

Readers for March

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

10th March

Morning

4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

M Ashton

Exodus 2. 1-10

C Hussey

2 Corinthians 1. 3-7

Celebrant

Luke 2 33-35

Evening

N Hogg

Isaiah 40. 27 - 41. 13

S Nelson

2 Timothy 4. 1-18

17th March

Morning

Passion Sunday

D Summersgill

Isaiah 43. 16-21

A Smith

Philippians 3. 4b-14

Celebrant

John 12. 1-8

Evening

M Watson

2 Chronicles 35. 1-6, 10-16

S Dobson

Luke 22. 1-13

24th March

Morning

Palm Sunday

R Jones

Isaiah 50. 4-9a

S Tipper

Philippians 2. 5-11

Celebrant

Luke 19 28-40

Evening

M Riley

Isaiah 5.1-7

S Nelson

Luke 20. 9-19

28th March

Evening

Maundy Thursday

G Gill

Exodus 12. 1-14

R Gorman

1 Corinthians 11. 23-26

Celebrant

John 13. 1-17, 31b-35

29th March

Morning

Good Friday

G Tipper

Isaiah 52. 13 - 53. end

S Nelson

Hebrews 10. 16-25

Celebrant

John 18.1-19. end

31st March

Morning

Easter Sunday

S Tipper

Acts 10. 34-43

W Shaw

1 Corinthians 15. 19-26

Celebrant

John 20. 1-18

Evening

M Watson

Acts 10. 34-43

M Riley - 1 Corinthians 15. 19-26; Celebrant - John 20. 1-18

My dear friends,

What a lovely feeling it is to know that this will be my last magazine letter that I have to write which I have done for the last 18 months. It is good to be able to hand over the job to Sue as she becomes your new Parish Priest from March 12th.

This month leads us through Lent and the Passion to Easter, but, there are some very important dates on the way, and I would like to devote my letter to one of them namely March 17th the FEAST of ST PATRICK. a favourite of mine. (one of many) and maybe a saint with a message for Sue and her ministry with you.

‘Jesus said, See I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of the wolves; so be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves.’ MATTHEW 10 : 16

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, yet he was born in England. Many of the lives of the old saints come from all sorts of legends some believable some less so. Patricks ‘Confessions’ and ‘The Letter to Coroticus’ are unique in the history of the early Celtic church. They tell in his own words the history of his life as a missionary. He was born somewhere in western England in the fourth century AD, in a Christian family and when about seventeen was kidnapped by slave-traders and taken to Ireland and sold as a cattle-hand. Yet he loved his rough Irish masters, and longed to share with them the Christian faith that he had learnt at home, and of which they knew nothing.

Patrick escaped from Ireland to France where he trained for the priesthood and was ordained. He then took the courageous step to travel back to Ireland as a missionary. There he suffered much opposition, and felt that he was sent by Christ ‘like a sheep into the midst of wolves.’ Patrick wasn’t stupid, he knew exactly what he was up against. But he refused to use trickery to gain his own way, and slowly but surely he won supporters with his charm. Christian missionaries often have to be ‘wise as serpents and harmless as doves’.

There are some countries today where Christians receive violent opposition for their faith. In most of these, the overseas missionary is not involved in direct evangelism, but in supporting the local Christians in more practical ways, in medicine, agriculture, education and new technology. Any Christian who leaves his or her home to help the Church in another country is a missionary. Jesus knew all about the dangers when a single wolf enters a flock of sheep, so there was a striking ironic humour in his warning that his followers were to go out like a single sheep into a flock of wolves!

Most of us will never meet violent persecution for our faith; we are more likely to be, dismissed as irrelevant to modern life, and mocked openly or behind our backs for our stupidity in sticking to such an old-fashioned set of beliefs. We must not underestimate the strength of this opposition that is about us today; we must be as wise as serpents. Yet we are still called to be missionaries.

It is all too easy to shrink into a purely private faith, which we never mention in public so as to avoid being made fun of. Jesus will not allow us to do this, but sends each one of us out as sheep among wolves to bear witness to our faith, and to share the love of God with those who may never have heard that God love them. Yet we shall fail if we become aggressive, nobody wins converts that way; we have to win people by our gentleness and charm, as Patrick did in Ireland.

May I take this opportunity to wish Gods blessing on Sue as she begins her ministry in the United Benefice of Mellor, Balderstone and Samesbury and also to wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Fr Roland.



