

Welcome to the September 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 937123.



St Leonard's Balderstone

St Mary's Mellor



St Leonard the Less
Samlesbury



Light Reflections...The Gospel

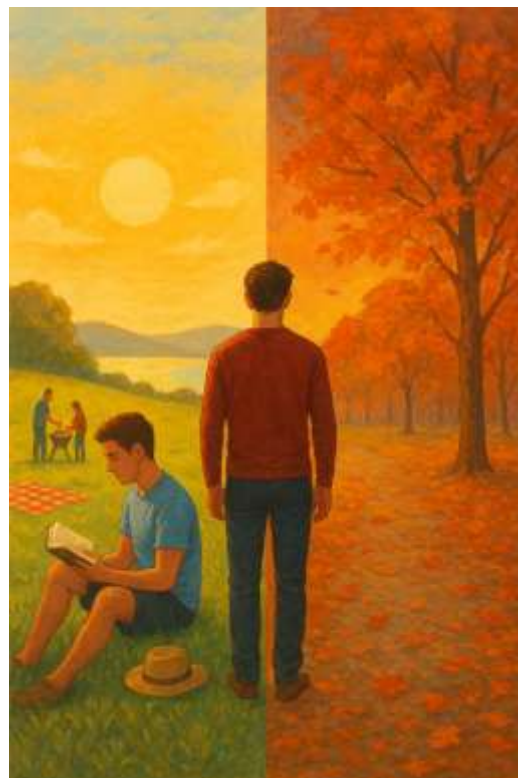
“Let your light shine...” (Matthew 5.16)

I love summer. Sitting in the sunshine reading, enjoying a BBQ with friends. Things quieting slightly as people go on holiday. My own holiday, seeing family, friends and just relaxing. But, Summer always comes to and end. The sun sets earlier and earlier, the weather cools and rain become even more frequent. In that ending of summer there feels like a new beginning as well.

This is particularly true for those connected with schools. The new academic year can be a time of excitement, nervousness and the unknown. Even beyond school, September has kept a feeling of new things, beginnings. For these new things to begin, the old has to end. Summer finishes for Autumn to start. We cannot stay in the same place for ever, and nor should we. God calls us to continue forward, to grow in our faith and relationships with God and neighbour. To become the people God calls and creates us to be. Sometimes this will involve things coming to an end so something new can begin.

This September the Benefice starts the Diocesan Renewal Program, a year course run by the Diocese to help parishes consider how God is calling us to grow in Discipleship, faith and numbers. How we can do this in our own unique context. Summer is ending and we begin the next stage of the year, the next year for students. As we do so, how is God calling us to grow and move forward, as individuals and a community.

Rev' Nathaniel Gilmour



United Benefice Church Services: July 2025

	<u>Balderstone</u>	<u>Mellor</u>	<u>Samlesbury</u>
Sunday 7 th September	09:30 Holy Communion	-	11:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th September	16:00 Forest Church	09:30 Holy Communion	11:00 Morning Praise All Age Worship
Sunday 21 st September	09:30 Holy Communion	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th September	11:00 Holy Communion	11:00 Rose Queen Service	-

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.

September

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

Week 1	Lord God, help us to discern in ourselves and others, your call on our lives and the gifts that you have given in service of the Gospel. Amen
Week 2	Jesus, may all leaders, lay and ordained, have a deep love of you and be grounded in prayer and the scriptures. Amen
Week 3	Father, we pray for healthy partnership working between lay and ordained within the Lay Majority Ministry Framework. Amen
Week 4	Lord Jesus, we pray that the vocations of deacons and priests will be encouraged, supported, and celebrated as they are deployed across this Diocese. Amen

Rev'd Nathaniel has asked that Mondays be respected as his day off. If you feel you have a genuine emergency, on a Monday, that requires help, please contact a Church Warden first and they will help to advise you. Please find their contact details on page 14 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.

