

Welcome to the February 2025 edition of your United Benefice magazine.

If you know anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please ask them to email unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com or, for anyone who is not online, please phone 01254 814041.



St Leonard's Balderstone

St Mary's Mellor



St Leonard the Less
Samlesbury

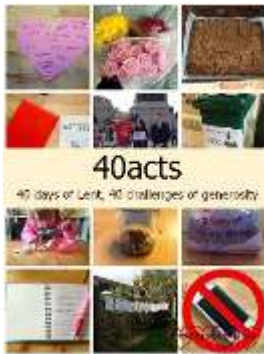


Light Reflections...The Gospel

“Let your light shine...” (Matthew 5.16)

Isn't it good to have some better weather at long last? It seems to have been a long, cold winter this year. But spring is in the air, as the bulbs emerge, reminding us that the growing season is starting again. It makes our hearts joyful.

Lent is also upon us with pancake day being the 5th March and Ash Wednesday on the 6th. It always saddens me that beyond our churches, all that is remembered of this season is the choice of topping on a pancake. We live in a society which chases happiness. But happiness is like a sweet that barely satisfies our hunger and leaves us craving more, which ever topping we go for!!



On the other hand contentment, at a job well done or knowledge that we've made a difference to another, is deeply satisfying: like porridge for breakfast that locks hunger away. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.* Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:5. Now he knew a thing or two about being truly human and chasing happiness was never included. Lent is all about finding that contentment, whether you're planning on giving something up or working on your generosity with organisations such as 40 acts: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jr_uuaypfr8 The point of Lent is to do something different with Jesus during these 6 weeks and using the Diocesan Lent Devotionals is a good place to start.

You can get a copy in church or use the Fruitful App.

Bishop Phillip's Lent Course is all about prayer. Prayer is that outward expression of our relationship with Jesus. The course covers all aspects of prayer, from our personal prayer life to our praying for each other, and in it he will explain what a powerful tool prayer can be for our lives. You can also find that on the Fruitful app of by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsjI5VC60PzXZO0zca9YWWB4x8EQkJgE7>



So there's lots to choose from. But don't waste this Lent by doing nothing, it is a time to make a grab at a new start, like emerging bulbs, and to take a hold of the joyfulness Jesus offers us in life. For when we live closer to Jesus' priorities rather than our own then we become a light of hope. *You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:14-16)

In this magazine you will find all the details of our Easter services, starting with an Ash Wednesday service on 6th March. Get involved and exchange that glossy happiness for the deeply satisfying contentment that Jesus gives us.

May God keep us all in the palm of his hand as we journey with him.
Pam Daunton.

United Benefice Church Services: March 2025

	<u>Balderstone</u>	<u>Mellor</u>	<u>Samlesbury</u>
Sunday 2 nd March	09:30 Holy Communion	-	11:00 Holy Communion
Wednesday 5 th March	19:30 United Benefice Ssh Wednesday Service at St Leonard's Church, Balderstone		
Sunday 9 th March	11:00 All Age Worship	09:30 Mothers Union Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Praise All Age Worship
Sunday 16 th March	09:30 Holy Communion	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd March	11:00 Holy Communion	9:30 Family Service	-
Tuesday 25 th March	9:30 Mothers Union Service of Annunciation at St Mary's Church, Mellor		
Sunday 30 th March Mothering Sunday	11:00 All Age Worship	9:30 Family Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Praise All Age Worship

PRAYER DIARY



Each month, as a United Benefice, we will be focusing our prayers on a strand of the Diocesan Vision 2026. Every week, we will pray an aspect of that strand, as we seek God's face and will for our Benefice.

Mar

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

Week 1

Dear Lord, help us to know the Scriptures better through reading, teaching, preaching and study. Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to your word.
Amen

Week 2

Father, we long for your Kingdom to come, may we pray with greater depth and urgency for you to be known in our Benefice and in the world. Amen

Week 3

Lord Jesus, we ask that you fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit as we worship you and seek your truth. Amen

Week 4

Dear God, as you have given us so much through your Son Jesus, may you help us to give generously of our time, talents, and money to the cause of Christ.
Amen

If you feel you have a genuine emergency, on a Saturday, that requires help, please contact a Church Warden first and they will help to advise you. Please find their contact details on page 15 of this magazine. The United Benefice admin email address is unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com.