Hometime Afternoon tea.

The back of church becomes a tearoom!

Tea/coffee and cakes served.

Next date Friday 15th March 2.30-4pm

All welcome for a small donation

From The Registers

	Communicants	Collections
January 13	59	£423.40
January 20	71	£440.21
January 27	126	£726.04
February 3	70	£704.78
February 10	63	£369.20

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

Logan Jay Houldsworth

Funeral

We commend to God's keeping the soul of

Norman Bowes
Edith Thompson

Mellor Youth Fellowship

We will meet on **Friday 8th March** 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.

We are still short of volunteers to help us with Youth Fellowship. The Year 6 children are very keen to join our group but this can only be done if we have enough adults at each meeting. Please, Please can you let Karen Walsh know if you can join our rota to help us and provide for the children.

We look forward to seeing you
The Youth Fellowship Leaders

Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

The above meetings will take place on Sunday 17th March at 12.00 pm after the Sunday Eucharist. The Vestry Meeting will elect the Churchwardens for the forthcoming year. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at which elections to the PCC are held. Nomination forms for Churchwardens and PCC members are on the notice board in church. All parishioners on the Electoral Roll are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting while anyone not on the Electoral Roll is welcome to attend.

Jim and Graham

Calendar for March

3rd March

3rd Sunday of Lent

10:30am Parish Communion
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

6.30pm Holy Communion
(Linda Leadbeater)

10th March

4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

10.30am Parish Communion
(Rev Canon John Hartley)

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(Area Dean Michael Woods)

17th March

Passion Sunday

10.30am All Age Worship
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
(Revd John Darch)

24th March

Palm Sunday

10:30am Parish Communion
(Revd Canon John Hartley)

6.30pm Holy Communion
(Revd Toby Webber)

25th March

7.30pm Monday of Holy Week-Balderstone
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

26th March

7.30pm Tuesday of Holy Week – Mellor
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

27th March

7.30pm Wednesday of Holy Week- B'Stone
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

28th March

7.30pm Maundy Thursday – Mellor
(Revd John Darch)

29th March

10.30am Good Friday
2.00pm (Revd Roland Nicholson)

31st March

Easter Sunday

10:30am Parish Communion
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

6.30pm Holy Communion
(Revd Roland Nicholson)

Flower arrangers

Date	Donator	Arranger
3rd Mar	Lent 3	No flowers
10th Mar	Mothering Sunday/Wedding	All Arrangers
17th Mar	Lent 4	No flowers
24th Mar	Palm Sunday	Debbie Summersgill & Lorna Bowes
31st Mar	Easter Sunday	All Arrangers

Sidespersons

Date	Morning	Morning	Evening
3rd Mar	J Moss	P Webster	G Calvert
10th Mar	A Bibby	P Cowell	G Tipper
17th Mar	N Walsh	M Hodson	J Saunders
24th Mar	P Hughes	G Calvert	S Nelson
31st Mar	I Moss	G Peake	S Tipper

Chalice servers and Intercessors

Date	Servers	Intercessors
3rd Mar	Geoff Gill & Marian Hunt	Frank Ashton
10th Mar	Eileen Peake & Rita Gorman	Debbie Chadwick
17th Mar	Linda Livesey & Graham Tipper	Geoff Gill
24th Mar	Marian Hunt & Eileen Peake	Linda Livesey
28th Mar		Sonia Tipper
31st Mar	Geoff Gill & Rita Gorman	Frank Ashton

Cleaning

Week commencing	Cleaners
4th Mar	Maureen Forrest, Hilda Hilton & Marilyn Watson
11th Mar	Geoff & Eileen Peake
18th Mar	Joan Moss & Sonia Tipper
25th Mar	Jena Freeman, Sheila Turner & Joan Venables

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers and support throughout her long illness. Also for the many messages of condolence and the generous donations in her memory.

Special thanks to all who joined us at the Service of Thanksgiving for Edith's life.

Bill Thompson

CHURCH CLEANING

Thank you very much to those who worked so hard to clean the church after the scaffolding had been removed.

We have six new recruits on the cleaning rota which means that each team is on duty four times in the year.

However, as work progresses in the chancel, it may be necessary to join together for more 'Big Clean Ups'.

If anyone else would like to help, please come along as and when !

