

MELLOR PARISH CHURCH

www.mellorparishchurch.org

Vicar

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

Licensed Lay Reader

Mrs Pam Daunton 01772 877017

Church Warden

Parochial Church Council

Chairperson	Rev'd Charles Jefferson
Clerk & Secretary	David Wain
Treasurer	Lorna Shaw with David Adams

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

Sidespersons

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

View From the Vicarage

Describe Christmas in Three Words!

Now that's a challenge, so what might we say? Last minute shopping, eating too much, filling a stocking, holly and ivy or simply friends and family. But what about the words 'Christ is born'? Where do these three words fit in? For many, the answer is they don't, and yet for Christians there are three other words about Christmas that we would like to share with our families, friends and neighbours, and these are: Historical, Joyful and Essential!

1 Christmas is Historical: it really happened.

Jesus is not some mythical make believe character. St Luke, who based his account on information from eyewitnesses, carefully investigated everything (Luke 1:1-4) and came to the conclusion that there had never been anyone else like Jesus. St Peter said the same (2 Peter 1:16)

Jesus lived a life of astonishing power and humility, authority and kindness, self sacrifice and compassion. He performed extraordinary miracles which even his enemies couldn't deny (John 9) and having died for us, God raised him from the dead (1 Peter 1:21) In fact, he appeared to over 500 people in the days following his resurrection (Luke 24, 1 Corinthians 15)

2 Christmas is Joyful: God really cares.

As the angelic messenger said, 'I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today a Saviour has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord' (Luke 1:8-20). Christmas tells us that God, the creator of this incredible universe, loves us (Colossians 1). Why else would he have come in Christ, leaving all the glory of heaven, to be born as a man in the midst of a sinful and suffering world. This is surely a great reason to be joyful: God really cares and demonstrates that care in action. And the knowledge of this can be of enormous strength and encouragement when difficulties arise.

3 Christmas is Essential: it really matters.

Jesus didn't just come to earth to demonstrate God's love; he came to achieve an urgent rescue. The apostle Paul, one of the greatest early Christian leaders tells us: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners', and he did that by taking the punishment we deserve for not letting God be God in our lives, by dying in our place (Romans 3:23, 5:8). That is why he is called 'Jesus' because Jesus means Saviour (Matthew 1:21). But his death for us on the cross will mean nothing unless we respond in repentance, faith and trust. Indeed our eternal future, said Jesus, depends on the decision we make about him, now while we are still alive (John 5:24, 39-40, 14:6). That is why Christmas is so important. It really matters.

For '**Jesus is the Reason for the Season**' so this year why not put CHRIST back into CHRISTmas. Make time for your creator and saviour. Come and learn more about him. For at the heart of Christmas is God's heart of love. That is why there are three other words with which we could close. Three other words which tell us what Christmas is all about and they are **God Loves You**. Now that is something to celebrate and enjoy— and not just now but throughout the coming New Year.

Charles

Remembrance Sunday Service

A special and moving remembrance service, on a lovely sunny autumn morning, was led by both the Vicar and Rev'd John Hartley.

The names of the servicemen from Mellor who had died serving their country during the two World Wars were read out clearly by Bill Thompson, himself an ex-serviceman. What a lot of names for such a small village!

Following the service in St Mary's the congregation proceeded to the Village War Memorial to join other members of the community to remember those fallen in both World Wars and in other more recent conflicts. Wreaths were laid by:

Debbie Summersgill who represented the Church

Stella Brunskill on behalf of Mellor Parish Council

Emilia Dunn, Emily Guilfoyle, Ellie Taylor, William Eatough
& William Joyce on behalf of St Mary's School.

We will remember them.

