

# View From the Vicarage

## Back from the Dead!

A few years ago, BBC2's 'Horizon' programme reported on what has been called the archaeological discovery of the century. In the early 1990's high in the Alps, two climbers stumbled across a mummified body inside a glacier. At first it was assumed that the death must have been recent. Only later did it emerge that this body had been entombed for more than 5,000 years.

As the body was examined, it became clear that he was aged between 35 and 40 years. He was roughly 5' 2" tall and weighed around 7 stone. It appeared that he had first been wounded by an arrow, and then overcome by the extreme weather, and in a state of total exhaustion, he had sought shelter in a gully. Putting down his axe and backpack, he had laid his head on the rock. Soon his clothes froze to the rough ground and he was no longer aware that he was freezing to death.

Not surprisingly, that discovery aroused an astonishing level of interest...but what would arouse even more interest is if the body of Jesus Christ could be found. You see the eye witness testimony of those who saw Jesus crucified and then placed in a tomb (Mathew 27:57-66, Luke 23:50-54) was that three days later the tomb was empty, and the body was gone (Luke 24:1-3, John 20:1-10). But then hundreds of people reported seeing him alive again (John 20:11-21:25, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8) The fact is that Jesus' body has never been found and that is why there is no special place to visit where he is buried. So unlike the prophet Muhammad (571- 632) whose body rests within the walls of the mosque in Medina, or Lenin (1870-1924) whose embalmed corpse lies in a crystal casket in a mausoleum in Red Square Moscow, or Winston Churchill (1874 -1965) who is buried at St. Martin's Church Bladon or Elvis Presley (1935 -1977) who lies at Graceland, Memphis, Tennessee, Jesus is not so much dead and buried, but alive and living in the hearts and lives of all who acknowledge him to be Saviour and Lord (1 John 4:13-15). That is why although Christianity is rooted in real historical events it is not stuck in the past. It is a living faith because Jesus is alive (Luke 24:5).

But what difference should this make to Christians today? Well, in place of fear in the face of death there can be confidence because of the victory of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). And in place of concern for self there should be compassion for others that they too might come to know the love of Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). For Christ "died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but only for him who died and was raised to life for their sake" (2 Corinthians 5:15). So although the ice man is indeed a unique archaeological discovery, the greatest discovery we can make is that **"Christ has Died, Christ is Risen Christ will Come Again!"** Therefore let us live as those who have been redeemed by the cross, restored by the resurrection and renewed by the Holy Spirit for Jesus said **"I AM the Resurrection and the Life"** (John 11).

*Charles*

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## Little Angels

We meet on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15pm for our usual hour of fun together and thinking about SPRING.

Rita, Margaret, Hilda, Gillian and Sandra

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You are warmly invited to  
An informal evening of  
🎵 *Praise and Worship* 🎵  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month @ 4 pm  
(Except April 1st)  
St Mary's Church, Mellor  
*'Sing a new song to the Lord!'*

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## Church Rotas March

### Assistant Wardens

Mar	4	Marilyn Watson	Debbie Summersgill
	11	Derek Haworth	Dorothy Walsh
	18	Barbara Lucas	
	25	David Wain	Geoff Gill

### Sidespersons

Mar	4	J Moss	P Webster
	11	S Brown	G Calvert
	18	A Smith	N Walsh
	25	I Moss	G Tipper

### Chalice Servers

Mar	4	Eileen Peake	Graham Tipper
	11	Geoff Gill	Rita Gorman
	18		
	25	Rita Gorman	Geoff Gill

### Intercessors

Geoff Gill  
The Vicar  
Debbie Chadwick  
Graham Tipper

### Flower List

**No Flowers During Lent**

### Church Cleaning

#### **Week Commencing**

Mar	5	Deborah Chadwick & Barbara Lucas
	12	Janice Ball, Barbara Bibby & Lorna Shaw
	19	Maureen Forrest, Hilda Hilton & Marilyn Watson
	26	Vicky Dewhurst, Jane Greenough & Katie Rolston

*Thank you to those who helped in any way with the  
New Year Clean-up on 4<sup>th</sup> January.*

\* a new team is required for 12 February, 14 May, 6 August, 29 October\*  
- Please see Hilda or Rita if you can help on these dates- Thank You.

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## Readers for March

March	4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Mothers' Union	1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22
March	11	Mothering Sunday M Ashton D Summersgill	Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 33-35
March	18	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent All Age Worship	Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33
March	25	Palm Sunday A Smith S Gill	Psalm 118: 19-end Mark 11: 1-11
April	1	Easter Day Mothers' Union	Acts 10; 34-43 Mark 16: 1-8

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## Rose Queen Festival

This year the Rose Queen Festival has been merged with St Mary's School Gala Day and will take place on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The Rose Queen will be crowned during a church service at 11.00am before the Procession of Witness around the village.

