

Dear Friends,

At this the darkest time of the year, its good for our well-being to keep times of celebration, something that had been known by our ancestors from time immemorial; and so it is, at that this time of year has a long history of festivals designed to celebrate light, the sun, and joy. For our pagan ancestors such celebrations were part of strategy to “call the sun back” and so bring light and growth and health back to defeat the darkness and the cold. For Christians of course this is the time of year when we celebrate the coming into the world of the Son of God who brought life and health to a humanity that had walked a long way from the original path that God had designed for creation. And this time of year remains a season of celebration for even the most secular of folk as they too find their thoughts turned towards those they love, and those who are in need, and so bring some light and joy to others.

But Christmastide and New Year celebrations can however, be the most difficult time of year for some folk. For in our modern world all too easily this time of year brings extra pressures and worries as well, and as the world concentrates on the comforting fantasy of “The Perfect Family”, there are many people for whom this time of year is far from celebratory. While even those of us who are blessed with loving ‘good enough’ family relationships can still be seduced by the mass marketing of “The Perfect Family” and fall into thinking that if we are only really loving if we try to live up to “The Perfect Family” images all around us. And when we, as inevitably we will, fall short of the fantasy we find ourselves feeling depressed or disappointed, or worse guilty because it hasn’t been “perfect”. Indeed there are many who will find that far from being a celebration the end of the year has brought redundancy and job losses or a serious reduction in their pension funds and savings. So, Christmastide and New Year is, just like the rest of human life, a profound mixture of joy and sorrow. Just like the life of the Saviour whose coming we celebrate throughout the 40 days of Christmastide. For the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, that most joyous of joys would be an empty celebration without those deepest of sorrows his life, passion and death. There is no where therefore that is God forsaken, for in Jesus God has transformed even the darkness of grief, pain and death into the light of joy and eternal life.

And so, even in the reality of the darkness we can find joy, not the fleeting joy of the fantasy of “The Perfect Family” but a deep, indestructible joy. For we can be joyful of heart because the light has come, not the light that must be tempted back by Yule logs and candles each winter solstice, but the light that is the Light of the World, the true Light that came into the world and the darkness could not overcome.

*With every blessing*  
*Amma Sue*

Amma Sue and Sister Judith have made some slight changes to their Daily Office times as they respond to life here in the United Benefice.

The Sisters will continue to keep Friday as their day off.

**The Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary**  
**Daily Office times**

**7.00am** Lauds - Mellor Church - (*Sundays at 6.45am*)  
**7.30am** Prime - Mellor Church - (*Sundays at 7.10am*)  
**8.00am** Said Eucharist - Mellor Church - (*Tuesdays at 9.30am*)  
**12.45pm** Sext - Vicarage  
**5.00pm** Vespers - Mellor Church  
**9.30pm** Compline - Vicarage

*(the Sisters keep Silence after Compline until after the 8.00am Eucharist and so will not be able to answer the telephone - except for emergencies- after 9.30pm).*

### Sidesperson's Rota

#### Morning

Jan 5 J Moss P Webster  
 Jan 12 G Peake C Davis  
 Jan 19 A Bibby P Cowell  
 Jan 26 N Walsh M Hodson  
 Feb 2 S Nelson S Tipper

#### Evening

G Calvert  
 S Nelson  
 J Moss  
 N Hogg  
 G Tipper

### Chalice Servers

Jan 5 Eileen Peake & Marian Hunt  
 Jan 12 Geoff Gill & Linda Livesey  
 Jan 19 Graham Tipper & Eileen Peake  
 Jan 26 Marian Hunt & Geoff Gill  
 Feb 2 Rita Gorman & Linda Livesey

### Intercessors

Linda Livesey  
 Sonia Tipper  
 Debbie Chadwick  
 Frank Ashton  
 Geoff Gill

### Flower List

#### Donor

January 12 Mrs M Lomax  
 January 19 Mrs M Smith  
 January 26 Mr A Sharp  
 February 2 Mrs H Hilton

#### Arranger

Di Ibbotson  
 Joan Moss  
 Debbie Summersgill & Lorna Bowes  
 Ann Minoprio

### Cleaning Rota

**“After Christmas Tidy”- TUESDAY, 7TH JANUARY at 1.00pm**

**All Hands on Deck, please**

#### Week Commencing

Jan 13 Janice Ball, Linda Livesey & Lorna Shaw  
 20 Maureen Forrest, Hilda Hilton & Marilyn Forrest  
 27 Vicky Dewhurst & Jane Greenhough  
 Feb 3 Marian Hunt, Di Ibbotson & Sue Ellison

## **'Little Angels'**

We enjoyed our Christmas meeting when Mrs McPherson brought her class to join us - they sang for us and we sang for them!