Ian Crooks

Church Rotas December

Assistant Wardens

Dec	3	Derek Haworth	Dorothy Walsh
	10	Geoff Gill	Graham Tipper
	17	Barbara Lucas	Debbie Chadwick
	24	Mark Smith	Rita Gorman

25	Marilyn Watson	Debbie Summersgill
31	Derek Haworth	Dorothy Walsh

Sidespersons

Dec	3		Frances Thompson
	10	Alan Smith	Peter Cowell
	17	Noel Walsh	Ian Moss
	24	Sue Brown	Graham Calvert
	25		
	31		Joan Moss

Chalice Servers

Intercessors

Dec	3	Geoff Gill	Rita Gorman	Frank Ashton
	10	Eileen Peake	Geoff Gill	
	17			Debbie Chadwick
	24	Graham Tipper	Rita Gorman	Geoff Gill
	25	Graham Tipper	Rita Gorman	
	31	Geoff Gill	Eileen Peake	Graham Tipper

Flower List

Given by:-

Arranged by:-

Dec	17	Mr & Mrs Geoff Gill	All Arrangers (Wedding)
	24	Congregation donations	

Donations towards the Christmas floral decorations would be most welcome.

Church Cleaning

Week Commencing

Dec	4	Maureen Forrest	Hilda Hilton	Marilyn Watson
	11	Vicky Dewhurst	Jane Greenhough	
	18	Di Ibbotson	Sue Ellison	Anne Kirkpatrick

Thank you to all who help to keep the church clean throughout the year.

If you would like to join a team or form a team with a friend please contact Rita (812566) or Hilda (813681).

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Invitation to Christingle **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 or via the letter sent through school.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

A traditional service of **Nine Lessons & Carols** will take place at 6.30pm on Sunday 17th December in St Mary's Church. All Welcome.

Readers for December

Dec	3	First Sunday of Advent	
	9.30am	Mothers' Union	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
		Celebrant	Mark 13: 24-37
	10	Second Sunday of Advent	
	9.30am	D Summersgill	2 Peter 3: 8-15a
		G Gill	Mark 1: 1-8
	17	Third Sunday of Advent	
	9.30am	All Age Nativity	
	24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	9.30am	W Shaw	Romans 16: 25-end
		S Gill	Luke 1: 26-38
	11.30pm	A Smith	Romans 16: 25-end
		R Gorman	Luke 1: 26-38
	25	Christmas Day	
		D Summersgill	Titus 2: 11-14
		M Watson	Luke 2: 1-14
	31	First Sunday of Christmas	
		G Gill	Galatians 4: 4-7
		Celebrant	Luke 2: 15-21

Advent Sunday 3rd December 4pm

You can
**'Take Home the
Light of Christ'**

A special All Age Praise Service
(for everyone, families, couples, singletons)
We joyfully welcome you, please join us.

Pam's Paper Blog: Christmas Vulnerability

Recently I've had many conversations about the changes we're making here in Samlesbury. Some people are very supportive but others mourn for the things from the past they particularly enjoy. Change is always a hard thing to balance. Yet as we approach Christmas we begin again to think of that old story where God changed how we approach him forever; when God became man.

Popping a halo around the head of the baby in the crib still doesn't really make us remember that the Creator of the Universe made himself vulnerable and weak so Jesus could be incarnate. It's easy to place God up on that lofty cloud far away and Jesus, our friend, close to

us as if the One God can be divided. God in all his power and authority became a weak baby to change how we think about him forever.

The Pharisees blocked every move Jesus made in his ministry. They were absolutely certain that he was a blasphemer because they were sure they knew exactly how we should worship God. How many denominations have been created because people wanted to stay with what they knew and not recognise what God was doing in their age? Anglicanism came out of Roman Catholicism and Methodism out of Anglicanism all because people didn't want to listen to what God was doing.

At the Carol Service we will listen again to those familiar words: *In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *From the very beginning the Word was with God.* ³ *Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him.* ⁴ *The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people.* ⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.* John 1:1-5

Jesus is that Word and it is to the bible we must look for our guidance. We have to apply the principles we see in our bible stories and use our imaginations to think about how Jesus would reach out to those around us now. I am certain that there are things in some of our services that Jesus would throw out like he did the money changing tables in the Temple. He would do so because they obstruct people who don't usually come to church from finding God.

