

Readers for February

3rd February

Morning

4th Sunday of Epiphany - Candlemas

M Eccleston

Malachi 3.1-5

M Woodward

Hebrews 2.14-18

Celebrant

Luke 2. 22-40

Evening

M Watson

Genesis 1. 1- 2. 3

S Brindle

Matthew 6.25-end

10th February

Morning

Last Sunday of Epiphany - Transfiguration

D Summersgill

Exodus 34. 29-end

G Gill

2 Corinthians 3.12- 4. 2

Celebrant

Luke 9. 28-36 (37-43a)

Evening

M Riley

Exodus 3. 1-6

S Nelson

John 12. 27-36a

17th February

Morning

1st Sunday of Lent

All Age Worship

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Romans 10. 8b-13

Luke 4. 1-13

Evening

G Tipper

Jonah 3

S Dobson

Luke 18. 9-14

24th February

Morning

2nd Sunday of Lent

S Gill

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

F Ashton

Philippians 3.17- 4.1

Celebrant

Luke 13. 31-end

Evening

S Nelson

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

N Hogg

Philippians 3.17- 4.1

Celebrant

Luke 13. 31-end

3rd March

Morning

3rd Sunday of Lent

M Baldwin

Isaiah 55. 1-9

P Jackson

1 Corinthians 10. 1-13

Celebrant

Luke 13. 1-9

Evening

M Riley

Genesis 28.10-19a

S Brindle

John 1. 35-end

My dear friends,

I find myself writing this letter on the 5th of January before flying out to South Africa to visit my niece and sister, and having just past through Christmas and yet to celebrate the EPIPHANY realise that I am having to think about LENT as Ash Wednesday falls on FEBRUARY 13th.

LENT for me, like Advent is a season of preparation and a Time for Reflection. Jesus spent forty days in the desert, reflecting and praying. The desert may be a harsh place, but it is an ideal place for reflection and prayer.

This desert experience came at a crucial moment in the life of Jesus, a time of great awakening. It would be impossible to exaggerate its importance for him. As a result he grew to love solitude, and made a habit of seeking it at difficult moments in his life. When people and events threatened to engulf him, he would escape off to a lonely place to recover and rededicate himself to the Father. What he was doing was deepening this first desert experience.

We too need a lonely place for reflection. Often we live foolishly and unspiritually, driven on by stupid desires and imprisoned by selfish habits. We are surrounded by noise and constant activity. We get our priorities wrong. We are unable or unwilling to be alone, to be silent, to be still. And we wonder why we are not happy, why we don't find it easy to get on with others, and why we can't pray.

We need to find a place of solitude. In solitude we begin to stand on our own feet before God and the world, and accept full responsibility for our own lives. The Hermit goes into the desert, not to lose himself, but to find himself. In solitude we face up to our addictions, our lust, our anger, and our need for recognition and approval.

And we don't go into the wilderness to escape from others, but to find them in God.

`Only in solitude and silence can I find the gentleness with which I can love my bothers and sisters.` (Thomas Merton)

Let us try and find some time during Lent to rediscover or discover solitude, peacefulness and prayer.

Fr Roland.



Hometime Afternoon tea.

The back of church becomes a tearoom!
Tea/coffee and cakes served.

Next date Friday 15th February 2.30-4pm
All welcome for a small donation

Church Spring Clean

Once again the church is looking bright and clean after the “Big Church Spring Clean” in January.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with this task and also many thanks to the teams of cleaners who maintain the church each week throughout the year.

Graham and Jim

From The Registers

	Communicants	Collections
December 16	64	£509.18
December 23	55	£658.20
December 24	61	£190.66
December 25	43	£150.81
December 30	80	£479.55
January 6	57	£393.00

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

Maisie Louisa Parkin

Funeral

We commend to God's keeping the soul of

Thomas James Gaskarth

William Edward Minoprio

Mellor Youth Fellowship

We will meet on **Friday 8th February** in the Church Narthex 7.30 – 9.00pm.

Children from Year 7 & above are welcome to join us. Cost is £1 and there is a tuck shop available.

Thank you to those people who have volunteered to help at Youth Fellowship on a rota basis, we will be in touch soon. We do still need some more help so if you can spare some time please let Karen Walsh know.

