

MELLOR PARISH CHURCH

www.mellorparishchurch.org

Vicar

Rev'd Charles D Jefferson
01254 491464
revcjefferson@uwclub.net
(day off.. Friday)

Licensed Lay Reader

Mrs Pam Daunton 01772 877017

Church Warden

Parochial Church Council

Chairperson	Rev'd Charles Jefferson
Clerk & Secretary	David Wain
Treasurer	Lorna Shaw with David Adams

Margaret Baldwin (2021) Geoff Gill (2021)
Rita Gorman (2021) Betty Green (2021)
David Holroyd (2021) Barbara Lucas (2019)
Lorna Shaw (2021) Mark Smith (2021)
Graham Tipper (2021) David Wain (2021)
Marilyn Watson (2020) John Woodward (2021)

Sidespersons

Sue Brown Graham Calvert Peter Cowell
Nanette Hogg Paul Hughes Ian Moss
Joan Moss Sue Nelson Alan Smith
Frances Thompson Noel Walsh
Pat Webster

View From the Vicarage

Aim for nothing – and you'll be sure to hit it!

So runs an old adage. And if that's true then it may explain why so many businesses and organisations have a strategy for growth because they know that if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. And spring provides an opportunity to take a fresh look at all that we are doing before planning for the future.

Now back in the 1990's the Church of England and, in particular, the Diocese of London began to realize that something also had to be done if church congregations were to develop and survive. This was the inspiration and motivation for MAP – **Mission Action Planning** – a way of helping churches discover a vision for their church and then discern how that vision could be translated into reality.

In 2016 the Archdeacon of Blackburn's book 'How to do Mission Action Planning' was reissued, having been revised and expanded from the original version of 2009. In support of this the **Blackburn Diocese** produced a '**Healthy Church Self-Assessment Tool**' which encourages churches to assess their health against 6 qualities that research has shown are fundamental to church health and growth. The first category is one of the most challenging:

"Inspiring worship and dynamic prayer that connects and engages"

‘A healthy church offers worship that inspires, encourages and builds people up in the Christian faith. The worship has depth, richness and connects with people helping them encounter God. A healthy church has a deep- rooted active commitment to prayer that is demonstrated in every area of its life.’

The book then encourages every church to consider the following questions:

Does our regular worship draw people of all ages into the presence of God?

Do we review the pattern and delivery of our worship on a regular basis to keep it fresh and transformational?

Is our liturgy accessible and easy to follow? Does it draw in and engage those who may have never worshipped in a church before?

Does our music style and choice engage with people of all ages?

Is our worship child-friendly with appropriate safeguarding in place?

Is there a clear teaching programme based on Scripture?

Does prayer play a central part in the life of the church?

Is the vision of the church and its mission priorities a focus for the prayer life of our church?

Do we challenge and equip people to make regular time for personal prayer and Bible reading?

Do our sermons teach about and explore the questions that people in our church are commonly asking?

‘The health assessment will indicate areas of church life that are strong and healthy and should be celebrated and also identify areas that need development’.

But why is this so important? Well the Diocesan Vision Statement 2026 has as its aim ‘**Healthy Churches Transforming Communities**’. Therefore, worship that is inspiring and prayer that connects and engages will better enable us to **Make Disciples of Jesus Christ**, be **Witnesses to Jesus Christ** and **Grow Leaders for Jesus Christ**. So as we look ahead in to the future can we pray the words of the Diocesan Prayer:

‘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.’

Charles

From The Registers

Communicants

Collections

Mar	25	97	£650.00
Apr	1	88	£519.10
	8	51	£416.50
	15	--	£ 93.50
	22	60	£467.30

You are warmly invited to

An informal evening of

♪ *Praise and Worship* ♪

Sunday 6th May @ 4 pm

St Mary’s Church, Mellor

‘Sing a new song to the Lord!’

Church Rotas May

Assistant Wardens

May	6	David Wain	Geoff Gill
May	13	Marilyn Watson	Debbie Summersgill
May	20	Barbara Lucas	Debbie Chadwick
May	27	Lorna Shaw	Graham Tipper

Sidespersons

May	6	Joan Moss	
May	13	Noel Walsh	Frances Thompson
May	20	Graham Tipper	
May	27	Ian Moss	Peter Cowell

Chalice Servers

Intercessors

May	6	Eileen Peake	Graham Tipper	Graham Tipper
May	13	Rita Gorman	Eileen Peake	The Vicar
May	20			Debbie Chadwick
May	27	Geoff Gill	Rita Gorman	Frank Ashton

Flower List

		Given by:-	Arranged by:-
May	6	Sheila Turner	Joan Moss
May	13	Roslyn Jessop	Ann Minoprio
May	20	Hilda Hilton	Debbie Summersgill
May	27	Lorna Shaw	Di Ibbotson

Thank you for donations and all who decorated the church so beautifully at Easter.

