

St. Mary's Parish Church

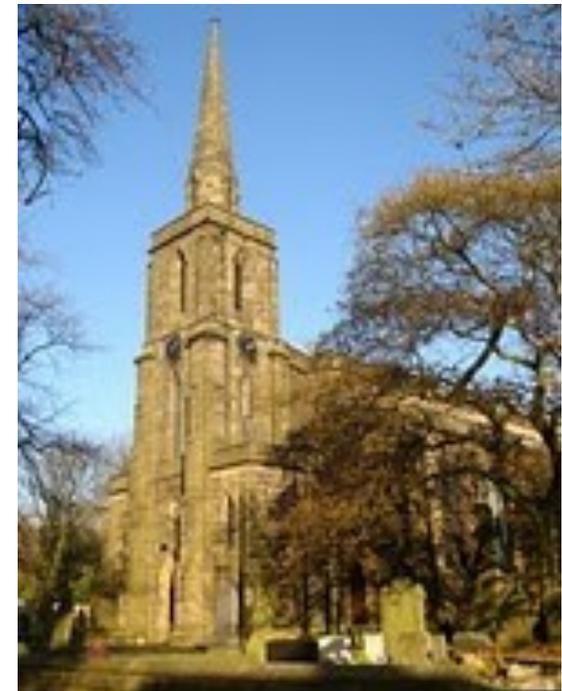


The heart of our village

Can we do more?

The Parish Church
of
St. Mary the Virgin
Mellor

Stewardship
Renewal
2011



www.mellorparishchurch.org

What is Christian Stewardship?

Stewardship is about our commitment to God and the use of our personal resources of:

Time
Talents
&
Money

in support of God's work here on earth.

Here at Mellor Parish Church we are richly blessed with many people who give of their **time** and of their God-given **talents** in support of our church.

So for us, **Stewardship** means making sure that our church is on a sound financial footing and equipped with the resources it needs to ensure its presence in our village for many years to come. We do our best to achieve this by our commitment to regular giving either weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.

If you'd like to help, please complete and sign this form

Name

Address

Post Code

Telephone

Payment Details

Amount

£

Weekly

Monthly

Annually

Direct Debit

Cash or Cheque

I wish to continue/make my stewardship contribution under the Gift Aid Scheme.

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer.

Signature

Date

Giving can be made through the weekly envelope scheme or by weekly, monthly or annual Direct Debit to the church account, details of which are shown below:-

Bank: Santander UK Plc **Sort Code:** 72-00-05

Account Name: St. Mary's Parish Church PCC

Account Number: 12043086

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE SUPPORT

Please detach and return this form by 1st June



Thank you

Whatever your response . . .

We invite you to a special

'Service of Thanksgiving'

on

Sunday 12th June 2011

at

10.30am

with the Archdeacon of Blackburn

The Ven John Hawley

The first thing we want to say is "Thank you" for your continuing involvement and commitment to the life of our parish.

Thank you for the time, energy and skills you give so freely as well as for your financial support.

Without such generous giving our church cannot survive, let alone develop and grow.

We know that many of you find it not only challenging, but also rewarding and enjoyable to be a part of our church community and we thank God for your faith, love and service.

What's already happening at St Mary's

You are assured of a friendly and warm welcome whoever you are and a place to meet with Christ through the Sacraments and in prayer with various services to meet the needs of people of all ages.

There is a weekly Holy Communion Service each Sunday at 10.30am and later in the day Evensong with a sermon at 6.30pm.

We have a thriving Sunday School which meets during term time in the day school and a Youth Fellowship for those aged 10 and over which meets monthly on Friday evenings in the Narthex at church.

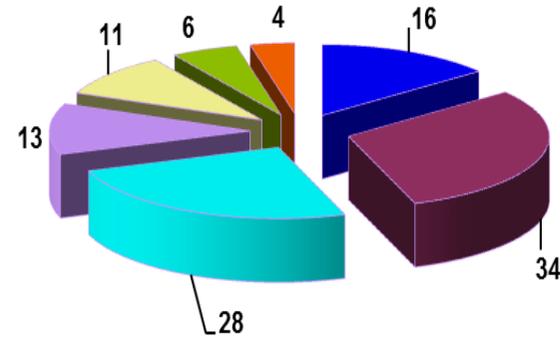
For the even younger children the "Little Angels" meet monthly during the day for our pre-school children.

We have a strong and vibrant Mothers' Union which meets monthly and also a regular coffee morning each Tuesday when the church is also open for you to sit in quiet contemplation or to pray.

On the first Sunday of each month you'll find stalls selling Fair Trade products and recycled cards made by a group of ladies from our congregation.

We're also blessed by small groups of dedicated and talented people who not only assist in and enhance our worship but also carry out the great many more mundane tasks which are vital both to our daily church life and the many and varied social and fundraising events.

Average Weekly Giving



| AVERAGE NUMBER OF GIVERS | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| | Less than £1.00 per week | 16 |
| | Between £ 1.01 and £ 2.50 per week | 34 |
| | Between £ 2.51 and £ 5.00 per week | 28 |
| | Between £ 5.01 and £ 7.00 per week | 13 |
| | Between £ 7.01 and £ 10.00 per week | 11 |
| | Between £ 10.01 and £ 15.00 per week | 6 |
| | More than £ 15.00 per week | 4 |
| | | |
| | Total Number of Weekly Givers | 112 |

What can we do?

Our church costs us £154 per day, every day, in running costs without any major maintenance or repairs.

Since our last 'renewal' 7 years ago, inflation has taken its toll and we are now no longer able to afford a full-time priest and have to share our vicar with both our neighbouring parish of Balderstone and also with the Diocese. If we are to continue our active presence in the village we need to consider how we can increase our income.

So we would ask that as you read this, please reflect on just what St. Mary's Church means to you as an individual and just what it contributes to the life of our village community and consider the following questions:-

- Where does the support of my church rank among my financial priorities?
- Does my current giving express my faith in God and how much my church means to me?
- Am I playing my part in financially supporting the life of my church?

As the Stewardship Committee we ask you to prayerfully consider our request to review your giving to St. Mary's and to make a positive response.

In the Bible, St. Paul tells us:

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver"

2 Corinthians Ch. 9 v7

Over the next few months we are all being invited to renew or to begin our financial commitment to St. Mary's by completing the Response Form.

In these difficult times we appreciate that not everyone will be able to increase their financial support but whether you are intending to increase or to maintain your current giving we would ask that everyone prayerfully considers just what they can do.

If you wish to Gift Aid your giving, which enables us to claim back 25p from the Inland Revenue for every £1 you donate, please complete the Gift Aid declaration.

Please return the completed Response and Gift Aid form, in the envelope provided, to our Stewardship recorder, Mr Geoffrey Peake between now and 1st June. Envelopes can also be handed in to Geoff or to the Vicar or Churchwardens at any of our services or coffee mornings between now and then.

If anyone has any queries regarding the practicalities of giving to the church, or Gift-Aid, the Vicar and the Churchwardens will be pleased to discuss them with you.