It isn't change that we should fear. It is the fear of change itself that should terrify us. When we fear change we put our feet into step with those of the Pharisees. Change makes us vulnerable and weak as we don't know if the steps we make are the best we could; but God has been here before. We have to trust that the Holy Spirit will lead us to the things God wants us to do just as the angels led the characters in the Christmas story.

May the joy of heaven be ours this Christmas. Pam Daunton

Barrie Baldwin

Margaret, Claire and Joanne would like to thank everyone for comforting words, cards and expressions of sympathy received during the last five months.

Thank you for attending Barrie's Funeral Service, which many people said was a happy and respectful fitting tribute to Barrie.

Despite being an early start we were overwhelmed by a full Church and felt **surrounded and supported** by love and friendship at this sad time.

Thank you to Mike Wilcock for playing the organ (especially the Radetzky March) and the Choir for leading the singing.

Finally, many thanks to Canon John and Rev Roland for "always being there" and conducting the Funeral Service with dignified good humour.

We have hilarious memories of John and Roland visiting Barrie in RBH - how we all laughed with the Ward Sister about 'Laurel and Hardy'.

THANK YOU. Margaret, Claire & Joanne

Remembering Barrie . . .

In the early 1970s, having recently arrived in Mellor, Barrie offered to help carry the Church banner on Rose Queen Day – this was the beginning of over 40 years loyal service to Mellor Church.

Barrie & Margaret both became involved with many aspects of church life when our then vicar, Canon Fred Bamber, encouraged us to work together. Many friendships were formed which still stand today.

There have been so many happy events which we have shared including Bonfires, Barbecues and family Christmas Eve parties at Barrie & Margaret's home in support of church and school.

Churchyard grass cutting, cleaning out the gutters, repairing roofs, changing light bulbs -
Barrie helped so much - and he was always happy to dress up and get involved with any
concerts - school, social committee even Mothers' Union.

Barrie liked to play cricket during the summer months on the school field and the annual
Boxing Day Match when coffee & mince pies were enjoyed was a favourite occasion.

A devoted family man and a very good friend to many - Barrie will be sadly missed.

John & Mary Woodward

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News

May we begin by thanking all parishioners for their contributions to our
Christmas activities and wishing everyone a very happy and healthy 2018 from
everyone at School. The time leading up to Christmas is usually very busy and
Class 4 wrote about what they were looking forward to. Unfortunately, we could
only choose a few excerpts for you to read.

"To me, Christmas is about spending time with my family and friends. As I give a
gift, I love watching a smile appear on their face" - Isabelle H.

"In assembly, during Advent, we light a different candle each week and in total
there are five different candles" - Genevieve.

"This Christmas I am looking forward to the Christmas tree going up in the
school hall and putting baubles on the tree" - Toby S.

"At home, I get ready for Christmas by putting up the Christmas tree and
helping to place the decorations on" - Grace.

"I personally think the best thing is the amazing Christmas party. I enjoy the
party food. We also have a dance and sometimes you are allowed to wear your
own clothes" - Harrison.

"I love to have the school Christmas dinner, I can't wait until I can munch and
crunch my lunch! The best part about it is that you can enjoy eating it with your
friends"- Alisha.

"We have been doing printing in our art lessons and designed covers for our
calendars that look effective and colourful. I'm particularly looking forward to
doing some Christmas crafts"- Fatima.

"My favourite event is going to church or the cathedral. It's the best part of
Christmas because it's your time to shine to your parents and loads of other
parents" - Naomi.

"At Christmas there will be a Christmas Concert where all the classes have their own
part to perform with dancing, singing but most of all explaining to little children in the
audience what Christmas is really all about" - Amaani.

"The Christmas Concert is very special because I love performing"- Evie.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my sister and her friends do the Christmas
Concert for the first time at Mellor St. Mary's"

- Jessica.

"My nanny and grandad are coming to my house like they did two years ago. I'll
have lots of fun at my house this Christmas"

-Tobi B.

Best Wishes from Mrs Rigby, Mr Oddie and
the children of Class 4.