Midweek United Benefice Services

Everyone is welcome to come and join us at our weekly, midweek United Benefice services.



Our midweek United Benefice Holy Communion Services are held on Tuesdays at 9:30am at St Mary's Church, Mellor. These services are open to all from Balderstone, Mellor, Samlesbury and beyond and are followed by coffee and friendly chat. Please do come along for worship & fellowship.

Midweek United Benefice services are also held every Friday, at 4:00pm, when we will be saying Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor. All are invited to join us as we pray for Church Growth across our parishes of Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury.



United Benefice Diary Dates

For further details of any of these diary events, please see our event posters, read through the articles in our magazines or email unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com.

3 rd Mar	Confirmation Class at Samlesbury CE Primary School	6.00pm
4 th Mar	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
5 th Mar	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
5 th Mar	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury	7:00pm
7 th Mar	World Day of Prayer Service at St Mary's Church, Osbaldeston	10.30am
7 th Mar	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
10 th Mar	Confirmation Class at Samlesbury CE Primary School	6.00pm
11 th Mar	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
12 th Mar	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
12 th Mar	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury	7:00pm
14 th Mar	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
17 th Mar	Confirmation Class at Samlesbury CE Primary School	6.00pm
18 th Mar	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
18 th Mar	Balderstone Mother's Union meeting at 11 Long Meadow	2:00pm
19 th Mar	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
19 th Mar	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury	7:00pm
21 st Mar	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
24 th Mar	Confirmation Class at Samlesbury CE Primary School	6.00pm
25 th Mar	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
25 th Mar	Little Angels in the Narthex at St Mary's Church, Mellor	2:00pm
26 th Mar	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
26 th Mar	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury	7:00pm
28 th Mar	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
31 st Mar	Confirmation Class at Samlesbury CE Primary School	6.00pm

Lent and Easter Services

Ash Wednesday 6th March	St Leonard's, Balderstone Communion with ashes	7.30pm
Maundy Thursday 17th April	St Mary's, Mellor Communion with foot washing.	7.30pm
Good Friday 18th April	St Leonard's, Balderstone Good Friday reflection	11am
Easter Day 20th April	Holy communion: St Leonard's, Balderstone St Mary's, Mellor St Leonard-the-Less, Samlesbury	9.30am 9.30am 11am

[St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury – News and Events](#)

[Bell Ringing at Samlesbury](#)

The monthly meeting of Lancashire Association of Change Ringers, Preston Branch held their monthly meeting and practice at St Leonard the Less Samlesbury

Susan Bell



[Easter Coffee Morning](#)

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Easter Coffee Morning on Thursday 10th April at Samlesbury War Memorial Hall, 10.30am-12.30pm. We'll have delicious home-made biscuits, cake and book stall, Easter tombola and raffle and Children's Easter crafts. Admission is £3



St Leonards Church, Balderstone – News and Events

Not much to report this month just mainly to let you know dates for our planned events for 2025 which we discussed at our last meeting.

We start off with **Walking Day on Saturday 10th May** leaving Mellor Brook at 1.30pm

Balderstone Band will be playing and there will be sports on the field.

We are planning to hold a **Summer Fair and Barbecue on Saturday 14th June** at 2.30pm at school. There will be stalls and games etc.

We agreed that this year we would have a **Safari Supper on Saturday 6th September**

The date for our **Harvest Supper** will be confirmed once we have a vicar.

The **Brass Band Christmas Concert is on Sunday 30th November** 6.30pm in church.

Our **Christmas Fair is on Saturday 13th December** 2.pm in school. This is a week later than usual due to a wedding on the previous Saturday.

More information will be available as the events get closer.