We look forward to seeing you
The Youth Fellowship Leaders

Rev'd Dr. Sue Williams

The Rev'd Dr. Sue Williams will be instituted by the Rt Rev'd Cyril Ashton, Honorary Assistant Bishop and inducted by the Rev'd John Hawley, Archdeacon of Blackburn, as Vicar of Mellor, Balderstone and Samlesbury at St Mary's on Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 7.30pm.

The service will also mark the inauguration of the United Benefice of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury.

We look forward to seeing as many parishioners as possible on what will be a very special occasion.

Graham and Jim

Calendar for February

3rd February

4th Sunday of Epiphany - Candlemas

10.30am Parish Communion
(Revd Roland Nicholson)
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(Linda Leadbeater)

10th February

Last Sunday of Epiphany – The Transfiguration

10.30am Parish Communion
(Revd Toby Webber)
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(Revd Andy Gray)

13th February

7.30pm Ash Wednesday
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

17th February

1st Sunday of Lent

10.30am All Age Worship
(Revd Roland Nicholson)
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(Revd John Darch)

24th February

2nd Sunday of Lent

10:30am Parish Communion
(Revd John Darch)
6.30pm Holy Communion
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

3rd March

3rd Sunday of Lent

10:30am Parish Communion
(Revd Roland Nicholson)
6.30pm Holy Communion
(Linda Leadbeater)

Flower arrangers

Date	Donator	Arranger
3rd Feb	Arthur Sharp	Helen Holroyd & Helen Cooper
10th Feb	Irene Holt	Margaret Eccleston
17th Feb	Lent 1	No Flowers
24th Feb	Lent 2	No Flowers

Sidespersons

Date	Morning	Morning	Evening
3rd Feb	S Nelson	S Tipper	G Tipper
10th Feb	P Hughes	G Calvert	J Saunders
17th Feb	I Moss	G Peake	P Cowell
24th Feb	C Davis	S Saunders	S Nelson
3rd Mar	J Moss	P Webster	G Calvert

Chalice servers and Intercessors

Date	Servers	Intercessors
3rd Feb	Graham Tipper & Rita Gorman	Frank Ashton
10th Feb	Linda Livesey & Geoff Gill	Geoff Gill
13th Feb		Linda Livesey
17th Feb	Eileen Peake & Marian Hunt	Debbie Chadwick
24th Feb	Graham Tipper & Linda Livesey	Sonia Tipper
3rd Mar	Eileen Peake & Rita Gorman	Frank Ashton

Cleaning

Week commencing	Cleaners
4th Feb	Marian Hunt, Di Ibbotson & Sue Ellison
11th Feb	Pam Jackson & Christine Redwood
18th Feb	Jean Freeman, Sheila Turner & Berenice McKeown
25th Feb	Rita Gorman, Betty Green & Katie Rolston

Recycled Cards

During the last year, from January to December 2012,

We have been able to give **£809** to various Charities:-

<u>January 2012</u>	St Mary's Church(In memory of John Gorman)	£200
	Alzheimer's Society (Jenny Beattie Fundraising)	£50
<u>February</u>	St Mary's School FOSMS Pamper night	£20
<u>March</u>	Alzheimer's Society Coffee Morning	£29
<u>May</u>	Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre	
	Zimbabwe	£50
	Friends of Chernobyl Children	£50
	Mothers' Union Africa Appeal "Sums for Mums"	£40
	MacMillan Cancer Support	£50
<u>June</u>	Mellor St Mary School Gala Day (FOSMS)	£20
<u>July</u>	St Mary's Church Youth Fellowship	£10
	Mellor St Mary's Church BBQ	£200
<u>September</u>	McMillan Coffee Morning	£20
<u>November</u>	Mellor School- Children In Need	£20
<u>December</u>	Dr George - Cleft Palate N W (India)	£50

This brings the Grand Total of donations since we started making recycled cards back in November 2006 to

£4531.23

Thank you to each and every one of you who have enabled us to make these donations

Jean, Rita, Sheila, Sonia

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 February we will be meeting on **Friday 8th and 22nd (Zumba Tots)**

1.45pm – 3.00pm

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

£2 per family including refreshments

Thank you to everyone who supported our last 'Bag2School' collection which raised £80 for the group.