Celebrating Christmas In & Around Mellor

Saturday	2 nd	December	Pop Up Coffee in the Mellor Village Hall from 10.00am
Sunday	3 rd	December	Advent Service in St Mary's Church at 4.00pm
Monday	11 th	December	Balderstone Brass Band in the Village Hall at 7.00pm
Friday	15 th	December	Carol Service in Mellor Methodist Church
Saturday	16 th	December	Christmas Tree Festival at St Leonard the Less Samlesbury from 11.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday	17 th	December	Festive Music & Readings at Mellor Brook Community Centre at 3.00pm
Sunday	17 th	December	Nine Lessons & Carols in St Mary's Church at 6.30pm
Wednesday	20 th	December	Mellor Singing Group at the Millstone approx. 7.30pm
Christmas Eve			Christingle Service in St Mary's Church at 4.00pm
Christmas Eve			Midnight Communion in St Mary's Church at 11.30pm

There may be other 'celebrations' going on – please see posters in and around the village for more details and times.

From The Registers

		Communicants	Collections
October	22	71	£642.47
November	5	76	£758.50
	12	70	£272.00 *
	19	-	£ 70.30

The loose plate collection on Remembrance Day (£107.86) was donated to the Royal British Legion along with £182.40 from the sale of the felt poppies made by Jean Freeman - a total of £290.26.

Autumn Fayre – Saturday 11th November 2017

Another successful event raising £2,328.94 for Church funds – thank you to Rev'd John Hartley for conducting an Act of Remembrance at 11.00am and Rev'd Roland for introducing Mrs Joanne Embley-Peers who opened the Fayre , also Rose Queen Alannah who presented them with flowers.

The Prize Draw is an important part of our fund-raising and we thank everyone who bought tickets and those who donated prizes, including the local businesses for their generosity.

Door	109.00
Prize Draw	565.00
Café	255.80
School Tombola	222.80
Mothers' Union	124.40

Men's Bottle Stall	120.00
Gifts, Cards Etc	209.20
Junior Church	93.24
Santa's Sleigh Ride	56.80
Father Christmas	87.00
Coffee Morning	315.70
Donations	170.00

	2,328.94

A very grateful 'thank you' to **everyone** who helped in any way, before, during & after the Fayre and to all who came to spend money at the stalls etc.

Little Angels

We meet on Tuesday, 12th December at 2.15pm when Mrs McPherson will be bringing her class to sing for us. It is always a pleasure to see our former 'little angels' in their school uniform looking quite 'grown up' and singing so confidently with their class mates. Everyone is welcome to join us at this Christmas celebration.

Wishing you all Love & Peace at Christmas
Margaret Rita Hilda Gillian & Sandra

Please come and join us
Margaret, Rita, Hilda, Gillian & Sandra

Mothers' Union

In November we had a jolly meeting when Yvonne Pinder introduced Matt who encouraged us to sing along with him as he played a variety of string instruments, ukulele, guitar, banjo, mandolin and different sizes of mouth organs.

My thanks to all who baked and donated goods towards our stall at the Autumn Fayre.

Some of our members are getting involved and supporting Dr George and the Northern Cleft Foundation by making theatre gowns for the children who undergo surgery.

We meet on 12th December for our Christmas Party; tickets costing £7 are available from Pam Jackson and Christine Redwood.

With every good wish for a Happy Christmas.

Margaret Ashton

Recycled Cards

The Church Christmas cards are available from the stall in church – Pack of 6 for £5.

Other recycled Christmas cards are 3 for £1 or 10 for £2.50.

During November, we have been able to make the following donations.

Mellor Primary School Children in Need	£20
Mothers' Union Sudan Appeal	£10
Gentle Approach to Cancer (in support of Julie Dean)	£50
St Mary's Church, Mellor (Card stall at Autumn Fayre)	£209.20
St Mary's Church, Mellor	£315.70

(Pre-Autumn Fayre Coffee Morning)

This makes a grand total for the month of £604.90,
and for the year so far of £1055.90.
Thank you to all of you for your continuing support.

“We couldn’t do it without you!”

the Card Ladies

FairTrade

We are sorry that there will **not** be a stall on 3rd December as Fair Ground in Blackburn has finished supplying Fairtrade items.