Please do make a note of our events as we would love to see you at as many of them as possible. Thank you for your support.

The next meeting of the Social Committee is Thursday 1st May 7.30pm at Pickering Fold Farm BB2 7LQ. All welcome so please join us.

Catherine (Dixon)

01772 877289/ 07976550882

catherine@dixon drainage.co.uk/catherinedixon13@icloud.com

Balderstone Mothers' Union

In February Ruth brought along lots of pictures and old church magazines some dating back to early last century. We all spent a very enjoyable afternoon looking through them. It was amazing how much we learnt about our church throughout the last, well hundred years or more!! Some things changed but to be honest not a lot, all seemed very familiar. A lot of hard work had gone in to getting them ready for us so a big thank you to Ruth.

In March we are having a quiz afternoon, Maureen is putting a quiz together for us, if last years was anything to by we will have a great afternoon. If anyone would like to join us please do come along. 11 Long Meadow on 18th March at 2 pm. You will be most welcome.

Susan Baron

Balderstone and District WI

In December we had an enjoyable Christmas buffet party where we were entertained by Octavius with some carol singing and we all joined in a lively version of The 12 days of Christmas! The 'dramatic' members performed an informative sketch about the Suffragettes at Christmas time.

Some members made lovely door wreaths from scratch at Mellor Brook Community Centre.

This was followed with a short walk in December, when 24 of us had a Christmas luncheon at The Nab's Head.

To start the new year off, the Strollers paid a visit to sunny Ribchester and the lovely church, followed by lunch at Potter's Barn which was enjoyed by all. They've just spent a day out at Lytham Hall admiring the snowdrops and chatting to Green Fingred Greg!

We've had 2 really interesting talks at our monthly meeting, (which is held on the second Tuesday of every month,) by the entertaining speaker Brian Topping on his previous career as a Custom's Officer and then by 2 of our members on CPR. We all "revived" a cushion each to help us understand what could be done.

A social was held at Chorley Theatre being entertained by the female comedian Nina Gilligan, having had a lovely meal at Lucianos first.



The craft group decided to try their hand at sketching with the help from one of our very talented members which went well and this will be followed by acrylic painting later this month.

To finish off this month, the walkers are planning to visit the Clitheroe area followed by lunch at The Calf's Head at Worston.



Café Church at St Leonard's, Balderstone



It was lovely to see everyone enjoying our social Cafe Church last Sunday. We enjoyed getting together for a chat over tea and cake. There was also s'mores to make, lanterns to create and knitted blankets to sew together! A wonderful way for us all to join in fellowship.

Sian Riddell



Wedding Thanks



Just wanted to send a note to say a huge thank you for our wedding service on Friday. It was such a lovely service, we especially loved Reverend Barbara's address and how personal it felt.

All of our guests commented on how good the service was and how nice of a Church St Leonard's is.

Also, a big thanks to those who put efforts in to getting the church ready for the service and helping out on the day. I believe there was a lot of leaf sweeping being done

Eleanor and Harry



St Mary's Church, Mellor – News and Events

Mellor Mother's Union

The AGM of Mother's Union took place on Tuesday 11th February 2025.

Members were issued with a note of the accounts and reports were read out and approved.

After prayers everyone enjoyed a hotpot supper and all the members who did the preparations, served the food and generally helped out were thanked. The evening ended with items on the 'bric-a-brac stall' on sale and £1 parcels were distributed.

Frances Jackson

Deputy Roving Reporter



Mellor Card Ladies – Recycled Cards

During the last month we have given £25 to the Stroke Association, in memory of Yvonne Hindle. We have also given £25 to the East Lancs Hospice. Red Nose Day this year falls on Friday 21st March and we will be supporting those activities. Mothers Day this year falls on Sunday 30th March and our cards will be on sale in Church. Thank you all for your continued support - we couldn't do it without you!

The Card Ladies

Little Angels

Only one little angel came to our meeting in February... Hazel planted sunflower seeds in 8 little pots....we are hoping they grow into giant sunflowers.... 🌻

Watch this space.....