Church Cleaning

Week Commencing

May	7	Linda Cawtherly, Margaret Eccleston & Frances Thompson
May	14	Cleaners required, please
May	21	Eileen Peake & Wendy Eatough
May	28	Joan Moss & Ann Minoprio

Readers for May

May	6th	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
		Pamela Jackson	1 John 5:1 – 6
		Christine Redwood	John 15:9 - 17
May	13th	Seventh Sunday of Easter	
		Debbie Summersgill	1 John 5:9 – 13
		Noel Walsh	John 17:6 - 19
May	20th	Pentecost	
		All Age Worship	Acts2 :1 – 21
		All Age Worship	John 15 : 26 - 27, 16: 4b – 15

May 27th

Trinity Sunday

Alan Smith
Sue Gill

Romans 8:12 – 17
John 3: 1 – 17

Mellor S. Mary's Church and Primary School
Rose Gala – Saturday, 9th June 2018

This year, 2018, sees the merger of two important events in the village of Mellor – The Rose Queen Festival and the School Gala Day.

Members of St Mary's Church and FOSMs are working together to ensure that the best of both events are combined so that the day is memorable for all, especially the children.

The Rose Queen, Emilia Dunn will be crowned at a service in church at 11.00am by her aunt, Alison Ryan, before taking part in a Procession of Witness around the village, with her attendants, Matilda Dunn, Georgia Wells, Georgina and Holly Batty. The Retiring Queen, Alannah Slater with her attendants Jessica Wells, Charlotte Dawson-Smith and Lara Book; and the visiting Rose Queens from Salesbury and Langho will also be present.

At the moment we are still trying to find a band to lead the procession and everyone is invited to join in by walking with the Church Banners which will be carried by parents and children from church and school.

On arrival back at school Emilia will carry out her first duty as Rose Queen by opening the Gala.

Entrance will be by donations (buckets will be shaken).

There will be the usual stalls and attractions in and around the school with refreshments and the Barbeque.

Everyone is invited to take part and enjoy this very special day for all members of Church & School in Mellor.

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE



Reverend Doctor John Darch

On Palm Sunday a large congregation attended John's final service at St Mary's before he and his wife, Madge, retire to live in Shropshire.

John has been a regular visitor to Mellor for several years, taking services and being part of the ministry team in the United Benefice. His sermon focused on the many journeys mentioned in the Bible and reminded us of our own journey of faith.

Graham Tipper spoke for us all when he thanked John for his ministry to us, giving him cards of good wishes from many parishioners and Mrs Darch was presented with a bouquet of yellow roses.

**Canon John Hartley and
Reverend Roland Nicholson**

Easter Sunday marked the last time that Canon John would celebrate Holy Communion in St Mary's Church.

At the request of the Bishop of Blackburn, the Right Reverend Julian Henderson, John and Roland have been asked to step down from officiating at services in the

United Benefice, serving on any committees, attending events and having any involvement in school or attending meetings of the Mothers Union etc. For the past ten years both John and Roland have served the United Benefice faithfully as priests, always available and ready to help in times of need...or joy. As a mark of our appreciation, they were both given cards signed by many members of the congregation, gifts of wine and vouchers and received a standing ovation from the large congregation.

The statement from the bishop is available for anyone to read and can be found on the notice board in the Narthex of St Mary's church

Pam's Paper Blog: May Prayer

Should you be feeling that the Christian life is one long uphill struggle then look at the 24/7 prayer website; it will simply raise your spirits:

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/story#/24-7story/prayer-explosion>

Here you can find out about a prayer room, a real one that people sat in and graffiti' d the walls of, that became an international movement in a very short time. It will make you realise just how tame our understanding of God actually is. In the traditional church we get bogged down by the small stuff and forget we have an amazing God to talk to.

The Church of England tries to look in both directions. It tries to support our traditional understanding of what a church is with its formal services and set methods but it also tries to plant new ideas which are called fresh expressions of church. The CofE launched an advertising campaign called Just Pray a few years ago. You must remember the cinemas banning the Lord's Prayer video? Occasionally I get stopped in my tracks by prayers on hoardings or the underground. The point is to get people praying more whether they step inside a conventional church or not. God in the common place.

