

MARCH MAGAZINE

Vicars Letter

At the beginning of February 2016 the vicar made this announcement which had to be read in the three churches within the benefice"

Dear Friends,

As I am still on sick leave I have asked the Churchwardens to make the following announcement.

When I was installed as Vicar I said that I had no "agenda" other than the one stated in the Covenant that the Churchwardens and I signed at the beginning of the life of the United Benefice. *"God's people in these parishes now commit themselves to working together with their Vicar to build the United Benefice of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury in order to reach out in love and generosity to our neighbours and our world; and to engender a spirit of Christian love and fellowship between the worshipping communities so that we may better respond to Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations" [Matthew chapter 28 verse 19]."* I also said that I would not seek to immediately change anything in the lives of the three churches unless absolutely necessary so that together we could begin to identify the necessary changes that would need to take place in order to fulfil God's work and mission as God's people in this place. This has meant that in practice I have attempted to be a "full-time vicar" in three churches at the same time. This is no longer possible; and after a series of conversations with the three PCCs and the reflections received from parishioners there is little likelihood of the situation becoming any easier in the near future. This being so, I have come to the difficult decision that I am no longer able to continue as Vicar of the United Benefice and so I have tendered my resignation to the Bishop of Blackburn to take effect on 1st May this year, which he has accepted.

With prayers
Sister Sue.

St Mary's Church, Mellor **Passiontide Reflections**

A devotional service of readings, hymns and music for congregation and choir.

Palm Sunday 20th March 2016 at 6.30 p.m.

If you would like to sing with the choir,
please talk to
the Choirmaster, Mike Wilcock.

From The Registers

		Communicants	Collections
Jan	17	55	271.60
	24	70	868.65
	31	65	503.55
Feb	7	115	820.57
	14	68	554.08

Baptism

We welcome into the Lord's family

Elsie Lou Hayes

Funeral

We commend to God's care

Pamela Hodgson

Irene May Holt

Calendar for March

March 6	Mothing Sunday
10.30	Parish Communion
6.30	Evensong (Mrs. Christine Ritson)
March 8	
7.30	Mothers' Union
March 13	Passion Sunday
10.30	Parish Communion (Canon John Hartley)
6.30	Evensong (Rev'd Enid Briggs)
March 20	Palm Sunday
10.30	Parish Communion All Age Worship (Rev'd Roland Nicholson)
6.30	Passiontide Reflections
March 21	Monday in Holy Week
7.00	Stations of the Cross (Balderstone)
March 22	Tuesday in Holy Week
7.00	Passover Meal/Stations of the Cross (Mellor)
March 22	
2.15	'Little Angels'
March 23	March Wednesday in Holy Week
7.00	Stations of the Cross (Samlesbury)
March 24	Maundy Thursday
7.00	Maundy Thursday & Footwashing (Balderstone)

March 25 Good Friday
 10.30 Good Friday Liturgy (Balderstone)
 2.00 Holy Hour (Mellor)

March 27 Easter Day
 6.00 Dawn Service
 10.30 Parish Communion
 6.30 Holy Communion
 (Rev'd Roland Nicholson)

Apology – at the time of going to print, clergy cover for some services is not available.

Church Rotas March

Sidespersons

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
March 6	J Moss P Webster	S Nelson
March 13	N Walsh M Hodson	G Tipper
March 20	A Bibby P Cowell	S Nelson
March 27	G Calvert P Hughes	N Hogg

Assistant Wardens

March 6	Lorna Shaw	Graham Tipper
March 13	Geoff Gill	Dorothy Walsh
March 20	Karen Walsh	Debbie Chadwick
March 27	Jim Saunders	Sue Saunders

Chalice Servers

Intercessor

March 6	Graham Tipper & Eileen Peake	Sunday School
March 13	Linda Livesey & Rita Gorman	Graham Tipper
March 20	Eileen Peake & Geoff Gill	Debbie Chadwick
March 27	Graham Tipper & Linda Livesey	Frank Ashton

Flowers

	Arranged by
March 6	Mothering Sunday Di Ibbotson
March 13	Lent
March 20	Palm Sunday Joan Moss
March 27	Easter Day All Arrangers

If you would like to donate a lily in memory of a loved one or make a contribution towards the cost of Easter flowers, please see Joan Moss 813581

Church Cleaning

Week Commencing

March 7	Eileen Peake & Wendy Eatough
March 14	Joan Moss & Ann Minoprio
March 21	Deborah Chadwick & Barbara Lucas
March 28	Janice Ball, Linda Livesey & Lorna Shaw

Narthex Windows

A generous person has paid to have the glass in the Narthex cleaned by

professional window cleaners – on behalf of us all – Thank You Very Much.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday, 4th March 2016

This year's service will be held at **2.00pm at Mellor St Mary's Church**. The service has been prepared by Christian women in Cuba and its theme is "Receive Children. Receive Me", and reflects St Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 vs 13-16 which is the focus of the service and a reminder that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect.

