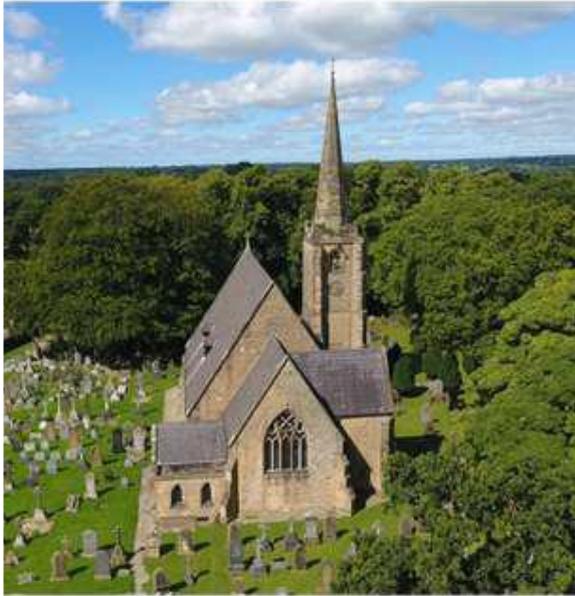


United Benefice Magazine – March 2026

Welcome to the March 2026 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

United Benefice Magazine – March 2026

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Reverend Nathaniel's welcome

Lent is still going. Those first few days were a bit tricky if I am honest. First remembering I had actually given up chocolate and that Lent had started, and then trying to resist the temptation as well. Chocolate is one of those foods I love, but which I probably eat too much of. I have had to hide the bar of chocolate I did not finish before Ash Wednesday at the back of a cupboard. This sounds a bit excessive, to be honest it probably is. After all, the world is hardly going to end if I fail to keep my Lenten fast, and who would even know if I did break it? Does it really matter, it is just a little thing after all.

But it does matter. Eating chocolate may not be that significant, but making the choice to give something I enjoy up, to hold to a commitment, even a small one, to remind myself that my own little pleasures are not the most important thing is a part of this little fast. The little things we do, the habits we build, shape how we live. From as simple as whether we smile when we pass someone on the street or glare at them, how we live and act in the little, apparently inconsequential, moments shapes how we will respond to the bigger moments of our lives. Part of Lent is a chance to look at our lives, our little habits and daily activities, and ask if they are how we want to live. If in our everyday activities we are putting Love for God and others first.

The other part of my Lenten discipline is to spend more time each day in reading and prayer. To reaffirm the habit of building my relationship with God every day. Prayer is one of those things that can be easy to push to one side, to neglect when our lives get busy because there are other things that need doing. A relationship neglected cannot grow and flourish. A habit of prayer should not be an optional extra we can forget, but our first point of call in living our lives.

As we continue to journey together through Lent, as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, how are each of us living? Where do we put our priorities and focus? How can we support each other through Lent and beyond?

Graves

As a benefice, our churchyards are a great blessing. A place to remember those we love, a place where our nature can grow and flourish. It was lovely to see how many families joined in celebrating Christmas with those they remembered by placing wreaths on graves.

The blessing of our churchyards comes with the responsibility to care for them, both for our current generations and for the future as well. To guide this, the Church of England and the Diocese of Blackburn set graveyard regulations which we as a Benefice must follow. The regulations do not allow wreaths throughout the year, but only around the Christmas season. Could I therefore ask that any families who still have Christmas wreaths on graves to please remove them until the Christmas season returns.

Over the weekend of 21st and 22nd March we will be having churchyard tidy-ups across the benefice (Balderstone: 9am-12pm Saturday 21st March, Mellor: 1-3pm on Sunday 22nd March, Samesbury: time to be confirmed Saturday 21st March). During this tidy-up, any remaining wreaths, as well as other items that do not comply with the Diocesan Graveyard Regulations, may be removed.

Please do join us for our Churchyard Tidy Up weekend. It will be a chance as spring begins to get some of the bigger jobs done to care for our church yard and prepare it for the growth that will happen in the year ahead.

If you have any questions, do contact Nathaniel or the graveyard teams in our churches.

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United Benefice church services

	Balderstone	Mellor	Samlesbury
Sunday 1 st March	9:30am Holy Communion	4:00pm Even song with choir	11:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th March	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	4:00pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 15 th March Mothering Sunday	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Family Service	11:00am Mission Praise
Sunday 22 nd March	4:00pm Evening Prayer	9:30am Mothers' Union Holy Communion	11:00am BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th March Palm Sunday	United Benefice Holy Communion at Mellor St Mary's		

Our new Rota system continues in March. However, with the major celebration of Mothering Sunday on the 15th March, there is a slight change to the 2nd and 3rd Sundays. Rather than the usual family services on the 2nd Sunday (8th March) there are instead 9.30am Holy Communion at Mellor, 11am Holy Communion at Balderstone, 4pm Evening service at Samlesbury. This is so that on 15th March (Mothering Sunday) we can have 9.30am Family Service with communion at Mellor, 11am All Age Worship with Communion at Mellor, and 11am Mission Praise at Samlesbury.