<http://www.justpray.uk/resources/videos/>

In May we're asked to make prayer a special focus by joining the Thy Kingdom Come initiative set up by the Archbishops. In the 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost (10-20th May 2018) we're asked to join a wave of prayer across the UK. Praying that people we know might come to know Jesus.

<https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/thy-kingdom-come-2018>

The hope is that things will change around us as the Holy Spirit lights our spark.

Prayer is the skeleton on which our spiritual life hangs. Without prayer we don't function at all as Christians, we just act out our own opinions. Often we're so used to our methods of worship we think God is contained within the words of our formal services. We forget about how God told the prophet Ezekiel that all is never lost. Just as all that Ezekiel understood of as 'church' was wiped out, God asked him to prophesy over old dry bones to show Ezekiel that he could build an army of new people from nothing.

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been told. While I was speaking, I heard a rattling noise, and the bones began to join together. ⁸ While I watched, the bones were covered with sinews and muscles, and then with skin. But there was no breath in the bodies. (Ezekiel 37:7-8).

Read the whole of chapter 37, it's like something out of a modern day film. Ezekiel had decided that the people of God were finished but he was wrong, God had big ideas.

God has big ideas now. It's just that we don't always hear his innovations. We present God as a past event rather than a present reality who fits in comfortably with our smartphones and apps.

Take a fresh look at prayer this May and see where the party takes you.

Pam Daunton

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

Mellor St. Mary C. E. Primary School News

Welcome to the summer term in school and what a busy term it is. Mrs Pickup is very busy ensuring all preparations are in place for our oldest children to get ready for SATS, whilst Mrs McPherson and Mrs Devine are busy developing their classroom for our youngest – they even have a campsite role-play area! The whole school is a busy hub of learning and it is a joy to be part of it.

During the Easter holidays we had our playground redesigned and there are now colourful activity stations all around it for the children to use at play times. This is part of the Governments 'Healthy Schools' initiative to encourage all young people to become fit and active. We have also been working on the infants outside play space, particularly the raised grassed area so that it can be used all year round.

Our Easter Sport Relief afternoon was very enjoyable- despite the cold and chaos. Every child took part in all the activities and with the kind help of Mr Venables and Mrs Book 120 saplings have been planted around the perimeter of the school playing field/forest school area and we raised £145 for a very good cause.

Coming up in May FOSMS have a number of events to look forward to including a Car Wash (28th April), Food Fest (12th May) and for the first time a joint Rose Queen and Gala Day (9th June).

School is hoping to celebrate the Royal Wedding with a special street party picnic lunch on Thursday 17th May and we are planning our normal 'Walk to School Week' (starting MONDAY 23rd May). So as you can see we are going to be very busy this half term, however, never too busy for visits from parish friends.

Just a reminder that School closes on Thursday 24th May for Spring Bank Holiday.

Mrs Embley-Peers

Easter Dawn

It was still dark when 26 people made their way to church on 1st April - No, it wasn't a 'Fools Day Prank', nobody had been moving the hands on any clocks!

At 6.00am the Paschal Candle was lit, then the light was shared before everyone made their way to the Sanctuary where a moving service was led by Geoff Gill. All thoughts were focused on that first Easter morning as Jessica Wells read from St Matthew's Gospel and Geoff encouraged us to imagine the thoughts and feelings of the friends of Jesus.

Dawn was breaking as the group made their way on to the Mill Hill to gather around a wooden cross to welcome Easter Day...a most moving experience!

On arrival back at church, croissants and coffee were ready to be served, Easter eggs were shared and everyone enjoyed a friendly chat before returning home on a beautiful sunny Easter morning.

Thank you to all who helped in any way, especially Geoff and Jessica

..... Alleluia , He is Risen.

20 years of 'Little Angels'

It was lovely to see so many former 'Little Angels' from school (about 44) at the party in Church celebrating 20 years of 'Little Angels' on Tuesday, 24th April.

Our friend, Sarah with the help of Jack (a toy mouse!), told us a story of Jesus, decorated party bags with the children and brought lots of goodies.

Hilda made the birthday cake (yet again! – thank you, Hilda), we said our prayers, played games and sang songs together.

It was a joyous occasion for us all, with much fun and laughter. We thank God for all the many blessings we have received over the years from the love and friendship at 'Little Angels'.

