the hand" (2010), Lynne Truss amusingly and accurately bemoans the fact that more and more people are encouraged to move around in a

sort of imaginary bubble of self-concern which then licenses rude and boorish behaviour. Living in such an atmosphere means that we all live in a state of suspicion and readiness to take offence even where none is intended, view other people as simply obstacles out to delay 'my' time and get in 'my way'.

In the Gospels we see Jesus responding to people in a much more loving and open way. Ready to listen to the distraught father and yet at the same time open to the needs of the suffering woman; taking the time to really engage with an official of an oppressing power; looking into the heart of a rich young man and being ready to really see his need. And he does that even when his goodness and healing is met with ingratitude and nine out the ten lepers he heals fail to return and thank him. Jesus first reaction to other people wasn't suspicion or cynicism but love and openness and his final commandment was to "love one another as I have loved you."

In our often frightening and violent world it's easy to turn in on ourselves, to look after only "me and mine" or indeed, "after number one". As followers of the Prince of Peace we are called to challenge the negative, indeed, toxic spirit at large that sees the stranger only as a threat to be kept at arm's length at best. So as we enter and continue through our celebrations of the Prince of Peace, Immanuel – God with us, let us do our part to challenge this individualism and all that brings. You never know your smile and cheery greeting might be just the small thing that changes someone else's life.

Jesus, lover of humanity, help us to see You in others and may others see something of You in us. Amen.

With love and blessings for Christmas and the New Year Sister Sue.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

The congregation was joined by members of the Parish Council at the annual Service of Remembrance conducted by the Vicar, Canon Sue Williams in St Mary's Church on Sunday, 8th November.

Wreaths were proudly carried to the Altar following the processional hymn; as the service progressed we listened to a thought provoking sermon and we were moved as George played the Last Post and Bill read out the names of the fallen.

'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills' was sung by the Choir and we all joined in The National Anthem.

A collection of £193.41 was taken for The British Legion

Following the service in church an ecumenical service of Remembrance was held at the Village War Memorial where the wreaths were laid by representatives of the Church, the Parish Council and St Mary's School.

A cheque for £110 was sent to The British Legion from the sale of knitted/crocheted/felt poppies – thanks to those who made them and everyone who bought one

A minute's silence was observed at 11.00am on Wednesday, 11th November at a Coffee Morning held at 10, Church Close. Thank you to Canon John for leading our remembrance.

PS - more than **1000** spring bulbs were planted around the Village Memorial by volunteers – not more than **100** as reported in the November magazine. (sorry – Ed.)

From The Registers

Communicants

Collections

October 25	68		£590.00
November 1		63	£533.60
November 8		87	£729.41
			(includes £193.41 British Legion)
November 15		79	£553.55

Calendar for December

December	6	2 nd Sunday of Advent
	10.30am	Parish Communion (Canon Sue Williams)
	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service 'From Darkness to Light' (Canon Sue Williams)
December	8	
	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Party
December	9	
	2.15pm	'Little Angels'
December	13	3 rd Sunday of Advent
	10.30am	Parish Communion (Rev'd Roland Nicholson)
	6.30pm	Evensong (Rev'd Dr John Darch)
December	18	
	2.15pm	School Nativity Service
December	20	4 th Sunday of Advent
	10.30am	Parish Communion All Age Worship (Canon Sue Williams)
	6.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols (Canon John Hartley)
December	24	Christmas Eve
	4.00pm	Christingle Service (Geoff Gill)
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion (Canon Sue Williams)
December	25	Christmas Day
	10.30am	Parish Communion (Canon Sue Williams)
December	27	First Sunday of Christmas
	10.30am	Parish Communion (Canon John Hartley)
	6.30pm	Evensong (Canon Sue Williams)

Church Rotas December

Sidespersons

Morning

Evening

December	6th	S Nelson	F Thompson	S Nelson
December	13th	J Saunders	S Saunders	N Hogg
December	20th	A Smith	I Moss	J Moss
December	24th			N Walsh (11.30pm)
Christmas	Day	M Hodson		
December	27th	G Tipper	C Davis	S Nelson