Rita Gorman 812566

EDITOR'S NOTE

Just a quick note to let everyone know that both my home telephone number and email address have recently changed. Please see new details on inside cover.

Karen Walsh

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 March 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

Contact: Karen Walsh 01254-812939 / 07507-293484

Building Repairs

The scaffolding which was erected in church during December has been removed following further inspection visits by the architects and several contractors. A report has been sent to the Diocesan Advisory Committee by the architects setting out the problems and suggesting how these would be put right. This report was reviewed at the committee's February meeting and permission was given to proceed with the repairs under an emergency repair scheme. The architect is issuing tender documents for the repair to the contractors who inspected the damage and is requesting replies before the end of February. Once these have been reviewed by the PCC and a contractor chosen, it is hoped to start work as soon as possible. This will require scaffolding to be erected again but hopefully we can work around it without too much disruption to our services.

Jim and Graham

Sunday School News



Lessons

3rd March –in school. Mothering Sunday craft

10th March – In church. Mothering Sunday

17th March.- in school

24th March – in school

31st March– Easter Sunday

.Mothering Sunday

Sunday School will be leading the service and our Rose Queen 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.

Easter Sunday

Come along to the Dawn service on Easter morning. We take a short walk onto the field across from the butchers and have a short service looking out over the wonderful view to Pendle. Then it's back to church for bacon sarnies. A lovely way to start Easter Sunday.

St Georges Day Disco.

We have organised a family disco for 27th April. Dress up as a knight, princess or hero. Grown ups get your costumes on too. We already have had the suggestion that the Sunday school teachers are perfect dragons! Look out for the details.

Rumble in the Jungle.

Amber will be having her bring and buy in the village hall on Sat 13th April 10- 2pm. We welcome any donations of goods to sell, cakes for the cake stall but especially help on the stalls. Goods can be dropped at Sunday school any Sunday, or left with any of the S.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”

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

1st	Zara Bedford	23rd	Annie Jones
2nd	Tre Broomes	26th	Thomas Wiggans
7th	Mika Kimpton	26th	Matthew Webb
8th	Faith Mitchell	26th	Alex Webb
11th	Olivia Bradshaw	27th	Harvey Vause
17th	Ella Barnes	28th	Ruth Edwards
19th	Frederick Rouse	29th	Kate Calderbank
20th	Lucy Calderbank		

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



He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!

**Come and join the celebrations
Easter Sunday**

**Take a short walk to our short
outdoor service**

**Back to church for bacon butties –
a lovely joyous way to start your
Easter Sunday.**

All welcome



Mothers' Union

The Annual General Meeting held in February was attended by 43 ladies. We used the 'Wave of Prayer' service which was written for Mothers Union branches in the Free State, Ibadan North, Nsuka, Sekondi, Shyogwe and Blackburn dioceses. The theme of the service was 'The Seeds We Sow' which enabled us to think about "Priscilla."

Reports were presented by:-

- a) The Treasurer, her income and expenditure account was accepted by the meeting.
- b) The Secretary who reminded us of all we had done during a very busy year.
- c) The Branch Leader – it was my pleasure to offer my 2012 report. We have 66 members in a very active branch. I thanked everyone for their particular contribution to Mothers Union during the year & encouraged all to support each other & the branch continuing to pray and play together during 2013.

We then enjoyed a buffet supper, sold bric-a-brac, cards & exchanged parcels. £118.85 was raised for Mothers Union funds. Dates to remember for March:-

- a) Womens World Day of Prayer Friday 1st:
12.30pm – Lunch at Osbaldeston St.Mary
1.45pm – Short service in Longworth House
7.30pm – Full service at Osbaldeston St. Mary
- b) Induction & Institution of Rev Dr Sue Williams 12th March at 7.30pm. We welcome her as our vicar.
- c) As the Induction is on the second Tuesday of the month, our March meeting will be on Tuesday 19th March. Our speaker will be Mr Geraint Jones, a local consultant in General Medicine.
- d) Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Monday 25th March. We will meet in Church at 10am for a short service. I look forward to seeing as many as possible.

We were very sad when Edith Thompson died. She had been a loyal member until illness overtook her. We offer our love and sympathy to her husband Bill.

I have just had a message to say that Barbara Walmsley has died suddenly. I have spoken to her daughter to express our sympathy.