Margaret had prepared a star decoration with a photograph of each 'little angel' for the children to take home - a lovely keepsake!

We meet again on Tuesday, 28th January at 2.15pm in the Narthex when our theme will be 'LIGHT'.

With our love and best wishes for a Happy & Peaceful 2014

Hilda, Irene, Margaret, Rita and Gillian

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## **FAIRTRADE**

We resume our efforts in support of FAIRTRADE on Sunday, 2nd February when the stall will be open for business before and after the Parish Communion service.

The Fairtrade Team

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## **Recycled Cards**

Thanks to your continuing support, we have recently been able to make the following donations

Children in Need (via Mellor School)	£20
Royal National Lifeboat Institute	£20
Montgomery Heights Christian Care	£20
Marie Curie Cancer Care	£20
The Christie Hospital	£20

Our total giving from recycled cards now amounts to £5367.

Special thanks to Ann Minoprio who makes the cards depicting scenes of Mellor in the snow. These are always very popular and add to our sales of Christmas cards significantly.

*Sheila, Jean, Rita and Sonia*

*PS We are still 'snowed under' with Christmas Cards  
so we don't need any more - thank you !!  
(unless they are absolutely beautiful . . .)*

## The Mellor Recipe Book

150 copies of the book have been printed and have been selling like 'hot cakes'! Already, more than £1,000 has been handed in to the Treasurer for Church Funds - not the Appeal.

It has been encouraging to receive your comments and would appreciate contributions to:-

### The Mellor Recipe Book - the Feedback

#### A Cake with Memories

It was my mum's 86th birthday and I decided to bake a very significant cake for her. Lorna Shaw, whose farming family go back decades with my mum, had contributed 'Mrs Wilkinson's Cake' to The Mellor Recipe Book.

Mr & Mrs Wilkinson were actively involved in the Church during the 1970s and lived at the corner of Whitecroft Lane and Church Lane. Mrs Wilkinson was a very good friend of my mum and they continued to see each other for many years after the Wilkinsons left the village.

I thought the cake would stir up some memories from the past, and it was indeed a success on all counts.

I went for the whipped cream ( double! - I'm no wimp - see Geoff's recipe! ) and a summer fruits topping which went a treat with a glass of bubbly.

Sue Gill

## Calendar for January

January 5	Epiphany
	10.30am Parish Communion Mothers' Union Corporate Service (Amma Sue)
	6.30pm Evensong & Sermon (Amma Sue)
January 10	7.30pm Youth Fellowship
January 12	The Baptism of Christ
	10.30 Parish Communion (Rev'd Canon John Hartley)
	6.30pm Evensong & Sermon (Rev'd Dr John Darch)
January 14	7.30pm Mothers' Union
January 19	Second Sunday of Epiphany
	10.30am Parish Communion All Age Worship (Rev'd Canon John Hartley)

6.30pm Evensong & Sermon  
(Pam Daunton)

January 25 12 noon Wedding

January 26 Third Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Parish Communion  
Rev'd Gary Hunt)

6.30pm Evensong & Sermon  
(Amma Sue)

January 28 2.15pm 'Little Angels'

### Readers for January

January 5 Epiphany

Morning P Jackson Isaiah 60: 1-6  
C Redwood Ephesians 3: 1-12  
Celebrant Matthew 2: 1-12

Evening M Riley Isaiah 49: 1-13  
M Watson John 4: 7-26

January 12 The Baptism of Christ

Morning R Jones Isaiah 42: 1-9  
S Gill Acts 10: 34-43  
Celebrant Matthew 3: 13-end