With the exception of Easter Day, we will return to the normal new service rota in April.

The pattern of Services can be seen in the table above. If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rev Nathaniel

Prayer diary

Sunday 1 st March	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
Sunday 8 th March	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
Sunday 15 th March	Lord Jesus, we ask that you fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit as we worship you and seek your truth. Amen
Sunday 22 nd March	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
Sunday 29 th March	

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United Benefice diary dates

Tues 3 rd	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Wed 4 th	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Wed 4 th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Thurs 5 th	United Benefice Lent Course: on-line	7:00pm
Fri 6 th	United Benefice Lent Course: St Mary's Church, Mellor	3:00pm
Fri 6 th	World Day of Prayer service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	10:30am
Fri 6 th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm

Tues 10 th	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Tues 10 th	Mellor Mothers' Union at St Mary's Church, Mellor	7:00pm
Wed 11 th	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Wed 11 th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Thurs 12 th	United Benefice Lent Course: on-line	7:00pm
Fri 13 th	United Benefice Lent Course: St Mary's Church, Mellor	3:00pm
Fri 13 th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm

Tues 17 th	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Tues 17 th	Balderstone Mothers' Union annual quiz	TBC
Wed 18 th	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Wed 18 th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Thurs 19 th	United Benefice Lent Course: on-line	7:00pm
Fri 20 th	United Benefice Lent Course: St Mary's Church, Mellor	3:00pm
Fri 20 th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
Sat 21 st	Graveyard tidy-up: St Leonards, Balderstone	9am-12pm
Sat 21 st	Graveyard tidy-up: St Leonard the Less, Salmesbury	TBC
Sun 22 nd	Graveyard tidy-up: St Mary's, Mellor	1pm-3pm

Tues 24 th	United Benefice at Communion St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Tues 24 th	Little Angels at St Mary's Church, Mellor	2:15pm
Wed 25 th	St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Wed 25 th	Mellor Mothers' Union Annunciation service at St Mary's Church, Mellor	7:00pm
Wed 25 th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Thurs 26 th	United Benefice Lent Course: on-line	7:00pm
Fri 27 th	United Benefice Lent Course: St Mary's Church, Mellor	3:00pm
Fri 27 th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm

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United Benefice Holy Week diary dates

Monday 30th March

Morning Prayer at St Leonards, Balderstone	9:30am
Evensong at St Leonards, Balderstone	5:00pm
Compline at St Leonards, Balderstone	7:30pm

Tuesday 31st March

United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Evensong at St Mary's Church, Mellor	5:00pm
Compline at St Mary's Church, Mellor	7:30pm

Wednesday 1st April

Morning Prayer at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	9:30am
Evensong at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	5:00pm
St Mary's Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Compline at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm

Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday

Maundy foot washing and Holy Communion at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
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Friday 3rd April – Good Friday

Reflective service at St Leonards, Balderstone	11:00am
Last Hour at Cross service with communion at St Leonards, Balderstone	2:00pm

Sunday 5th April – Easter Day

Up The Hill, Mellor	6:30am
Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Holy Communion at St Leonards, Balderstone	11:00am
Holy Communion at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	11:00am

Church wardens' meeting

Held on: 17th February 2026

Present:

- In-person: Nathaniel Gilmour, John Eastham, Paul Daunton and Mary Shorthouse.
- On-line: Lloyd Brown, Ryan Dixon and Sarah Lees joined online
- Apologies: None

The meeting opened with a prayer and thanks to John for hosting.

1. Nathaniel confirmed that we need Faculty approval to put up the new animal friendly churches award plaques.
2. It was reported that the Diocesan Renewal Program feedback at the last PCC was well received.
3. We discussed the need for a stewardship campaign and when this could be conducted. It was felt that sometime between the summer holidays and Christmas would be suitable, with the emphasis on explaining what our Parish Share is used for and encouraging a wider group to support their local churches than at present. We need to get the right approach to this and perhaps a thank you letter to current supporters at the end of the year would be helpful. It was also mentioned that Stephanie Rankin (the Diocese stewardship advisor), had visited all three parishes during Karen's incumbency, producing a detailed finance report for each parish and providing some resources for conducting a stewardship campaign.
4. We discussed trying to organise a churchyard tidying weekend for each parish, possibly the weekend after Mothering Sunday (21st/22nd of March). We also mentioned ensuring that flowers, etc are organised for Mothering Sunday (15th of March).
5. Nathaniel reported that the General Synod have voted to encourage churchyards to be environmentally friendly and as such will be stopping the placing of plastic flowers on graves.
6. Nathaniel advised that the Lent course would begin on Thursday the 26th of February at 7pm via 'Teams'.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

The next meeting will take place on the 17th of March and Mary Shorthouse kindly agreed to host this.