2nd Sept	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
3rd Sept	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury	7:00pm
5th Sept	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
9th Sept	Mellor Mothers Union Meeting at St Mary's Church, Mellor	7:00pm
9th Sept	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
10th Sept	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
10th Sept	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury	7:00pm
12th Sept	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
16th Sept	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
17th Sept	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
17th Sept	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury	7:00pm
19th Sept	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
23rd Sept	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
24th Sept	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
24th Sept	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury	7:00pm
26th Sept	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
30th Sept	United Benefice Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am

St Mary's Church, Mellor – News and Events

Mellor Mother's Union

Joan Moss introduced us to Mr Rowden Kerr at the Mother's Union meeting on 12th August 2025, our speaker for the evening. His talk entitled, 'I Grew Up Around The Poets', referred to a residential area in Great Harwood, Hyndburn, where he lived and grew up with many of the streets being named after our remarkable and distinguished poets. Born in Great Harwood in the 'pre-fabs', the family moved when he was in quite young into the new houses and resided on Shakespeare Avenue which is surrounded by Wordsworth Drive, Tennyson Place, Byron Square and Shelley Gardens to name but a few. Mr Kerr related humorous stories of when he was a youngster of many a boyish adventure exploring and playing with his friends in the area and remarked he was always shocked his mother knew instantly when he returned home if any minor misdemeanors had been committed whilst playing on the 'top wreck' area of waste land.

Mr Kerr displayed a great love for his birth town and being surrounded by such celebrated names encouraged his love of poetry and he recited short excerpts from very familiar well known poems which everyone found most enjoyable. He explained Great Harwood was, from the 1800's, a well known industrial town with many cotton mills but workers were suffering with breathing difficulties from the cotton fibres. It was soon discovered a pinch of snuff helped the workers sneeze out any cotton fibres in their airways; therefore, Great Harwood became synonymous with Snuff and the name "Snuffy Arrodd" came to be the colloquial nickname for a Great Harwood born and bred person of which Mr Kerr said he was proud to be one.

Christine Redwood gave thanks on behalf of all members for a very pleasant evening as we enjoyed the talk and poetry.

Frances Jackson
Deputy Roving Reporter

Mellor Card Ladies – Recycled Cards

This month the Wandering Roses group have supported the Lancashire Women's Charity by racing across Lancashire. We supported their efforts by donating £25. Angela, who you will know from Mellor library, cycled from Ilkley to Blackpool to raise money for McMillan Cancer Support and we sponsored her for £25. We also donated £25 to Alzheimer's Charity this month. As always we thank you for your support, enabling us to support these charities.

The Card Ladies

Mellor Choir

Twenty Mellor Church choir members enjoyed fun, food and fellowship at the Millstone Hotel July 16th.

After a humorous quiz "Do you know your hymns?" Margaret thanked the choir for their support

and gave a short report of notable events which the choir had led during the year.

Richard gave a vote of thanks.

We hope everyone is enjoying the Summer holidays.

Choir practice will begin again in September.

Margaret Baldwin



St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury – News and Events

Concert by Candlelight

Enjoy an evening of beautiful music at St. Leonard The Less Church, Samlesbury as The Barn Owls Vocal Trio present a Concert by Candlelight.

The event will be held on Saturday, 11th October at 7:30 pm and promises a warm, atmospheric evening filled with song and fellowship.

Harvest nibbles and wine will be served, making it the perfect way to relax and celebrate the season with friends and family. Suggested donation £8

Come along and be part of this special night!

St Leonards Church, Balderstone – News and Events

We hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer break, especially with the wonderful weather.

At our recent meeting it was decided we would postpone the upcoming Safari Supper as we have been unable to find sufficient numbers for the hosts. This does appear to be bad timing as many people are going to be away. We are hoping to rearrange it for some time in March.

We do now have a date for **the Harvest Supper which will be on Thursday 9th October at 7.30pm**. There will be the service in church followed by the supper in school. Everyone is warmly invited to join us. This includes parishioners from our United Benefice churches, Mellor Methodist church and St Mary's church Osbaldeston.

Please do come and enjoy a very pleasant evening with excellent food and company.

The Brass Band Candle-Lit Christmas Concert is on Sunday 30th November 6.30pm in church. Coppull & Standish Brass Band will be performing together with the children and the pop-up choir. Mulled wine, mince pies and soft drinks will be served in school following the concert. Tickets will be available nearer the time and more details will be in next month's magazine.

Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 13th December in the school. Again, further details will be in next month's magazine

The next meeting of the social committee is on Thursday 13th November at 7.30pm.

As previously, it will be held at Margery Ashworth, Fairclough East, Commons Lane, Balderstone BB2 7LP Tel. 01254 812272.

Please save the dates and please let me know if you have any questions

Many thanks.

Catherine (Dixon)

01772 877289/ 07976550882 catherine@dixondrainage.co.uk

Balderstone Mothers' Union

We met for lunch at the Clog and Billycock, after all the lovely weather it poured down!!! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, it was lovely to have a good old natter and catch up.

Our next meeting is September 16th when our deanery chaplain Rev Barbara Knight will take a short communion service. Usual time 2pm 11 long meadow

Susan Baron.

Balderstone & District WI

Over the summer, Balderstone & District WI have continued to be active despite holidays. The Strollers spent a lovely time walking up to Mellor Moor then more recently, wandering around a member's garden and tree plantation, observing wild life and some wonderful plants.

At the beginning of July, many of us took the plunge to enter crafts, plants and food at the WI Show at Oswaldtwistle, where we gained the most point for entries for a large WI, which we were delighted about. It was interesting as some of us were stewards for the first time and we saw first-hand what the judges were looking for.

The speaker in August was Naomi Beaumont who gave a really thought-provoking talk about the future of textiles and clothing. Who knew that bamboo clothing actually isn't good for the planet due to the massive footprint it leaves to turn it into clothing? Bananas & pineapples are the way forward!

Socially, we have a tour to go around Browsholme Hall in September with a planned Christmas market day out in late November.

The Walkers last wander was around Dinkley and through Marle wood, finishing with a garden picnic at a member's house at Copster Green. To finish off this August, they are off to Rimmington and Downham, no doubt to enjoy a well-earned ice cream on the way!



Balderstone Holiday Church 24th August 2025

Our Holiday Church this year was a walk, sculpture trail and picnic at Beacon Fell Country Park. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of outdoor fun and fellowship. We were especially delighted when we saw a little deer walking through the woodland.



Rev'd Nathaniel's talk was about the fact that it was the Feast of St Bartholemew.

It is thought that he is the same person as Saint Nathaniel. In the Gospels, Philip brought Nathaniel to Jesus. At first, Nathaniel was unsure about Jesus but, as he got to know him, he recognised Jesus as the Son of God. Following Jesus' death and resurrection, it is believed that Nathaniel bravely set off to India and Armenia to teach people about Jesus. At the time, this was a very dangerous thing to do but he was willing to risk his life to spread the good news!

Our Rev'd Nathaniel told us that he felt inspired by his namesake. Saint Nathaniel wanted everyone to know about Jesus and God's love. He wanted to guide them to live better lives. During the Sculpture Trail we had something to guide us on our walk round Beacon Fell – a map. Not only that but we had photos of the sculptures. We had to look carefully for the sculptures- finding them reassured us that we were on the right path.

Our lives are a bit like this Sculpture Trail. Sometimes we can feel a bit lost and it's difficult to find our way. We might be starting a new school, moving house or struggling with our health. Whatever challenges we are facing, we have God to guide us and Jesus' teachings in the Bible as our map. Also, if we look carefully, all through our lives, there are people who will help us and reassure us.

Maybe, if you feel inspired by St Bartholemew (aka Nathaniel), even if you feel a little unsure at first, you might get to know more about Jesus and want to share the good news. Maybe you could bring a friend to church, volunteer to take part in Open the Book or write an article for the United Benefice magazine. Have a think about what you could do!

Rosemary Cummins



United Benefice Community News and Events

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: £20 Main Hall, weekend/party rate up to 5pm £20 (minimum charge £100), 5pm to 10pm £30. Front Room £15, Foyer £15, Upstairs Room £15, Kitchen £5. **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, Women's Institute Craft Sessions (last Monday of the month). *Tuesday* – Palatine Fiddlers, Women's Institute. *Thursday* – Little Voices BDRV (term-time), Community Ukulele. *Friday* – Cheryl's Dance Studios (term-time). *Saturday* - *Sunday* – Film Club resuming in September

Check out the website www.mellorbrook.org, Facebook and Twitter @MellorBrook for news and forthcoming events. Tel: 07436 271153, email: rachael@mellorbrook.org.