Assistant Wardens

Morning

Evening

December	6th	Marilyn Watson & Linda Livesey
December	13th	Debbie Summersgill & Rita Gorman
December	20th	Dorothy Walsh & Derek Haworth
December	24th	Sue Nelson & Debbie Summersgill
Christmas	Day	Geoff Gill
December	27th	Jim Saunders & Sue Saunders

Chalice Servers

Intercessor

December	6th	Marian Hunt	Geoff Gill	Graham Tipper
December	13th	Graham Tipper	Rita Gorman	Frank Ashton
December	20th	Linda Livesey	Eileen Peake	Debbie Chadwick
December	24th	Rita Gorman	Linda Livesey	Linda Livesey
Christmas	Day	Geoff Gill	Marian Hunt	Geoff Gill
December	27th	Eileen Peake	Geoff Gill	Graham Tipper

Flowers

December	6th	Advent – No Flowers
December	13th	--- ---
December	20th	Christmas Donations – All Arrangers

Church Cleaning

Week Commencing

December	7th	Deborah Chadwick & Barbara Lucas
December	14th	Janice Ball, Linda Livesey & Lorna Shaw

*- an invitation from the Organist and Choir Master,
Mike Wilcock and the Choir-*

.from Darkness



to Light

We will be performing this beautiful candlelit "Darkness to Light" service on Sunday 6th December at 6.30. I believe that this is the first time that this has been done at Mellor.

The Advent (Carol) Service is a liturgical and musical sequence which encapsulates/symbolises the "expectation" of the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation and also prepares us for his final advent as judge at the end of time.

The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent theme remains "Maranatha" - 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22)

In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout this special service...

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Mike Wilcock

LITTLE ANGELS

We meet on **WEDNESDAY, 9th December at 2.15pm** in the Narthex when we welcome Mrs McPherson and the children from school who will sing some Christmas songs for us - and we will try to perform our nativity 'It's all about a baby'.

Everyone is welcome to join us at this Christmas celebration.

Thank you to our friend, Norah, for her kind donation to 'Little Angels' – we shall be using it to buy each child a little keepsake for Christmas.

Wishing you all Love and Peace at Christmas

Rita Margaret Hilda and Gillian

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News

Christmas worship starts in school with Advent Sunday on the 29th November and follows the Christmas story until Friday 18th December when school closes. This year, the older children are comparing the Christmas story in the gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke while the younger pupils will be comparing stories from other countries. This is to show the children that Christmas is a special time to Christians all over the world and not just here in Lancashire. Each class has an Advent candle to light daily to remind them of this time of preparation for the birth of Jesus.

Plans are also going ahead for the four Christmas Concerts which start on Wednesday 2nd December with the first performance of "Back to Bugsy". This is a tale of American gangsters with plenty of opportunities for additional comedy plus singing and dancing. If any parishioner would like to attend on Friday afternoon, please contact Mrs Skupski on Monday 30th November. We are also pleased to provide entertainment for the Mothers' Union Christmas party on Tuesday, 8th December.

On Monday, 14th 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 15th December and Christmas dinner on Wednesday 16th December. Class One will be visiting Little Angels on 9th December with Mrs McPherson and Mrs Whalley. The school Nativity Service will be held in St. Mary's Church on Friday 18th December at 2:15pm. 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 joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Christine Taylor Headteacher

Church Magazine

The subscription for 2016 is £5 (Less than 10p a week) and will be collected by the distributors when the January issue is delivered or earlier if you wish.

The church magazine is an important part of the church's outreach into the village community (- and wider, one is posted to Dundee) with the calendar of events, church services, readings for each week as well as reports from the church organizations. Please don't put it in the waste paper bag when you have finished reading- pass it on to a neighbour.

Thank you to all who contribute in any way - by subscribing, delivering, submitting articles or information etc – to the success of the magazine., and a special thank you to Ron Hak for the work he puts in to help produce this magazine.