Next meeting on Tuesday, 25th March at 2 o' clock in the Narthex...

Rita Gorman



Safeguarding Officer Vacancy

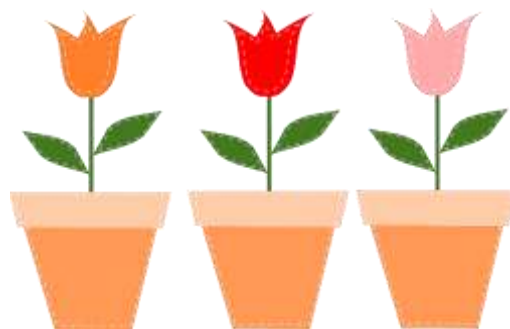
Urgent: Mellor require a new Parish Safeguarding Officer due to the retirement of our previous one. If you would like to take on this role or require more information please contact the United Benefice Administrator, the Church Wardens or Reverend Barbara. All training will be given.

Rev'd Barbara

Plant Sale

St Mary's Mellor are having a Plant Sale to be held on church grounds on Saturday May 3rd. If any Green Fingered people would like to dig any unwanted plants from their garden or pots we would be very grateful of them. Please label them with size they will grow to and the colour, it saves being caught out on the day!

Plants can be left at the south side of church where others are there, or contact me, Joan Moss 01254 813581.



United Benefice (Balderstone, Mellor & Samlesbury) Churchwarden's meeting

The church wardens met to finalise a revised Parish Profile, which has now been sent to the Diocese to go out to prospective applicants for the post of Vicar in our United Benefice.

The application and interview process are now underway and we ask for your prayers that the right person will be discerned as our new Vicar.

In the meantime, the church wardens would like to extend our thanks to all those across our parishes who help keep our churches running and provide cover for our services during this vacancy.

Your help, assistance and time are very much appreciated by us all.

UB Church Wardens

United Benefice Confirmations 2025

This year's United Benefice Confirmation Service will take place at 11:00am on Sunday, 1st June, at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury, with The Right Reverend Dr Joe Kennedy, Bishop of Burnley.

If any current Year 6 pupils, any high school pupils or adults, are interested in taking the important step of confirmation, please email unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com for a confirmation registration form.



Preparation for confirmation will take place in February and March. Preparation sessions will take place at Samlesbury Church of England Primary School, from 6:00pm – 7:00pm, on Mondays 24th February, 3rd March, 10th March, 17th March, 24th March and 31st March. Please register, before attending classes, by emailing unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com. These sessions are designed to be fun and we'll be exploring what it means to be a Christian and how we live out our faith every day.

Balderstone St Leonard's

Preparation of New Electoral Roll

Under the Church Representation Rules 2025, a new Electoral Roll must be prepared every six years and it is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to prepare the new roll and maintain it.

Everyone on the existing roll, who wishes to be on the new roll, now needs to complete a new application form. Qualification criteria are set down by the Church of England and shown on the application form. If you wish to be on the new roll, and meet the criteria, please complete a form and return it to Carol Barton or leave at the back of church. Copies of the form can be obtained from church or downloaded from the church website. Please complete and return your form by 30th March 2025.

Carol Barton

Balderstone Electoral Roll Officer

Mellor St Mary - a new Electoral Roll under the Church Representation Rules 2025 must be completed every six years and it is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council to prepare the new roll and maintain it.

Everyone on the current roll, who wishes to be on the new roll, now needs to complete a new application form and new applicants are also welcome and encouraged to join. The Church of England qualification criteria are shown on the application form. If you wish to be on the new roll, and meet the criteria, please complete a form and return it to me or leave it at the back of church. I will leave some copies of the form at the back of church. Please complete and return your form by 31 March 2025.