Rachael Calvey

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>

Samlesbury Area Civic Society

The Civic Society would like to confirm that the society will again in selling our home grown tomatoes from the little table next to the Memorial Hall. This year we have extended our range of tomatoes and also confirm that they will be sold at the same price as last year, (only £1.50 per plant.) As last year all the sales of these plants will go to help us run the community garden and make the hanging baskets around the Hall. It is only with your help that we can continue to do this.

Should anyone want to come and help us, please contact John Evans 07962121678 or John Greaves 07910235256, when you would be made very welcome.

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 & Laura 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/stleonardlesssamlesbury 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/

Magazine Adverts – Working Together in our United Benefice

For full contact details, of the businesses listed below, please view their adverts in our two advert supplements.

To join our community of advertisers and place an advert, please contact Sam Metcalfe by emailing unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com. An advert costs just £25 for 12 months.

A&G Chimney Sweeps	07944 099871
Absolute Enigma Studio	07817 398494
Andrew Ball Plumbing & Heating Ltd	07817 844002
Balderstone Logs	07976 323221
Ben Lewis Tree Services	07843 018973
Bowland IT Support Services	01254 947082
Bowland Vets	01254 311311
Canberra Fitness Centre	01254 765084
Community Ukes	01254 813210
C P Simm Fencing & Landscaping	07807 337717
Crochet Classes & Tuition with Keely Robertson	07904 590552
D.J. Worcester Chimney Sweep	01772 616467
Evabel Sundecks	01254 813089
Fabric Box	07712 413904
Fired 4 U (Paint, Pottery and Clay Studio)	01772 203060
G.Cross Agricultural Engineering Ltd	07802 278525
GO Driver Training	07931 316109
Goose Foot Gin	07909 700311
Hair By Amy Campbell	07770 238258
Hatha Yoga – Live Yoga UK with Blair	07511 591880
Heritage Café at Samlesbury Hall	01254 812010
Hoghton Contractors: David Devaney	07887 843085
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
Ian Wilde Independent Funeral Directors	01772 902345
James L Knowles Electrician	01772 877469
Jane's Hairstylist	01254 812677
Let's Foster Carers (Mike Dixon)	07855 963740
Lilac Tree Interiors at Holland House Garden Centre	07714 794623
Mellor Brook & District Community Centre	07436 271153
Mellor Plant UK	01254 812937
Mellor Pharmacy	01254 812999
M J Barton Contractors	07999 711926
M W Holdsworth Builder & Property Repairer	07970 200371
My Adventure Campers	07383 449449
N & T Construction	07503 053375
North West Autocare	01772 314873
NSS News	01772 455421
Old Oak Farm Nurseries Garden Centre	01254 852065
Pennine Service Station Ltd	01254 812715
Peter Whalley Plasterer	07709 673310
Pete's Sports Massage	07584 655855
Preston Garden Services Ltd	07855 974540
Promedica 24 Care At Home	01254 411004
Red Rose Insurance Solutions	01254 790796
Ribble Home Surveys	07764 490589

Right At Home Carers	01254 658899
Samlesbury Secure Dog Run	07798 575750
Stones Young Estate Agents	01254 682470
Stove Installer	07787 858585
Stuart Taylor International Ground Care & Trailers	01254 813175
Taylors Chippy	07999 192884
T.Forrest Pet Food	01254 852873
The Old Coach House Antiques and Interiors	07598 878498
The Retro Bungalow	01254 852723
The Wilpshire Clinic	01254 246144
Tiggis Italian Restaurant	01254 769133
Wherry Gardens – Bespoke Garden Maintenance	07508 455694
Wilpshire Dental Clinic	01254 205529
W.M.Altly & Sons Ltd: The Alty Funeral Service	01254 503240
X-Press Ironing Services	07712 413904