Thank you, Rita Gorman.

Please Support The Magazine's Advertisers

Sunday School News

Lessons

29th Nov – no Sunday school, Service at 4pm

6th Dec - in school

13th Dec - in school

20th Dec - All Age Worship

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. Oliver Rolston was the winner of the 'Sweets in a Jar' 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 16th 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.

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.

May God bless you all this Christmas time.

Love and best wishes from all the team.

Foundation Governor-
St Mary's Mellor C of E Primary School

A vacancy has arisen for a Foundation Governor on our schools governing body. Part of the role of a Foundation Governor is the same as any other governor. It includes:

1. contributing to the school's self-evaluation and understand its strengths and weaknesses, including the impact of their own work;
2. providing challenge and hold the head teacher to account for improving the quality of teaching, pupils' achievement and behaviour and safety;
3. ensuring that the financial resources made available to the school are managed effectively.

In addition to this, a Foundation Governor must ensure that the Christian ethos of the school is preserved and developed.

The period of office of governors is four years. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Foundation Governor should contact by the end of December:

Geoff Gill, Chair of Governors, on 01254 812928

MOTHERS' UNION

We all now know much about China's economy, culture and way of life thanks to Keith Sowerbutts, our November speaker.

We meet in December on the 8th at 7.30pm for our Christmas Party to which members of the congregation are invited. We will welcome the Day School children and staff to entertain us, have a two course meal and then be entertained by a group of our ladies. Tickets are £7 from Pam Jackson or Betty Green.

We send our love and best wishes to Yvonne Hebbard and Millie Clarkson who are not well.

May I wish you all the very best for Christmas and hope that we will all be filled with the real spirit of Christmas.

Margaret Ashton

NOTES FROM THE ORGANIST

Brits find comfort in singing...

Research commissioned by The Royal Voluntary Service in support of its Sing your heart out fund raising campaign suggests that over 2.8 million British people are currently in a choir or singing group around the UK, and that numbers are growing. With 58% of the population admitting to enjoying singing and 41% having been in a choir at some point in their lives, over the past 5 years there has been a vast increase of choirs of all types.

According to John Pearson, Chief Operating Officer of RVS "Working with choirs and celebrating the power of singing was a natural choice for this campaign. Music and singing can have such a great impact on the life of an older person*. We've seen this at first hand through the work of our volunteers and how it can be a powerful tool when dealing with dementia, as well as simply lifting spirits."

(Extracted from "Choir and Organ" November/December 2015)

*A footnote from Mike...

Personal experience, aside from current research evidence, suggests that music making, including singing, amongst children and young people, enhances academic potential and performance.

"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	Sophie Baron	18th	Scarlett Venables
10th	Charlotte Dawson-Smith	20th	Ruby Baker
12th	Joshua Clarkson	21st	Emily Guilfoyle
12th	Megan Clarkson	28th	Harvey Johnson
15th	James Teare	29th	Charlotte Cleasby
16th	James Hogg	29th	Ellie Pemberton

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

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.

VISION YOUTH GROUP

We have no formal meeting this month but you are all invited to the Youthwork Christmas party on Wednesday 16th Dec. 5.30 – 7.30pm in school with food provided. Please let Debbie know if you are coming –text 07935659004

F.O.S.M.S

Thank you to everyone who came along to the annual FOSMS bonfire, we raised a total of £892.

During December we will produce the magazine to support the School's Christmas Concert. The magazine will feature all the children's artwork and will be available to purchase at the performances and will be distributed through the children's reading packs.

Our final event for the year is the Father Christmas Run, he will be on his sleigh with his helpers on the evening of Friday 11th December visiting Mellor Village from 6.30pm and on the evening of Monday 14th December again at 6.30pm. Please watch out for Santa and his helpers who will be collecting donations to support FOSMS.

Regards,

The FOSMS team.

FAIRTRADE

We felt it was more worthwhile in November as the takings were £98 (only £43 in October). The next stall is on Sunday, 6th December before and following the Parish Communion service - so please let us try to continue this upward trend.