Evening N Hogg Joshua 3: 1-8, 14-end  
S Dobson Hebrews 1: 1-12

January 19 Second Sunday of Epiphany

Morning All Age Worship Isaiah 49: 1-7  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
Celebrant John 1: 29-42

Evening S Brindle Ezekiel 2: 1—3: 4  
M Watson Galatians 1: 11-end

January 26 Third Sunday of Epiphany

Morning G Gill Isaiah 9: 1-4  
D Summersgill 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18  
Celebrant Matthew 4: 12-23

Evening G Hill Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11  
N Hogg 1 Peter 1: 3-12

February 2 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Morning M Ashton Malachi 3: 1-5  
M Eccleston Hebrews 2: 14-end  
Celebrant Luke 2: 22-40

Evening S Nelson Malachi 3: 1-5

G Tipper  
Celebrant

Hebrews 2: 14-end  
Luke 2: 22-40

## **From The Registers**

	<b>Collections</b>	<b>Communicants</b>	
17 November	71		£688.69
24 November	64		£385.60
1 December	68		£461.32
8 December	48		£352.51

## **Baptisms**

We welcome into the Lord's family

Marcus Henry Shaw  
Ella Grace Shaw  
Holly May Batty  
Georgina Rose Batty

## **Interment of Ashes**

Carol Wain

## Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News

May I begin by thanking all parishioners for their contributions to our Christmas activities and wishing everyone a joyful, healthy and very green 2014 from all of us at School. The message from our Christmas Concert, "We Wish You a Green Christmas", was for everyone to help to look after God's wonderful world and the resources it provides for us.

Throughout 2014, we hope to put this into practice at every opportunity by reducing waste and reusing and recycling materials. For example, we will aim to use both sides of each piece of paper, switch off electrical equipment when it is not in use, walk to school rather than drive and deliver letters by e-mail rather than use paper. We also look forward to our School Eco-Council extending these ideas and arranging special themed days, such as 'dark days' and 'low waste lunch days'.

Of course, walking to school not only helps the environment but also keeps us healthy and we have lots of activities to keep our pupils fit and healthy both in extra-curricular activities and in lessons. Our extra-curricular activities recommence on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January with our weekly clubs for football, gymnastics, netball, French and line dancing. Further to this, we will be welcoming sports coaches who will provide a range of fun games activities for pupils after school on Tuesdays, particularly focussing on dodge ball. Other specialist coaches visiting School will lead creative dance activities in P.E. and cricket skills during Key Stage Two games lessons.

We always welcome visitors to School and the Chairman of our Governing Body, Mr Geoff Gill, now often leads our whole school worship and we look forward to Mr Gill joining us again on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January.

Following an INSET day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, school opens on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Michael Oddie (Deputy Headteacher)

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

The Quiz will be held on

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

in the School, starting at 7.30 prompt.

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 are 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 Funds.

Tickets are available from:-

Jean Freeman 812366

Sonia Tipper 813565

Debbie Summersgill 813559

Rita Gorman 812566

## **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 January we will be meeting on **Friday 10th and 24th.**

1.45pm – 3.00pm

St. Mary's Court Community Centre (opposite Church)  
£2 per family including refreshments & healthy snacks

Contact: Karen Walsh 01254-812939 / 07507-293484

## **The Church at Christmas**

Many thanks to everyone who helped to prepare the church for Christmas, erecting and decorating the Christmas trees and Crib which together with the flowers made the church look so lovely.

Also many thanks to the card ladies who bought the Advent Star which has been illuminated at our services during Advent.

Jim and Graham

## **Mellor Youth Fellowship**

Youth Fellowship has raised £106 so far from their sleepover in December. This is not the final figure as there is still some money to come into us so we will provide a final total in the February magazine.

We next meet on Friday 10th January in the Church Narthex 7.30pm – 9.00pm. All children from Year 7 and above are welcome to join us. Cost is £1 and tuck shop is available.

As we start another year, we are always looking for new activities for the children to take part in during our monthly meetings. If you have a 'hidden talent' that you would like to come and share with us or a story to tell, please let Karen know.

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

## **"A Very Happy Birthday"**

January birthdays from the **Baptism,**  
Sunday School and Youth Fellowship registers.