Graham Tipper - Electoral Roll Officer



A.C.T.s in our local community

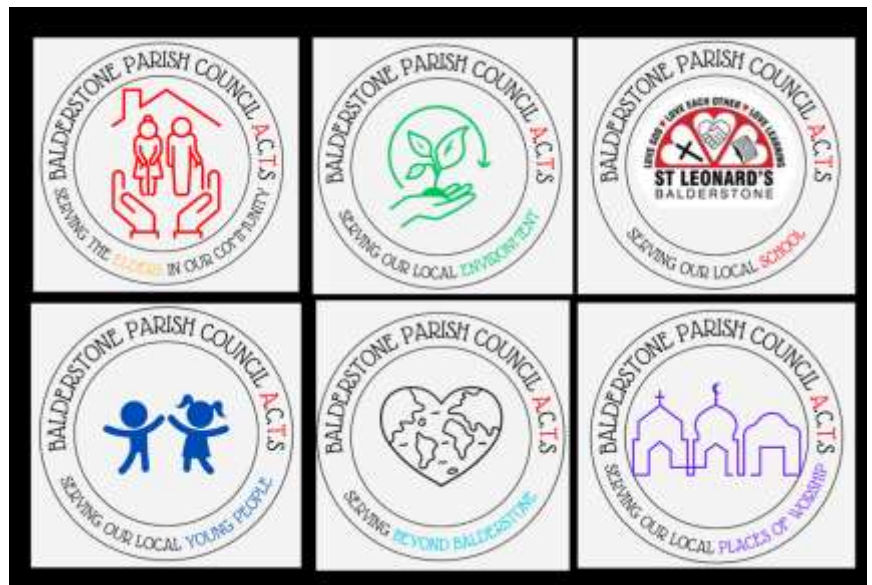
Part of our Christian mission at Balderstone is to serve as Jesus' hands and feet in our school, in Balderstone, Blackburn and beyond. With this in mind, we have launched (with the support of Balderstone Parish Council) our very own community service awards called our A.C.T.s awards (Action in our Community Team).



OUR WINNING ACTS T-SHIRT DESIGN

The children from school can work towards earning a rainbow of badges in the following areas:

- Serving the elders in our community
- Serving our local environment
- Serving our local school
- Serving young people
- Serving beyond Balderstone
- Serving our local places of worship



The scheme was formally launched by Ribble Valley MP Maya Ellis who came into school with the members of Balderstone Parish council. Fatimah, a Year 3 pupil, was awarded with a prize for her winning T-shirt design for the new team. Her design depicts the rooted tree from our key Bible verse Ephesians 3:17 which is about being rooted and grounded in God's love and therefore being able to branch out and share God's love with others. The Parish council are going to host a very special black-tie event for the children with the most ACTS award points at the end of the summer term to thank them for their commitment to our local community and this is where we need your help...



MAYA ELLIS MP LAUNCHING OUR ACTS AWARDS

Do you have anyone in mind who might want a little bit of ACTS care or attention? Do you know of a local area/patch of land that might benefit from a litter pick or a bit of gardening? Do you have any local events or charity fundraising events that the children from school could help with? If you know of any elderly people who might like a weekly chat or some homemade cakes then please let Mrs Gow know by emailing acts@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

Exciting Free breakfast club news

You may have seen in the local and national news that Balderstone has volunteered (and has been selected) to be one of the government's first schools nationally to set up free, universal breakfast clubs for **all** our children. This means that from Easter time onwards every child will be able to come to school early and share a yummy brekkie together and then take part in our **Brekkie Book clubs** and our **Wake up and Shake up** sports sessions with our Progressive kids sports coaches all for **FREE!** We are really excited about this new adventure and supporting our families by providing high quality, affordable and healthy wraparound care!

Making a splash in Pre-school education

We are pleased to announce that our pre-school is flourishing and as such we are now able to extend our pre-school offer to even more families. We are currently welcoming children from 3 years of age and have universal and extended funded places available for this Summer term and for September 2025! We LOVE welcoming children to our pre-school Bunnies class and helping them to play, love and learn outdoors together. Please contact school on 01254 769 150 if you would be interested in finding out more information about a pre-school place.



PRE-SCHOOL HAVING FUN IN OUR BROOK DURING THEIR FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS!