As ever, our local service is an ecumenical undertaking involving Mellor & District Churches Together.

The morning of the 4th March will be taken up by visits to residential homes in the area, followed by a sandwich lunch in the Narthex at St Mary's at 12.30pm then the service in church at **2.00pm**

I would like to mention that after 20 years of chairing the Women's World Day of Prayer committee, I feel now is the time to stand down. At the time of writing no-one has come forward to take on this role, so it may be that this will be the final Women's World Day of Prayer in Mellor and District. If anyone is interested in taking over from me, please contact me – Sheila Parker, tel 01254 812895 or email: parkers.mellor@yahoo.co.uk.

Sheila Parker

THE ANNUAL CHURCHYARD SPRING CLEAN

Monday 14th March starting at 6.00pm.

Once again it is time for the annual churchyard spring clean to remove the dead leaves, broken branches and the general litter that has accumulated over the winter months.

If you are able to spare an hour or two that evening it would be really appreciated as the more helpers there are, the easier is the task.

Please bring **garden rakes and wheel barrows** if you have them.

Once the clean up has been done the mowers can start their summer grass cutting which makes the churchyard look so much neater.

**HELP WITH MOWING THE GRASS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER
WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

THANK YOU

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News

Sorry – this should have been in the February magazine - Ed

From the Organist and Choirmaster.

The "festive period" elicits more than any other expressions of gratitude ... most often for gifts in a tangible form.

This "note of thanks" is for those "gifts more rare" ... those of effort, dedication, time and (occasionally?!) talent.

Accordingly this preamble represents a THANK YOU to our choir members who contributed to the spiritual experience of Advent and Christmas Through their choral contribution.

Thanks are also due to

- Harriet and Tom, our lone junior representation (especially for verse 1 of "Once In Royal David's City")
- those "ancillary workers" who managed the "lighting" choreography
- Noel ... the carpenter!
- The proprietors of The Millstone and The Feilden's Arms for the warm and generous hospitality extended to our "festive singers"
- Fathers John and Roland for their clerical "outreach presence" at the above establishments
- anyone else I may have omitted ...but not forgotten!

and finally, remember ...

There is room in the choir for you!

Thank You

Thank you for the lovely cards, plants, flowers, phone calls and visits during my recuperation from a fractured shoulder at beginning of December.

Your kindness has been much appreciated

Dorothy Walsh.

"A Very Happy March Birthday"

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

1st	Zara Bedford	19th	Frederick Rouse
2nd	Tre Broomes	23rd	Annie Jones
4th	Alissa Jefferson	26th	Alex Webb
7th	Mika Kimpton	26th	Matthew Webb
8th	Faith Mitchell	27th	Harvey Vause
11th	Olivia Bradshaw	28th	Oluwatomwa Birch
17th	Ella Barnes		

-apologies to Isobel Patterson whose birthday on 1st February was missed off the list-

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

FAIRTRADE

This year Fairtrade Fortnight is from 29th February –
13th March

and the theme is BREAKFASTS.

“Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you’ve depended on more than half the world”. Martin Luther King

Just ‘GOOGLE’ “WHAT IS FAIRTRADE” or visit

www.fairtrade.org.uk

to read about all the things that are going on in schools and churches throughout the land.

We shall be doing our little bit by holding the stall on Sunday, 13th March before and after the Parish Communion Service

(Mothering Sunday will be celebrated on 6th March and we have found that the takings are down when the church is busy - strange but true).

The Fairtrade Team

VISION 2026

Dear Friends,

Could you be St Mary’s Church Vision 2026 Champion?

The Church of England in Lancashire is working to live out ‘Vision 2026’ under the mission statement ‘Healthy Churches Transforming Communities’ The Vision has the key aims of making disciples of, being witness to and growing leaders for Jesus Christ.

Underpinning Vision 2026 is prayerful activity in parishes across the Diocese. To support the implementation of the Vision, each parish is being invited by the Bishop of Blackburn to appoint a ‘Vision Champion’.

Vision Champions will encourage the local church to play its part in developing a local response to our diocesan vision.