We meet again on 29th May – during the Spring Bank Holiday – we just hope that you are not all away on holiday

Rita, Margaret, Hilda, Gillian and Sandra

ST. LEONARD'S BALDERSTONE

WALKING DAY

Saturday 12th May, leaving from Mellor Brook at 2.30pm, accompanied by Coppull & Standish Brass Band.

After a short welcome in the school playground, there will be sports on the field.

Refreshments will also be available.

SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 16th June at 2.30pm on the school playground and field.

Opened with a musical performance from the children.

Stalls, Games, Raffles, Refreshments.

Entrance cost £1 adults, 50p children,
with donations for refreshments

Everyone welcome.

Catherine

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

For the first time since 1971 there will be no house-to-house collection in Mellor but there are Christian Aid envelopes in church. Please take one if you would like to make a donation and return it to church. All contents of all the returned envelopes will be sent direct to Christian Aid.

#StandTogether this Christian Aid Week

Laurel and Hardy say 'Good-bye'

Roland and I would like to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to all the church members who signed our cards with such kind thoughts, comments and love, and given to us on Easter Day. The bottles of wine (German and Australian respectively) were very much appreciated too. The cards in particular help to remind us of many Happy and Fruitful years spent with you, Roland from 2008 and myself from 2011.

As priests we have ministered to you to the best of our ability, each in our own particular way, so we have appreciated the way in which you have ministered to us through your support over those years. Together we have been able to share in many joyful occasions of parish and family life just as together we have lived and worked through the sad events too.

Sadly, for some unknown reasons, a decision was taken to withdraw us from all activities we were involved with in the United Benefice, and many questions remain to be answered.

We have treasured our time with you, especially in the administration of the sacrament, being in the choir, and count ourselves blessed to have been involved with so many kind and warm-hearted individuals who make up a welcoming church and village community at St Mary's.

**We thank you most sincerely for your kindness,
your friendship and generosity to us both.**

God bless you all.

Roland and John



**THANK YOU
FOR THE FLOWERS**

Thank you to all the ladies who look after the floral displays in church throughout the year – the beauty of flowers helps us to focus on the wonder of God’s world.
A special word of appreciation to Pat Webster who tends the pots by the front door of the church – always providing a lovely welcome.
The Easter Garden was delightful – it was quite moving and thought provoking to stand before it – especially on Easter morning. Thank you to the Messy Church team.

A Poem For Pentecost

Unless the eye catch fire, God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire, God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire, God will not be names.
Unless the heart catch fire, God will not be loves.
Unless the mind catch fire, God will not be known.



Mothers' Union

Many thanks to all who came to the cathedral on Maundy Thursday to act as Cathedral Welcomers.

We celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a Eucharist – many thanks to Rev'd Gary Hunt who celebrated.

We were given an insight into life as an Anglican Curate when Rev'd David Kennedy was our speaker in April (tinged with a little Irish humour)...

Dates for us to remember:-

1. Whalley Deanery Festival at Mitton All Hallows Church at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 2nd May.
2. An outing to Thwaites Theatre to see 'Whistle Down the Wind' on Tuesday, 8th May.
3. Rose Gala Festival on Saturday 9th June at 11.00am. Please come and walk with the Mothers' Union Banner.

We have been asked for cakes to help with refreshments.

Margaret Ashton

Congratulations....

to Roslyn and Len Jessop on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 17th May 2018.

We are so pleased that they are together at home after a difficult time in hospital for them both.

We send them our love as they celebrate 60 years of marriage and best wishes for a healthy and happy future.

Recycled Cards

Thank you for buying all the Easter Cards we made - and for returning them or us to use again next year - well, we are recyclers!

A selection of Confirmation Cards is available from the stall.

Congratulations to Liz and Phil Skupski for completing The London Marathon - on your behalf we were pleased to donate £50 to their chosen charity, Research into Spinal Injuries.

Thank you, the Card Ladies

Diary for May

May	6th	6th Sunday of Easter
	9.30am	Parish Communion (Rev'd John Davis)
	4.00pm	Praise & Worship
May	8th	Mothers' Union Theatre Outing
May	13th	7th Sunday of Easter
	9.30am	Family Communion (The Vicar)
May	20th	Pentecost
	9.30am	All Age Worship (The Vicar)
May	27th	Trinity Sunday
	9.30am	Parish Communion (Rev'd John Davis)
	4.00pm	Messy Church

Weekly Event

Every Tuesday 9.30am Holy Communion

Followed by Coffee & Fellowship in the Narthex

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 contact details...

28 Brookfield 01254 813681
Mob. 07546 651817