On completion of the walk, the first engagement to be carried out by the Rose Queen will be the opening of the Gala in school – all are invited to take part in all the activities arranged by School and Fosms - and enjoy the Barbecue.

At the request of Fosms, Margaret Baldwin & Rita Gorman, representing church, attended a committee meeting and were encouraged by the positive response from all at the meeting with a genuine desire to make the merger a great success for both church and school.

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## WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

This year's service will be held at **11.00am at Balderstone St Leonard's Church**. The service has been prepared by Christian women in Suriname and its theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good" – a reminder to us all that we need to consider how we are treating God's Creation.

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

Following the service a light lunch will be served in Mellor Brook Community Centre before visits to local care homes where a shortened version of the service will be shared with the residents.

A warm welcome is extended to all

Sue Brown

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## **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Electoral Roll is a register of voting church members. You have to be registered on the Electoral Roll if you wish to vote at the Annual Parish Meeting or to serve on the Parochial Church Council.

The roll will be reviewed prior to the Annual Meeting and if anyone wishes to register on the Electoral Roll would they please see me for an application form.

Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have been baptised.

Graham Tipper

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### **Pam's Paper Blog:**

Before the First World War the suffragettes embarked upon a campaign of civil disobedience to bring attention to the unfairness of women being unable to vote. Women could work and pay tax but not take part in democracy. In February, one hundred years ago, the vote was eventually granted. Now there is a lobby to have these women pardoned. I'm uncomfortable with this really as civil disobedience was the point; to ameliorate it is to undermine them. They fought for what they believed because it is right and proper for us to stand up against injustice.

Still the issue of women's equality rumbles on usually in the area of work, pay and that unachievable glass ceiling. But doesn't this say more about what we value in society rather than equality? We judge each other by what we can afford to possess which is why debt is becoming such a problem for us. People are defined by how successful they are in what they do rather than their integrity in how they go about doing it.

St Paul talks of Jesus in his letter to the Philippians:  
*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*(Phil 2: 5-9.)

That whole idea of humble service for the common good is lost to our society. Anyone who lives a truly Christian life has to accept the contempt of others at their lack of material gain. Jesus didn't worry about equality but he did get angry at injustice.

If we want to celebrate the achievements of the suffragettes, wouldn't it be more useful if women continued with civil disobedience to bring attention to the injustice that is inflicted upon women of our world? Girls who suffer genital mutilation; women who are raped as an act of war; women kept in slavery both at home and abroad.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/become-local-lobbyist>

[https://www.tearfund.org/en/about\\_you/action/](https://www.tearfund.org/en/about_you/action/)

<https://experience.compassionuk.org/>

Pick a charity such as Christian Aid or Tear Fund and they'll help you become a lobbyist.

Support children in poverty with charities such as Compassion. Make a difference; become a modern suffragette.

As part of my development over Lent I intend to use the Church Army resource about being salt and light in our society. I know that I have more to do in my service to the common good; more to learn about sharing my faith.

[https://www.churcharmy.org.uk/Articles/513067/Get\\_Involved/Being\\_Salt\\_and/Being\\_Salt\\_and.aspx](https://www.churcharmy.org.uk/Articles/513067/Get_Involved/Being_Salt_and/Being_Salt_and.aspx)

You never know, next time you see me I too might have chained myself to the railings!

Pam Daunton

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## MESSY CHURCH

On the last Sunday of every month we hold Messy Church in Mellor St Mary Primary School from 4 – 5.45 pm

### What IS Messy Church?

1. This is a form of church for ALL ages to **enjoy** together
2. We **explore** a biblical theme through getting messy involving crafts and games
3. We have a short **celebration** time with a story, songs and prayer
4. We end with a yummy sit down meal together, home made by our volunteers

Everyone from the Benefice is very welcome to join us each month. You can take part in as little or as much as you like. If you'd like to help with crafts or food we'd love to hear from you.

### Do come and join us!

If you'd like to know more please contact  
Debbie Chadwick 07935 659004

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

We have been having a very busy Spring Term here in Class 3! In our history lessons, we have been learning about The Great Plague and how it had devastating effects on people in Britain and across Europe.