Our Vision Champions *will*:

- be excited by the opportunities presented by Vision 2016
- be a positive, encouraging voice in our parish, drawing attention to the resources and opportunities Vision 206 offers
- be supportive in helping our church prepare its contribution for May 2016
- be prayerful: our Vision Champion will be praying for the blessing of God on our parish, our united benefice and across the Diocese.

Our Vision Champions *should*:

- be a member of, or co-opted onto the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to make sure that they are fully plugged into the life and leadership of our church. This will give them the opportunity to advocate for Vision 2026 within our church.
- be able to commit – circumstances permitting – for three years in the role.

Support for Vision Champions

Our Vision Champion *will*:

- receive regular updates
- participate in the network of Champions across the Diocese, sharing ideas and encouraging one another
- have access to the recently appointed Vision Co-ordinator to support them in their role.

Vision Champions will be commissioned by the Bishop on 10th May 2016 at the Guild Hall, Preston.

If this sounds like something you could be interested in, please contact Dave or Barbara (our church wardens) before the 1st March 2016 for an informal chat.

*Heavenly Father,
we embrace your call for us to make disciples,
to be witnesses and to grow leaders.
Give us the eyes to see your vision,
ears to hear the prompting of your Spirit
and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son,
our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**He is Risen,
He is Risen Indeed!
Come and join the celebrations
Easter Sunday 6am**

**A short walk to our outdoor service
Then breakfast in church
All welcome
MELLOR ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

BALDERSTONE MOTHERS' UNION

INVITE YOU TO AN EVENING AT
MELLOR BROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 7.30PM

THE SPEAKER IS MAUREEN BAXTER AND HER TOPIC IS

"FROM GALLEY TO COCKPIT"

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TICKETS £5.00 AND INCLUDE GLASS OF WINE
AND NIBBLES.

FOR TICKETS PLEASE RING SUSAN 01254 814019
OR ALISON 01254 812439
OR YOU CAN PAY ON THE DOOR

ART EXHIBITION

A fourth EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS by local amateur artists will be held in Mellor St.
Mary's Parish Church on 13, 14 & 15th May 2016.

We are delighted that Mrs Heather Henderson (wife of the Bishop of Blackburn) has kindly
agreed to open the Exhibition at the Cheese & Wine Evening on Friday.

Refreshments will be available during the weekend with light lunches served on Saturday and the event will close with a Songs of Praise Service on Sunday afternoon.

The church will be open for public viewing on Friday, 1-4pm, Saturday 10am – 4pm & Sunday 1-4pm. There will be the opportunity to purchase some of the paintings during the weekend.

RECYCLED CARDS

Easter Cards and knitted Chickens (with Crème Egg) made by Joan Hak are now available from the card stall in church.

Recent donations include

North West Air Ambulance £20 – in Memory of Irene Holt

Mothers' Union 'Make a Mother's Day' £13 will enable a parish in Rwanda to help women, especially widows and single mothers, become more financially independent by starting businesses and improving the wellbeing of their families and communities.

As always, thank you all for your support.

The Card Ladies

Sunday School News **Happy Easter to all our families xxx**

Lessons

- 4th March – WWDP service 2pm(see below)
- 6th March – in Church- Mothering Sunday
- 13th March. – in school. Palm Sunday craft
- 20th March – in church. Palm Sunday
- 27th March – dawn service. Holiday

Womens World Day of Prayer.

This year the service as at 2pm on 4th March instead of the evening. We hope that you will try to come along to this lovely service, which this year is based around the women of Cuba. Gentlemen are welcome too, not just the ladies!

Mothering Sunday

Sunday School will be leading the service and our Rose Queen Caitlin will distribute gifts of flowers to the ladies in the congregation. Don't forget to bring all those special ladies with you to the service so we can thank them for all they do.

Palm Sunday

We are in church on Palm Sunday. Please could you let Debbie know if you won't be there. We hope to recreate the events of Palm Sunday so would be good if I knew

numbers to work with.

We return on 17th April for AAW in church

We'd love to see any new children, come and
join us on any Sunday morning.
From all the teachers. X

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2016

BAE CANBERRA CLUB

“BIG BAND 40’S NIGHT”

In aid of the United Benefice

Glenn Miller - Duke Ellington – Tommy Dorsey

Big Band music that many of us still remember and will have danced to in our “Younger days”. Now we can relive those wonderful sounds at a special “40’s Night” at the BAE Canberra club on Sat. Nov. 19th 2016. It may be a long way off, BUT the Band and the venue have been booked since last November – this will be a wonderful night where you can come and dance to the wonderful sound of a Big Band or just sit and listen and reminisce with friends.