Mrs Gow and the Balderstone School Family

Mellor monthly newsletter <https://www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk/stream/newsletters/full/1/--/>

Samlesbury monthly newsletter <https://www.samlesburyceprimary.co.uk/parents/newsletters>

Balderstone weekly newsletter <https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk/page/?title=School+Newsletter&pid=192>

United Benefice Community News and Events

Mellor Brook Parent & Toddler Group

Everyone is welcome, parents and grandparents, to our happy group at Mellor Brook Community Centre (09:45 - 11:45) for £4.00 per family, each Monday, during term time. To request to join our Facebook group or for further information about our activities, please email me.britcliffe@btinternet.com.

Maureen Britcliffe (07940 709165)



Quiz Nights at Samlesbury War Memorial Hall

Fun Quiz Night at Samlesbury War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 8th March 2025.

Everyone welcome.

Choice of Hot Pot or Cheese Bake (V/GF) supper £8.50, or without supper £3.

Tea & coffee provided for all.

Bring your own booze & soft drinks.



Please contact Clare Lewis on 07739 585860 or info@samlesburymemorialhall.co.uk

with the number in your team, your team name & whether you will be having supper or not, with your choice of Hot Pot or Cheese Bake, by Wednesday 5th March.

This will be the last Quiz Night before the summer break.

Caroline Coughlin

MELLOR BROOK & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Whalley Road, Mellor Brook, BB2 7PR.

The Community Centre is the perfect venue for a variety of events such as private functions, children's parties, conferences and meetings. It offers excellent amenities including a fully equipped kitchen, conference room set-up, Wi-Fi and IT facilities, PA system and a brand new state of the art lighting rig. With excellent transport links, it's situated in a rural, yet central, location within the heart of the Ribble Valley.

Hire Costs Per Hour

For one off bookings: £15 Main Hall, £13 Front Room, £13 Foyer, £13 Upstairs Room, £4 Kitchen.

Regular weekly / fortnightly bookings: commercial organisations receive a one third discount and charitable organisations receive a two thirds discount off the standard hire rate.

Regular groups and upcoming events: **Monday** – Pilates. **Tuesday** – Palatine Fiddlers, Cheryl's Dance Studios (term-time), Women's Institute. **Wednesday** – Beavers (term-time). **Thursday** – Little Voices BDRV (term-time), Community Ukulele. **Friday** – Cheryl's Dance Studios (term-time). **Saturday** - The Zimmermen (Dylan tribute) 24th May. **Sunday** – Film Club 23rd February, King Lear (reimagined) Spot On Rural Touring 6th April, "Things Found in Books" Boo Hewerdine & Yvonne Lyon in concert 6th July.

We have a serviced office available to rent at Mellor Brook Community Centre. The size of the accommodation is 3.4m x 4.4m (11ft x 14ft).

Please check out our website www.mellorbrook.org, Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064876410507> and X @MellorBrook for news and forthcoming events.

Contact Us

Tel: 07436 271153

Email: rachael@mellorbrook.org

Rachael Calvey

Mellor Library

<u>Opening Times</u>	
<u>Day</u>	<u>Times</u>
Monday	1pm - 7pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9am - 1pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	1pm - 5pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm
Sunday	Closed

Mellor Library
6, St Mary's Gardens
Mellor
Blackburn
BB2 7JW

Librarian – Angela Preedy

All our libraries will be closed on bank and public holidays and some additional days.

About the Library

We are a warm and welcome space where you can access information, reading material, advice and spend time with others. During the winter months, hot drink supplies are available free of charge.

We have a wide range of books including fiction, non-fiction, large print and audio books. There is also a section on biographies, autobiographies and local history. We also have a dedicated children's area with appropriate reading material for all juniors.

The library has a Windows 10 desktop computer, a flatbed scanner, printing facilities and free Wi-Fi. (Printing charges apply.)

This offers access to the internet, word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and database applications and printing using the [People's Network](#) computers. Computers may be used for up to two hours a day, but may be restricted at peak periods, such as school holidays. You may be able to use a computer for longer, if demand allows.