"I really enjoyed this topic because I really like gory things and this topic had lots of those!" Matilda- Year 3

Also, we have been really enjoying our new worship topic this term. We have been learning about 'God's Big Story' and we have looked at different stories from the book of Genesis. We have enjoyed learning about The Creation Story and important people from The Bible such as; Joseph, Jacob and Noah. This term we have also enjoyed learning about the influential Christian figures; Mary Slessor and St. Augustine. We have been thinking about how to apply these Christian values into our everyday lives.

"I have really enjoyed this term's worship because I liked how we learnt about St. Augustine and how he changed his ways. He started being quite silly but in the end he became a really nice person and a person we can learn from and follow." - Alaina 4

"I liked that it was called God's Big Story because it made me think about all God has done for us in the world."- Mason Yr 3

This term we have been really lucky because we have had so many new sports clubs available after school. We have been able to take part in football, gym, clubercise, and we are really looking forward to taking part in cricket and hockey in the next half term.

"I went to gym club this term and I really enjoyed it. Although we didn't go to a competition, a lady still was able to come in and judge us." - Lucy Year 4

This half term we have lots to look forward to. Max is looking forward to music lessons delivered by Lancashire Music Service on a Friday afternoon. Lucy is excited for world thinking day on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and Esme is looking forward to World Book Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

*Mrs J Embley-Peers (Headteacher)*

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## **Mothers' Union**

The Annual General Meeting was held in February. We began with a hymn and prayers before spending a few minutes thinking about Anna (Luke 2: 36-38).

Reports were presented by:-

1. Our Treasurer, Mary. The income and expenditure account was accepted by the meeting.
2. Pam Jackson kindly deputised for Margaret Baldwin, our Secretary, who had produced a leaflet "Twelve Months of Mellor Mothers' Union 2017".
3. It was then my duty and pleasure as Branch Leader to thank everyone for their contribution to the Mellor branch during 2017 and encourage all to support the branch and each other during 2018 – our centenary year which begins in November.

We then enjoyed a buffet supper, exchanged £1 parcels and bought from the bric-a-brac stall and finally said the Grace together.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March when we will welcome Maureen Baxter. As a retired airline pilot she speaks "From Cabin to Cockpit". We feel this talk will interest many so we extend a very warm welcome to all members of the congregation to come and join us in school at 7.30pm.

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been transferred this year to April 9<sup>th</sup> – we will celebrate with a service in church.

Margaret Ashton

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## **From The Registers**

		<b>Communicants</b>	<b>Collections</b>	
	<b>Jan</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>556.50</b>
	<b>Feb</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>405.00</b>
		<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>137.20</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>—</b>	
	<b>18</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>98.00</b>	

## **Funeral**

*We commend to God's care*

**Kerry Heale**

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## **The Village Quiz - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

Another successful and enjoyable evening - thank you to all who came along to the Quiz Night helping to raise £960 for church funds.

Special thanks to Quiz Master, Roland; the scorer, James; the chefs from the Spread Eagle and everyone who helped in any way to ensure we all had a great time.

Congratulations to the winning team "Universally Challenged" led by Julie Foote.

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## **Tuesday Coffee Mornings**

Thank you to all who attend and /or bake cakes – your support enables £50 to be donated to church funds every month.  
Also, please continue to save your 'loose change' for Mission work supported by St. Mary's Church.

Hilda Hilton

Please note new contact details...

28 Brookfield

01254 813172

Mob. 07546 651817

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## **Recycled Cards**

We are happy to donate £50 to the Mothers' Union "Make a Mother's Day" Appeal supporting mothers in Africa through education and family care.

Should anyone require a bespoke card for a special person or anniversary please let us know – we may be able to help.

Cards for Mothering Sunday and Easter are now available on the stall.

As always, thank you for your support.

*Thank you, the Card Ladies*

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## **Diary for March**

March	2nd		
	11:00am		Women's World Day of Prayer Balderstone St.Leonard's Church
March	4th	3rd Sunday of Lent	
	9.30am		Parish Communion (Canon John Hartley)
	4.00pm		Praise and Worship
March	11th	Mothering Sunday	
	9.30am		Family Communion (The Vicar)
March	13th	7.30	Mothers' Union
March	18th	5th Sunday of Lent	
	9:30am		All Age Worship (The Vicar)
March	20th	2.15	'Little Angels'
March	25th	Palm Sunday	
	9:30am		Parish Communion (Rev'd Dr John Darch)
	4.00pm		Messy Church

March 29th Maundy Thursday  
7.00pm (Rev'd David Kennedy)

March 30th Good Friday  
10am (Canon John Hartley)

April 1st Easter Day  
9.30am Parish Communion  
(Canon John Hartley)

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### **Weekly Event**

Every Tuesday 9.30am  
Holy Communion

Followed by Coffee & Fellowship in the Narthex

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