Margaret Ashton

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School

In February 2013, the school received an interim report from Ofsted. The main findings of the report are:

"As you may know, during its last inspection in April 2010, Ofsted inspectors judged your child's school to be good. Schools which are performing well are now inspected less often than other schools. This usually means that good schools are inspected once in five years, whilst schools that require improvement will be inspected between 12 to 24 months after their last inspection.

In carrying out the interim assessment, we considered the following:

- pupils' attainment, including the attainment of significant groups of pupils
- focus on disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs and pupils' attainment in core subjects
- pupils' progress, including the progress made by different groups of pupils
- pupils' attendance
- any inspection visits carried out by Ofsted since the last routine inspection

I am pleased to inform you that our interim assessment shows that the school's performance has been sustained and that we can defer its next full inspection."

This interim report was discussed at the Spring Term Governors' Meeting and everyone was pleased with its findings.

Chris Taylor
Headteacher

The Village Quiz

This was held on Friday 15th February and proved to be a very successful and enjoyable evening. It was good to see friends from Balderstone and Samlesbury Churches enjoying the evening with us.

We do not have a final figure at this time, but it appears that we have easily exceeded last year's total.

A big "Thank you" goes to Fr. Roland, our compere and quiz master, and to everyone who helped with the organisation before the event and on the night. All the proceeds will go to St Mary's Church.

Social Committee

PCC Secretary

We need a new Secretary for the PCC. If anyone is willing to take this on, we would be most grateful. Please speak to Graham or Jim.

3 Parish Walk

Balderstone is arranging a 3 parish walk for Sunday 24th March 2013.

The walk will commence from the War Memorial in Mellor at 1.30pm and go via Stoops Fold to Abbots Brow, across the A59 at the Bay Horse and then down to Balderstone by way of Commons Lane, along Jacksons Bank and Bezza Lane before finishing at St Leonard's Church, Samlesbury.

This as a sponsored walk in aid of St Leonard's, Balderstone church funds. If anyone from the two parishes of St Mary's, Mellor and St Leonard's, Samlesbury wish to join us they will be most welcome.

Obviously any sponsorship they receive will go to their respective churches and not to Balderstone.

Everyone will have to arrange individual transport to and from the start/finish points.

We will be pleased to see anyone who can manage to take part.

Regards

Christine Jackson

Mellor Village Hall – invite you to join their 'What's On'

Hello

Did you know that there are over 2000 people who live in Mellor?

We would like to reach more of you that we can let you know what is happening in and around the Village Hall and sometimes beyond.

If you wish to join the mailing list then e-mail us at :MellorCA@btinternet.com just with the title "**Add**"

We will do the rest.

We will only use this information to contact you about Mellor Community Association and Village Hall matters and it will not be passed on to 3rd parties.

Many thanks from the Chair and Committee of Mellor community Association

FOSMS: Friends of St Mary's School

The spring term started with the school disco on the 8th February. We raised £176 on the night and all the pupils from year 1 to 7 had a great evening with some fantastic Gangnam style dancing!

The Father Christmas Run raised a fantastic £580. Thank you to everyone in Mellor Village and Mellor Brook who donated. The Bonfire and Firework evening raised £500 and the Christmas Concert programme advertisements from local businesses, £510.

Dates for your diary

During March you will receive raffle tickets to sell to family and friends. The raffle is drawn on Thursday 28th March at the end of term and we have some fantastic prizes, including a Kindle Fire and a scooter.

Save the 10th May for the FOSMS Ceilidh, an evening of live music, dancing and an energetic caller to teach you the simplest of steps. The venue is local, at The Canberra Club, Samlesbury and we aim to make it a night to remember. Please keep an eye on the school website and noticeboard for details and ticket sales.

<http://www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk/>

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 27th February at 7:30pm in the school.

As always, we welcome new members and if you would like to join us, or receive any information on FOSMS, or involvement with the school or events, please contact Julie Olsson or Daleen Ten Cate via the school. ,

Zoë Metcalf
Secretary

Little Angels

Please can we meet on MONDAY, 25th March at 2.15pm in the Narthex for our Easter meeting?

This is just a one-off; hoping that it is acceptable to our regulars – and maybe it will be convenient for others to join us.

Margaret 812360 Rita 812566

Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February – 10th March

We shall be doing 'our bit' to support and help smallholder farmers and producers of the food we love by holding the stall on Sunday, 3rd March in the Narthex.



Take a look at the Fairtrade web site www.fairtrade.org.co - it is very interesting!