Children under eight can use the computers, but they must be always accompanied by a responsible adult who logs in using their own library card number and PIN.

People's Network computers in libraries can be reserved, in advance. You will need your library card number and PIN. Just logon, select the library you want and book a session.

Please note that the computers are switched off ten minutes before the library closes.

An A4 photocopier is also available for public use (charges apply).

Mellor Village Hall

Regular Classes and Groups at Mellor Village Hall

If you are interested in any of the following activities, please click on the link below to find out more about the regular classes and groups at Mellor Village Hall.

[Girl Guides](#) [Knit and Natter](#) [Line Dancing](#) [Singing](#) [Indoor Bowls](#) [Walking Netball](#) [Walking Football](#)
[Dog Ways](#) [Genjitsu](#) [Badminton](#) [Mellor Tots](#) [Aerobics](#) [Gaming Night](#) [Yoga](#)
[Ukulele Lessons](#) [Arts and Crafts](#) [Balderstone Brass Band](#) [Saturday Café](#) [Pickle Ball](#)

<https://www.mellorvillagehall.org.uk/classes-groups>

United Benefice Contacts

St Leonard's Church, Balderstone

Churchwardens: Mary Shorthouse – mary.shorthouse@outlook.com 01254 812710
Ryan Dixon – ryandixon466@gmail.com 07976 323221
PCC Secretary: Kathy Evans - kabelliveau@btinternet.com
Treasurer: Keith Roberts
Headteacher: Victoria Gow - 01254 769150

St Mary's Church, Mellor

Churchwardens: Sarah Lees - sarahlucy93@hotmail.co.uk 07450 295417
Lloyd Brown – 07714 791256
PCC Secretary: Ann Doolan - anndoolan@btinternet.com 07969 047984
Treasurer: Mary Brown – 07832 625646
Headteacher: Jo Embley-Peers - 01254 812581

St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury

UB Licensed Lay Minister: Canon Pam Daunton - 01772 877017
Churchwardens: Paul Daunton - 07979 496499
John Eastham - 01772 877076
PCC Secretary: Dr Nick Buckley – nickb2505@gmail.com 07542 762941
Treasurer: Gaynor Dockerill - 07563 262784
Co-Headteachers: Lucy Sutton & Louise Quayle - 01772 877200

United Benefice Administrators: Sam Metcalfe & Angela Preedy unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com

Useful Website Links

Our United Benefice

<https://www.facebook.com/BMSBenefice>

St Leonard's Church, Balderstone

<https://www.facebook.com/balderstonestleonards>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11534/>

St Mary's Church, Mellor

<https://www.facebook.com/mellorparishchurch>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11535/>

<https://www.mellorparishchurch.org/>

St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury

<https://www.facebook.com/stleonardlessamlesbury>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11517/>

Blackburn Cathedral

<https://blackburncathedral.com/>

Mellor Brook Community Centre

<https://mellorbrook.org/>

Mellor Village Hall

<https://www.mellorvillagehall.org.uk/>

Samlesbury War Memorial Hall

<https://www.samlesburymemorialhall.co.uk/>

Whalley Abbey

<https://www.whalleyabbey.org/>

Highlights from Blackburn Cathedral – What's On

Organ Concerts
What's on at Blackburn Cathedral
What's on at Blackburn Cathedral
Lent Series

Concerts at Blackburn Cathedral

Our popular Wednesday lunchtime concerts are a wonderful opportunity to experience music at Blackburn Cathedral.

Starting at 12.15pm, there is no entry charge and no ticket is required. A donation of £5 per person is suggested and all are welcome to join us.