Contact: Karen Walsh 01254-814922 / 07507-293484

Weekly Service Sheets

It is now 12 months since the introduction of the weekly service sheets showing the collect and readings for the day together with the notices for the forthcoming week(s). During this time Janet Slater has very kindly produced them for us and made sure they are in church in time for the Eucharist service each Sunday morning. However as Janet is no longer able to do this for us we wish to say a big thank you to her for getting us through our first year. We now welcome Chris Davis and Debbie Chadwick who have agreed to take on the task. Chris will produce the notices and Debbie will be copying them.

Chris' contact details are:- e-mail chrisdavis484@gmail.com and telephone 01254 813167.

Please let Chris have details of any information you wish to be included on the notice sheet no later than Thursday evening of each week.

Graham and Jim

Sunday School News



Lessons

3rd Feb – in school

10th Feb – in school

17th Feb – Parish All Age Worship in church

24th Feb – no Sunday School

3rd March – in school Mothers Day preparation

Classes

Sunday School numbers remain good, with the infant class being particularly well attended. In view of this we will now have just 2 classes instead of 3. This means that there will be more teachers on hand to work in the 'Tiddlers' class. Vicky will still be main teacher in this class (Karen in the older class), The other teachers will split between the 2 age groups, meaning all the children will have lots more teacher attention.

Rose Queen Charity

Amber is intending to have a 'Bring + Buy' sale in the village hall during March for her charity. Please look out for the details soon and if you could help on a stall we would be very grateful. Any donations of goods for the stalls will be gratefully received via the Sunday school teachers.

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

From All the teachers x



“A Very Happy Birthday”

February’s birthdays from the baptism, Sunday School and Youth Fellowship registers are:

1st	Paige Varey	22nd	Tilly Holroyd
2nd	Jay Venables	22nd	Amelia Dobson
3rd	Alfie Wallace	25th	Eve Summersgill
7th	Dylan Kay	25th	Andrew Lucas
17th	Megan Pilkington	26th	James Chadwick
19th	Zoe Summersgill	26th	Elsbeth Ambler

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

The Toddler Group at Mellor Methodist Church meets on Thursday afternoons, 1pm-3pm, on the following dates:

14th and 28th February

14th and 28th March.



Mothers' Union

We had an excellent meeting in January. Canon John Hartley shared with us some details of his walk to Santiago de Compostela. Many of us were enthused and maybe some will attempt the walk.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th February. After the presentation of accounts and reports I hope we can exchange £1 parcels and enjoy a "Jacob's Join" supper – please bring, to share, supper for one.

To help raise money for the branch expenses we will have a Bric-a-Brac stall. If you have any suitable items, e.g. handbags, jewellery, etc please bring them.

We send our love and best wishes to Mary Hill, at home recovering from a broken hip and our sympathy to Jean Henderson whose husband Bob has died.

Margaret Ashton

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has supported me during and after my recent stay in hospital. I have been overwhelmed with so many cards, letters, thoughtful gifts, flowers and many acts of kindness. Graham and I have really appreciated your support and especially your prayers which have given us the strength to cope with my continuing treatment.

Sonia Tipper

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News

As you read your February magazine, we hope that you will recently have celebrated our School Anniversary Service with us on Sunday, 27th January. This special service was combined with Education Sunday and had a theme of "180", as Mellor St Mary CE Primary School was first established in 1833 and so this year we are celebrating the School's 180th Anniversary. During The Summer Term, the whole school will be learning about the history of Mellor St Mary CE Primary School and life in Victorian times. Leading up to this topic, during February, our year three, four and five pupils will be learning about local history and, in geography lessons, they will be looking at maps of Mellor. If any parishioners feel knowledgeable about the history of Mellor or attended Mellor School in the past and would like to talk to our pupils about this, please do contact us at School. It always enhances our lessons when we welcome visitors to talk to our pupils and this topic is certainly an ideal opportunity to do this, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

In other history lessons, our year one pupils will be learning about Victorian toys. As part of this, on Thursday, 7th February, they will be visiting Blackburn Museum. The children will be able to explore and play with a range of Victorian toys, while talking about the materials which the toys were made from and how they differ from the toys which the children play with today. During the visit, pupils will also make their own Victorian cup and ball toy to take home.