The Fairtrade Team

CAN YOU HELP?

St Barnabas Community Centre need volunteers to help in the Christian Book Shop. on Johnston Street, Blackburn

If you could spare an hour or two each week, please contact Mrs Joan Singleton on 01254 263817 or call in the Centre for more details.

Dear Friends

Let me begin by introducing myself, for even though I have had the pleasure and privilege of worshipping with you from time to time that has been, of necessity as a visitor rather than as a member of the parish. Perhaps a good place to start would be to begin by explaining why my title is 'Amma'. I am a religious sister and one of two founder members of a rather new and small religious community, the Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary, and at the moment I serve as the superior of the Order. Before we were founded we decided that in response to our respect for the spirituality of the Desert Mothers and Fathers, the superior of our Order should be given the title Amma which is the Arabic word for 'mother' and a title given to the female spiritual leaders of the desert communities of monks and nuns at the beginning of the Christian Church. As we are so small and new we do not have our own community house and so the other founding sister of the Order, Sister Judith, will be sharing community life with me at the Vicarage. Sister Judith is the Blackburn Diocese Course Director for the Called to Serve course and is the Reader at Christ the King in Blackburn.

Being born and spending my early life in Liverpool I am a 'scouser' (and very proud to be so) and although I've also lived in a variety of other places around the country I was privileged to be ordained in Liverpool Cathedral and served my curacy in the parish of Prescot, about 7 or 8 miles outside the city centre. My family live close by with my parents and my sister and her family living in Wigan and my brother and his family live in Lancaster; my sister has two children and three grandchildren and my brother has a teenage son. I also have an 'honorary' family (long story) who live in Oxfordshire and Canada and so I have an 'honorary' daughter and son-in-law and 4 'honorary' grandchildren and 2 'honorary' great-grandchildren. Before I begin to sound as old as Methuselah I should mention that my sister and my honorary daughter were married very young and had their children early! As all my family and I are very close I'm sure that eventually you will have the opportunity to meet the individual members of it when they visit at the vicarage from time to time.

As you read this article we shall be drawing ever closer the beginning of the life of the new United Benefice of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury and my Institution as your new Vicar; which is both an exciting and at the same time a daunting prospect for us all!

It's exciting as we look forward to travelling together on this new venture as we begin to work as a United Benefice with Balderstone St Leonard, Mellor St Mary and Samlesbury St Leonard, and under God seek to build a new worshipping community which both creates something new and at the same time values and honours the present life, the history and the faithful witness over the centuries of all three parishes. As Jesus tells us those "who have been trained for the kingdom of heaven are like...a household who bring out of their treasure what is new and old" [Matthew 13,52]. But of course, the building up of the United Benefice is not for our benefit it is in order that we may be witnesses and disciples who are seeking to fulfil our Lord's commandment to "go and make disciples of all nations" [Matthew 28,19]. And as a previous Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple (1881-1944) once commented: "Church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members".

And that of course is what makes it a daunting prospect. How are we as a United Benefice going to go about fulfilling our mission and ministry in order to 'make disciples' perhaps not of all nations but most certainly of the world and society in which we are placed? There is no simple answer to that question; and certainly no timescales, for it is only in the journeying that we will begin to see what it is that God is calling us to be and to do. What we can say is that it will be the task of us all and not just a few for it is only together as the Body of Christ are we be able to fulfil our call to be the People of God in this place. As St Paul reminds us: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..." [1Corinthians 12].

So, it's exciting and daunting at the same time but that's what our Christian pilgrimage is all about for our task is to work, not for the world or even for the church, but for the Kingdom of God.

"You found out what we were doing and you interfered: 'Come and do it with me', you said.

So thank you, Lord, for interfering in our lives.

You promised us nothing by way of success, recognition, possessions or reward, 'These things will come at the right time when you walk with me,' you said.

So thank you, Lord, for promising us nothing.

You gave us no resources apart from ourselves – hands meant for caring, lips meant for praising, hearts meant for loving, and the Holy Spirit to make us restless until we change.

So thank you, Lord, for the essential gifts.

Then, just when we've got it right as to where we should go and what we should do, just when we're ready to take on the world, you come, like a beggar to our back door, saying 'This is the way, I am the Way.'

So thank you, Lord, for coming again and keeping us right, and showing you care for us and for all people."

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With every blessing

Amma Sue