December	4th December	John Hosking
January	8th January	Sharna Hart
	15th January	Peter Dyke
	22nd January	Laurence John
	29th January	Oliver Waterer
February	5th February	Damian O'Keefe ¹
	12th February	Benjy Bloor
	19th February	James Thomas
	26th February	Christopher Stokes
March	5th March	Abigail Birch-Price ²
	12th March	Tricola ³
	19th March	Anthony Gritten
	26th March	John Hosking
April	2nd April	Lucy Morrell
	9th April	John Robinson
	16th April	Katelyn Emerson
	30th April	Olivia Hunt ⁴

¹ Recitals with John Robinson
² Mezzo Soprano
³ Clarinet, Saxophone and Piano Trio
⁴ Soprano with John Hosking

Choral Evensong Lent Series Featuring Organ Meditations

Choral Evensong starts at 4pm on Sundays and our Lent Meditations Series follows straight afterwards.

The organ reflection begins at around 4.40pm and then at 5.10pm there is an opportunity to discuss the music with the organist.

Please feel free to come to all or part of each event.

March	9th March	Maria Gajraj ¹ Canada
	16th March	John Hosking Organist in Residence
	23rd March	Tom Bell Concert Organist
	30th March	Nigel Spooner Lancashire
April	6th April	Michael Pain Batley Parish Church
	13th April	John Hosking Organist in Residence

¹ International Women's Day Concert

Bank Holiday Concert Series
 Monday 21st April 11am
 William Fielding, Paris Conservatoire

Entry to Bank Holiday Concerts is £0.00 on the door and are held in aid of The Lutterton Music Trust.

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blackburncathedral.com/concerts
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March Highlights
What's on at Blackburn Cathedral
What's on at Blackburn Cathedral
March Highlights

International Women's Day Sat 8th March 2025



For over a hundred years, International Women's Day has belonged to all those who care about women's equality and who celebrate women's achievements.

It offers to tackle discrimination, takes action to bridge gender parity and address the issues that impact women's advancement. We are proud to support this important cause and raise awareness through a day of special events.

Blackburn Chamber Choir: Come and Sing

Sat 8th Mar 2025 | 12pm | All welcome

Join Blackburn Chamber Choir for an upper voices Come and Sing event. Soprano and Alto are invited to come and sing a selection of music by female composers, including works by Hildegard of Bingen, Amy Beach and Isabella Leraena.

blackburncathedral.com/sing

International Women's Day Concert

Sat 8th Mar 2025 | 7pm | All welcome

This concert features the Come and Sing Repertoire from earlier in the day followed by a performance by popular women's choir The Disciples. All are welcome to attend this free charity concert, held in aid of Lancashire Women.

blackburncathedral.com/ivw

Blackburn Symphony Orchestra

Sat 22nd Mar 2025 | 7.30pm | All welcome

Blackburn Symphony Orchestra - one of the leading amateur orchestras in the North West - return to Blackburn Cathedral for a very special concert.

Under conductor Richard Howarth, the programme includes Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor and Vaughan Williams' Symphony No. 2.

blackburncathedral.com/symphony

Cathedral Music Trust Local Gathering

Sun 23rd Mar 2025 | Various | All welcome

The Cathedral Music Trust is the leading charity for cathedral choirs, so please join us to celebrate our choral music.

The 10.30am Evensong features Langlais' epic *Messe Solennelle* which will sound incredibly on our awe-inspiring organ. The afternoon will see our Director of Music and Organist in Residence discussing organ improvisation ahead of Choral Evensong at 4pm. A concert by Tom Bell (Concert Organist and Regional Director of Royal College of Organists) at 4.40pm is followed by informal discussions and refreshments to finish the day.

blackburncathedral.com/cmtr

Mothering Sunday

Sun 30th Mar 2025 | 11.30am | All welcome

At this Holy Communion service we will give thanks and offer prayers in recognition of the challenges and rewards of motherhood. It will also be a celebration of the Mother Church and everyone will be invited to receive flowers if they wish.

blackburncathedral.com/worship

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The Blackburn Cathedral What's On Guide can be found at <https://blackburncathedral.com/events-guide/>

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Hoghton Village Vet	01254 782737
Home Care Mellor	01254 689981
Homewise Society: Home Improvements Handyperson – Small Repairs	01254 232249
Hoze-It Power Cleaning Services	07841 348290
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