In February, we also look forward to our annual visit from local fire officers to talk to year two and year six pupils about fire safety in the home. Pupils learn about the importance of every house having a smoke alarm and a fire plan in case of emergency during these lessons.

School closes for half term on Friday 15th February and re-opens on Monday 25th February.

Michael Oddie (Deputy Headteacher)

???? The Village Quiz ?????

The Quiz will be held on

Friday 15th February

in the School at 7.30pm

Tickets are £5 each, and include a Hot Pot Supper.

There will be a bar; soft drinks will also be available.

Quizmaster this year is Reverend Roland.

Tickets will have to be limited due to the space available, so start arranging your teams of 4 people, and come along and enjoy what promises to be a great evening.

All proceeds from the evening will go to Church.

Tickets are available from:-

Jean Freeman 01254 812366

Sonia Tipper 01254 813565

Debbie Summersgill 01254 813559

Rita Gorman 01254 812566

Scaffolding in the Sanctuary

Over the Christmas period a second set of scaffolding was erected in the Sanctuary. During a site visit by the architect on 3rd January further problems were discovered regarding the state of repair of the ceiling above the Sanctuary. There has been an accumulation of debris over many years in the ceiling space which has resulted in a lack of circulation of air in this area. This in turn has caused some of the timbers to start to rot and these will have to be replaced. The architects are preparing a schedule of repair/restoration work to be carried out which will be sent to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for approval but unfortunately the work that will have to be carried out means the scaffolding will have to remain in place for the foreseeable future.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March 2013

The service is entitled:

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me"
and has been prepared by Christian women in France.

Service at St Mary's RC Church, Osbaldeston at 7.30pm.

Speaker: Gail Morgan
(A worker at the Asylum & Refugee Community at
Wesley Hall, Blackburn)

FOSMS: Friends of St Mary's School

Happy New Year!

Father Christmas Run

Despite the rain on both nights, Father Christmas took his sleigh around Mellor Village and Mellor Brook visiting the children and handing out lollies. Thank you to everyone who generously saved their spare change and donated and to all Santa's helpers too.

Last term the Bonfire night, Father Christmas run and the Christmas concert magazine raised £1600 and we thank all the local companies who supported the school and bought an advertisement in the magazine.

Spring Term events

FOSMS events this term include bags to school in January (a perfect excuse for a clear out after Christmas), the year 1-7 school disco in February and the Easter raffle at the end of March.

Dates, times and further details will be confirmed at the next FOSMS meeting on the 16th January, 7:30pm in the school and issued in the termly FOSMS newsletter. Details can also be found on our website www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk/ and on the playground noticeboard.

Again we always welcome new members, so please feel free to join us at our meetings or speak with Julie Olsson or Daleen ten Cate.

Zoë Metcalf
Secretary

Confirmation 2013

This year's confirmation service will be held at St Leonard's,
Balderstone on Sunday 9th June

Graham and Jim

RENEWAL OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church Electoral Roll, not the same as the civil Electoral Roll, is a register of voting church members. You should by now have collected and completed an application form if you wish to be included. You have to be registered on the Electoral Roll if you wish to have your say and vote at the Parish Annual Meeting, to serve on the Parochial Church Council or be a sidesperson or churchwarden.

A new roll has to be prepared every six years and when it is completed it has to be displayed in church for at least two weeks before the Parish Annual Meeting so that any errors may be corrected. It will be available from Sunday 24th February for inspection and will then be confirmed at the Annual Meeting.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sonia Tipper- Electoral Roll Officer

children on their visit were very helpful and Sergey in particular became a good friend of ours and would come to our house for a meal while he was over. We always looked forward to this because it gave us a chance to put questions to Dima which he may otherwise have avoided. We were able to find out his family, how well he was doing at school and more about his likes and dislikes.

The children were always well entertained during the day with many local businesses kindly donating to and supporting the Charity allowing the children to attend zoos and pleasure beaches. It was always good fun to tag along as a helper on one of these trips to see how much the children enjoyed themselves.

The experiences are undoubtedly rewarding for the children. They invariably come from very deprived backgrounds and have health problems. Providing them with good food and fresh air for a month certainly has a visible effect on their health.