Thank you for your past support - please continue to look for Fairtrade products when you do your shopping.

The Fairtrade Team

Don’t Forget

Next event to look forward to . . .

??? THE BIG VILLAGE QUIZ **???**

Friday, 9th February 2018 in school

JUNIOR CHURCH MERRY CHRISTMAS

Lessons

Light Service at 4pm

- 3 Dec – Light Service at 4pm
- 10 Dec -- In church. Family communion with children’s activities at back of church during the service.
- 17 Dec – All Age Nativity service
- 24 Dec – Christingle service

Autumn Fair.

Thank you to everyone who helped/donated. It was lovely to see you all enjoying the stalls.

Take Home The Light of Christ

Please come along to this lovely All Age Praise service. Everyone is welcome, young or old, in a group or on your own, let’s celebrate Advent together.

Nativity

This year our nativity will be an All Age Nativity, with everyone joining in. We’d love all the children to dress up as any Nativity character, and the adults too if you are brave enough.

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 lent out.

May God bless you all this Christmas time.

Love and best wishes from all the team.

*Samlesbury St Leonard-the-less
Christmas Tree Festival*

*Come and see our beautiful ancient
Church decorated with an array
of unique Christmas Trees*

*Saturday 16th December 2017
11:00am until 5:00pm
Refreshments and lunches
served in the school*

*Sunday 17th December
11:00am until 3:00pm
Light refreshments
served in Church*

All Welcome

Church Magazine

The subscription for 2018 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, several are posted around the country) with a letter from the Vicar, Pam's blog and 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's put in to help produce this magazine.

Thank you, Rita Gorman.

Diary for December

Dec	3	First Sunday of Advent
	9.30am	Parish Communion (Rev'd John Hartley)
	4.00pm	'Taking the Light of Christ Home' (The Vicar)
Dec	5	
	9.30am	Holy Communion (The Vicar)
Dec	10	Second Sunday of Advent
		Family Communion

			(The Vicar)
Dec	12	9.30am	Holy Communion (The Vicar)
		2.15pm	'Little Angels'
		7.30pm	Mothers' Union Party
Dec	16	1.00pm	Wedding of Gemma and Laurence
Dec	17		Third Sunday of Advent
		9.30am	All Age Nativity Service (The Vicar)
		6.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols (Rev'd John Hartley)
Dec	19	9.30am	Holy Communion (The Vicar)
Dec	24		Fourth Sunday of Advent
		9.30am	Parish Communion (Rev'd Roland Nicholson)
		4.00pm	Christingle Service (The Vicar)
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion (Rev'd Dr John Darch)
Dec	25		Christmas Day
		9.30am	Holy Communion (Rev'd Dr John Darch)
Dec	31		First Sunday of Christmas
		9.30am	Holy Communion (United Benefice Service) (Rev'd Dr John Darch)

Christian Stewardship

Recorder Eileen Peake 813654
Gift Aid Secretary Helen Adams 813108

Electoral Roll Officer

Graham Tipper 813565

Deanery Synod

Sue Gill 812928 Debbie Chadwick 812091

Sunday School

Debbie Chadwick and for Vision 812091

Vision (Formerly Youth Fellowship)

Debbie Chadwick 812091

Little Angels

Margaret Baldwin 812360 Rita Gorman 812566

Children's Society

Debbie Chadwick 812091

Social & Fund Raising Committee

Rita Gorman, Debbie Summersgill, Jessica Hayes
John Hartley, Roland Nicholson, Mark Smith

Magazine

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

Mothers' Union

Margaret Ashton 812616

Altar Flowers

Joan Moss 813581

Rainbows Lynn Fish (Wren)

Guides Helen Adams Phone 813108

Email helendentith@btinternet.com

Police

PCSO Caroline Pemberton

Tel 01200 458766 (Voicemail)

Churchyard

Chris Wilson Rob Cooper Tom Shaw

Stewart Woodward

Bernard Whalley Gordon Hayes

Volunteers still required