More details to follow – but make a note of the date – don’t be disappointed

F.O.S.M.S

One of the most popular FOSMS fundraisers is the Easter raffle which will take place on Thursday 24th March, with the first prize being an amazing BMX stunt bike plus all the usual great prizes to be won!

Tickets will be issued within the children’s reading packs shortly.

Please save the date of Saturday 23rd April as we bring back the FOSMS Food Fest. A brilliant evening to try foods from all around the world, Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Italy etc. etc. There will also be a bar serving wines and beers plus children’s mocktails. Tickets for the event will be on sale soon, more detail to follow within the children’s reading packs and on the FOSMS notice board at the main entrance.

Kind regards The FOSMS team.

Mothers’ Union

The Annual General Meeting held in February was attended by 43 ladies. We began our evening with a hymn & prayers and spent a few minutes thinking of ‘Valentine’.

Reports were presented by:-

- a) Our Treasurer - her income and expenditure account was accepted by the meeting.
 - b) Our Secretary who again reminded us of the 'Twelve Months of Mellor M.U. - 2015 was a busy year.
 - c) The Enrolling Member/Branch Leader - it was my duty and pleasure to present my 2015 report. I thanked everyone for their contribution to the Branch and encouraged all to support each other and the Branch during 2016.
- We then enjoyed a buffet supper, exchanged £1 parcels, bought from the bric-a-brac stall and finally said the Grace together.

Early in February we said a sad farewell to Irene Holt. Most of our members came to her funeral service and formed a guard of honour as Irene was brought out of church. In true 'Irene fashion' we returned to the Narthex for coffee and scones.

We send our love and sympathy to Irene's daughter, Betty and the family.

Dates for us to remember in March

- 1. Women's World Day of Prayer Friday, 4th March
 - a) 11.00am Short Service at Longworth House
 - b) 12.45pm Lunch in the Narthex
 - c) 2.00pm Service in our Church
- 2. Tuesday, 8th March Branch Meeting
Speake:r Ginnie Aughton
- 3) The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
This has been transferred this year to Monday, 4th April. We will have our service at 9.30am.

Roslyn Jessop is now in Clitheroe Hospital. We send her our love and best wishes as she recovers from illness.

Margaret Ashton

LITTLE ANGELS

We will meet at 2.15pm in the Narthex on Tuesday, 22nd March (not the last Tuesday as school is on holiday on that date).

Our theme will be 'Easter' and what makes us happy.

We have all been remembering Irene Holt who was a founder member of the group and one of our staunch supporters for many years. God Bless, Irene.

The 'Little Angel' Group

THE BIG VILLAGE QUIZ!

Once again the quiz was a sell-out!

The school hall was packed with competing teams from far and wide - Balderstone, Samlesbury, Salesbury, Burnley and someone flew up from Southampton!

Quiz-master Rev Roland set some excellent tough questions and the competition was tight - the winning team was 'Universally Challenged' with a score of 105.5.

This was a great event - which goes from strength to strength each year. Thanks to all involved - including The Spread Eagle who produced an excellent supper!

We are very pleased to report that the Quiz realised £1143.00 for church funds. Thank you very much to everyone who helped in any way to make the evening such a success.

Members of the Social & Fund Raising Committee

Saturday Cafe at Mellor Village Hall

Every first Saturday in the month from 10am to 2pm
Hot and cold drinks, bacon sandwiches, soup,
homemade cakes to eat in or take out.

Readers for March

March 6	Mothering Sunday		
Morning	Sunday School	Exodus	2: 1-10
	Sunday School	2 Corinthians	1: 3-7
	Celebrant	Luke	2: 33-35
Evening	S Nelson	Exodus	2: 1-10
	S Brindle	Luke	2: 33-35
March 13	Passion Sunday		
Morning	A Smith	Isaiah	43: 16-21
	S Gill	Philippians	3: 4b-14
	Celebrant	John	12: 1-8
Evening	G Gill	Isaiah	43: 16-21
	G Tipper	John	12: 1-8
March 20	Palm Sunday		
Morning	D Summersgill	Isaiah	50: 4-9a
	F Ashton	Philippians	2: 5-11
	Celebrant	Luke	19: 28-40
Evening	Passiontide Reflections		
March 27	Easter Day		
Morning	A Smith	Acts	10: 34-43
	G Gill	Corinthians	15: 19-26
	Celebrant	John	20: 1-18
Evening	N Hogg	Acts	10: 34-43
	J Saunders	1 Corinthians	15: 19-26
	Celebrant	John	20: 1-18