For us however the reward was not just in the benefit to Dima from his time with us but was also in the benefit to ourselves. We sometimes become a little complacent in this country and it helped open our eyes to what others have to endure. It undoubtedly made our own children a little bit more grateful for what they have and made them realise how lucky they are.

I would not pretend for one minute that it is all plain sailing. We embarked on our second placement last year as Dima has now grown too old to come over. This time we are looking after an 8 year old girl called Yana. We certainly found her far more challenging as a family and she did not settle as well as Dima but she still benefitted from her trip over here and we have received positive feedback from her mum and are looking forward to seeing her again this summer. “

Some people might say, that there are needy children in this country. And so there are.

But children here have not been subjected to the aftermath of Chernobyl, and the resulting health issues from exposure to radiation.

Local schools have helped in the past, at Mellor, Balderstone and Osbaldeston,, making links with children from another culture, and language, and background, and making friendships too through shared activities.

FOCC still needs local support for the children`s annual visit in June of this year.

In addition to host families, we need people who could help out with the daily programme of activities, or sponsor a day out, or help with fund raising.

Could you help? If you would like more information, please contact:

Sheila Goodman, 01254-248976 Or Liz Skupski 01254-247883

FRIENDS OF CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A MONTH CAN MAKE!

Nearly twenty years ago, at a meeting held in Wilpshire Methodist Church Hall, on a Sunday evening, a seed was sown. That seed has grown and grown, a bit like Jack's beanstalk, into the national charity we now know as Friends of Chernobyl's children.

Olwyn Keogh, now M.B.E., planted that seed, which was also tended by her husband Jack.

Plans were made, the red tape was sorted, host families were found, and the very first group of "Children from Chernobyl", together with two indispensable interpreters, came from Mogilev in Belarus to spend a month with families in the local area.

The whole purpose of their visit was to provide a programme of activities to maximise time spent in our fresh air, with plenty of good food, fun and friendship and heaps of Tender Loving Care, to build up their immune systems against the legacy of the Chernobyl disaster.

FOCC continues its good work, now nationwide, but never losing sight of its roots right here in Wilpshire, Blackburn. Many children have reaped the benefit of visits. Many families have also valued the opportunity to help the children. We have experienced the joy of children from the earliest visits returning to act as Interpreters in recent years. Full circle!

One Mellor family have shared their experience of involvement with the Charity. Here is what they have to say:

OUR EXPERIENCES OF HOSTING A CHILD FROM CHERNOBYL

"We first became aware of the Friends of Chernobyl Children Charity through an article in our Parish Magazine.

We, along with other local families, attended a meeting where the founder of the Charity, Olwyn Keogh, provided us with a slideshow and background information as to the aims and benefits of looking after a Belarussian child for 4 weeks during the summer months.

We are a family from Mellor with 3 children of our own. We agreed to host a child and were allocated a young boy called Dima. He was of a similar age to our own 2 boys. When he came over for his first visit he was 8 years old. He came from a very troubled background. His mum was a single parent and there were serious alcohol problems running through the family. His family lived in extreme poverty.

He spent approximately 4 weeks with us each summer over a 4 year period. We saw him grow from a shy, nervous 8 year old to a confident teenager.

We had lots of concerns before Dima arrived. How would we converse with him? What if he was unhappy or ill? How would he get on with our own children?

We had nothing to worry about. Friends of Chernobyl Children is a very well organised Charity with a good support network. The 2 interpreters who always accompanied the

A Christingle Thank You

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped at this wonderful service. We had a great turn out with 107 Christingle oranges handed out to children.

Thank you for bearing with us when we had to use the CD rather than have the organ, it all adds to the fun!

The colouring competition winners are:

Elizabeth Yates & Jamie Teare

Rose Best & John Yates.

Well done, they each win a selection box.

And finally, we had our best ever collection and made the huge sum of
£320

Little Angels

We meet in the Narthex at 2.15pm on Tuesday, 26th February for our usual meeting with time for playing with toys and refreshments.

Fairtrade

The stall will be in position in the Narthex before and following the Parish Communion Service on Sunday, 3rd February.

The Fairtrade Team

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

As you can see some months there is not enough input for the magazine to fill all the required pages - February is one of those months!

Therefore if you have any quizzes, word searches, puzzles, stories, poems, favourite prayers etc. that can be used to fill the blank pages when needed please let me have them.

Thank you
Karen