5th	Mia Thornton	16th	Ebony Varey
5th	Thomas Cleasby	22nd	Cassia Thurston
7th	Grace Hilton	26th	George Rolston
8th	William Joyce	26th	Ellie Mayor

8th Emily Sheldon  
12th Rose Best  
16th Scarlett Wakes

29th Amber Chadwick  
29th Elizabeth Venn-Mills

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

### **A note from the Treasurer**

If you need to pay a cheque to church please note that the payee name is **MELLOR PARISH CHURCH PCC**. Alternatively monies can be transferred via the following details :

Account number - **12043086** Sort code - **09 01 55**

The above account details can also be used to set up regular bank transfers for gift aided donations.

Until recently the bank have accepted cheques bearing the payee name St. Mary's Church but unfortunately this is no longer the case. Therefore to save embarrassment please could you ensure that cheques are made payable to "Mellor Parish Church PCC".

Thank you  
Stewart Woodward

## Church Magazine

After a break of 3 years, during which time the magazine has been in the capable hands of Karen Walsh, the role of editor is back with Rita Gorman. However, this time round with the support of 'Techno King' Ron Hak.

On your behalf, a huge 'thank you' to Karen and her friends for keeping the magazine on track and for all their work and dedication.

The production of a magazine is a real team effort with many people playing their part by contributing articles, reports and notices or delivering the magazine each month – thank you!

Please could the annual subscription of £5.00 be given to your distributor in January.

Also, please support the advertisers, who contribute so much financially, by using their services whenever you can.

It is difficult to imagine a church without a monthly magazine – a vital way of keeping parishioners informed of all the various activities – going through doors that are often closed!

Please remember that instead of throwing away the magazine after reading it cover to cover(!) pass it on to a neighbour or a friend.

Could all contributions etc be sent to [ritagorman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ritagorman@tiscali.co.uk) – getting to grips with 'parishmag.com' is a step too far – at the moment!

Rita Gorman 812566

Do you fancy becoming a Sidesperson

- - a Lesson Reader
- - an Intercessor
- - a Sunday School Teacher
- - helping with arranging the Church Flowers
- - Cleaning the Church
- - helping in the Church Yard
- - or even singing in the Choir?

Think about it – there is a place for you in Mellor Church.

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## Sunday School News



Happy New Year!

### Lessons

We return on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan in school.

Please come to prizegiving in church on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. Every child who has attended Sunday School this year will receive a prize. The theme of our worship is Gifts

### Christmas Party

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas party. Thank you to everyone who helped with this, especially Father Christmas, who came along even though he was very busy.

### Nativity and Christingle Service

A massive thank you to all the our families for their hard work for this service. It has been lovely to have us all working together and we hope everyone enjoyed how we retold this special story. I am writing this before we have even reached the service so I can't inform you how much we raised at Christingle – will announce it at prizegiving and we'll have a full report in February magazine.

### Pasta and Poems

We hope you will all come to our social event and bring your families and friends. Look for the advert in the magazine for details. We hope to raise enough to give a donation to the repair fund on behalf of the children.

**Best wishes for 2014 xxx**

**Prizegiving Service**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**January 10.30**

Please come and join us to  
reward the youngsters of  
our parish for their  
attendance at Sunday  
School



The children are the present  
in our church, not just the  
future, so we hope you will  
come along to celebrate  
with us and share in the joy  
which they bring to our  
church.

***See you there***  
***From all the 'Youth Team'***



### Hometime Afternoon tea.

The back of church becomes a tearoom!

Tea/coffee and cakes served.

Next date Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2.30-4pm

All welcome for a small donation

## **POEMS AND PASTA 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 7-9pm(ish) In school**



**Children – come and read us your favourite poem,dress up, use props or simply read it.**

**-or a poem you have written**

**Adults- come along and enjoy their performance**

**-or share a special poem with us.**

**Prizes for performance and for original poem**

**Drinks available for a donation**

**Delicious pasta supper included in the price**

**We would love EVERYONE to come along to enjoy this evening**

**Tickets £5 adults Children £1**

**Available from church wardens or Youth Team**