The Fairtrade Team

Coffee Morning at 10 Church Close

Thank you to all who helped in any way, by giving and buying, to help us raise £300 towards the Autumn Fayre.

Special thanks to Canon John for conducting our Act of Remembrance at 11.00am - the coffee brewers, the washer up, raffle ticket seller, cake stall attendant and the waitress from 'Harrogate'

The hardest thing I do – is to open the front door!

Thank you, Team....Rita

Saturday Cafe at Mellor Village Hall

Saturday 5th December from 10am to 2pm
Hot and cold drinks, bacon sandwiches, soup,
home made cakes to eat in or take out.
(Every first Saturday in the month)

The Autumn Fayre

Our annual Autumn Fayre was held in School on Saturday 14th November and raised a grand total of £2741.22, all of which will go into Church funds.

We would like to thank **everyone** who helped us before, during and after the event and of course all of you who came on the day to support us and spend your money!

Thank you also to Mike and Liz Wilcock who opened the event for us; also to Liz who made some lovely penguin cake decorations with the children.

This year for the first time we had a stall selling new or good-as-new toys which proved very successful – thank you to everyone who contributed their unwanted toys and games.

We also have to show our gratitude to the new team of ladies in the café – what a debut!

The Prize Draw is a very important part of our fund-raising efforts and we must thank every one who donated prizes, including of course the local businesses that are always so generous.

Once again a great result – we couldn't do it without you!!

Door	139.20	Bottle Stall	129.10
Café	273.52	Cards & Gifts	241.65
Coffee Morning	305.00	Choir Stall	207.40
Draw	688.00	Julie's Jewels	30.00
Father Christmas and Day School	241.50	M U	278.70
Sunday School	70.65	Toys & Games	136.50

TOTAL = 2741.22

Advent Sunday
29th November 4pm

You can

**‘ Take Home the
Light of Christ’**
A special All Age Service
(for everyone, families, couples, singletons)
We joyfully welcome you, please join us.

Readers for December

December	6	2 nd Sunday of Advent	
	10.30	P Jackson C Redwood Celebrant	Malachi 3: 1-4 Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6
	6.30	Advent Carol Service	
December	13	3 rd Sunday of Advent	
	10.30	A Smith S Gill Celebrant	Zephaniah 3: 14-20 Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18
	6.30	N Hogg M Riley	Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18
December	20	4 th Sunday of Advent	
	10.30	D Summersgill W Shaw Celebrant	Micah 5: 2-5a Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-55
	6.30	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	
December	24	Christmas Eve	
	11.30	N Walsh A Smith Celebrant	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16 Acts 13: 16-26 Luke 1: 67-79
December	25	Christmas Day	
	10.30	S Nelson R Jones Celebrant	Isaiah 52: 7-10 Hebrews 1: 1-12 John 1: 1-14
December	27	First Sunday of Christmas	
	10.30	G Gill W Shaw Celebrant	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 41-52
	6.30	S Nelson S Brindle Celebrant	Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 41-52

Christian Stewardship

Recorder/Gift Aid Secretary Eileen Peake

Electoral Roll Officer

Graham Tipper

Deanery Synod

Sue Gill Debbie Chadwick

Sunday School

Debbie Chadwick 812091

Vision (Formally Youth Fellowship)

Debbie Chadwick

Little Angels

Margaret Baldwin 812360 Rita Gorman 812566

Children's Society

Debbie Chadwick 812091

Social & Fund Raising Committee

Jean Freeman, Rita Gorman, Debbie Summersgill,
Janet & John Hartley, Alan 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 Christine L Taylor 812581

Clerk to the Governors Brian Topham

Site Supervisor Geoff McCann

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 & PCSO 7721 Jules Ragen

Tel# 01200 458766

Churchyard

Chris Wilson Paul McBride Rob Cooper Tom Shaw

Stewart Woodward Bernard Whalley Gordon Hayes

Volunteers still required