St Leonards Church, Balderstone

Church

Mothers' Union

Since I last caught up with the magazine, we held our AGM in January. We had a report from our treasurer Nigel, then we reviewed 2025 and looked forward to our programme for 2026.

At our February meeting we all talked about a favourite article, pictures, rings, even some thermal socks!!! were included. The highlight was Janet's family Rocking horse, it was so interesting hearing how he came through the family; he's quite an antique that's for sure. I think we all really enjoyed the afternoon. A big thanks to Ruth who made drop scones and chocolate brownies to go with our cuppa.

Our next meeting is our annual quiz and will be on March 17th, usual time of 2pm. Do come along if you fancy a bit of fun and some good company.

Susan Baron.

Women's Institute

Balderstone & District WI have enjoyed a festive Christmas and we are grasping Spring with both arms!



A cheque was presented to Mellor Brook Community Centre (MBCC) to help fund further repairs on the building. The craft group have had a bash at watercolour painting and iris folded cards.

Socially, we are off to Churchfield House for afternoon tea early in March and we also celebrate our 107th birthday with a pizza party at MBCC.

We had a very interesting & informative talk from Matt Postlethwaite and Ian Pilling from United Utilities which was extremely topical considering the problems local residents have had with water supplies. They told us about the 'Business Plan' for the next five years. They outlined the particular considerations for the North West that had to be taken into account – including Victorian sewers, extreme differences in affluence, environmental protection schemes, current 54% combined systems network as well as growing populations, climate change, diverse communities and growing expectations. The planned work will be the largest investment in the infrastructure for 100 years.

The Strollers walked around the shepherds huts at Samlesbury Hall and more recently wandered around Mellor in the bitter wind followed by lunch at the Traders where we were sat by the lovely fire which was much needed.

We wish the Walkers well as they are off to Chipping to search for snowdrops!

Mellor St. Mary's

Church

Tuesday morning fun and fellowship.

After the 9.30a.m. U.B. Holy Communion service, coffee is served in the Narthex. Members from our community often join us.

Well done to Rev Nathaniel on Shrove Tuesday who tossed the pancake higher than anyone else. We all enjoyed Scotch pancakes and Welsh cakes made by Di Buckley and Drop Scones made by Ruth. Then we sang Happy Birthday to Gillian on her special birthday.



Everyone is welcome to come and join in our companionship each Tuesday.

The Card Ladies

This month we have made a donation of £25 to Arthritis UK, in memory of Barbara Clapton, who was a teacher at St Wilfred's School. We have also given £25 to The British Heart Foundation in memory of Maureen Davidson, who was a cousin of Rita Gorman and Betty Green. A new vacuum cleaner was required for use by the cleaning ladies in Church, so we made a contribution to that also. We will very soon have our Easter cards and novelties on sale in Church, so look out for a lovely selection of hand-made cards and gifts. Once again, we thank you all for supporting us, either by donating your cards to us or buying them when they have been recycled!

Mothers' Union

The Mother's Union AGM on 10th February 2026 was opened by Margaret Ashton who welcomed all members and outlined the agenda for the meeting and led opening prayers and a hymn.

Members were seated at very pretty Valentine's theme decorated tables and given quiz papers followed by delicious hot potato pie and tea and coffee.



Mary Woodward read out a summary of the Treasurer's report and referred members to copies of the report which had been placed on the tables for perusal. This was followed by the Annual Report by Margaret Baldwin who gave an enjoyable recollection of our past events and church services we have had over the last twelve months.

Margaret Ashton then read some notices and also confirmed to us we now have **thirty-four** members with an average of twenty-four regularly attending the monthly meetings. The date for World Prayer day is to be 6th March 2026 followed by lunch at the Millstone. We were reminded that the monthly MU church service is now to be every 4th Sunday in the month and following a discussion about the possible change of time for the evening monthly meeting it was decided during the winter, meetings would be held at 1.30 pm in the afternoon and 7.00pm in the summer months. Margaret also told us world-wide, MU is 150 yrs old this year and Blackburn MU will be 100 yrs old.

The evening ended with our "£1 gift bags" being distributed to members, the Raffle and the Bric-a-Brac table was made available.

Frances Jackson
Deputy Roving Reporter.

School

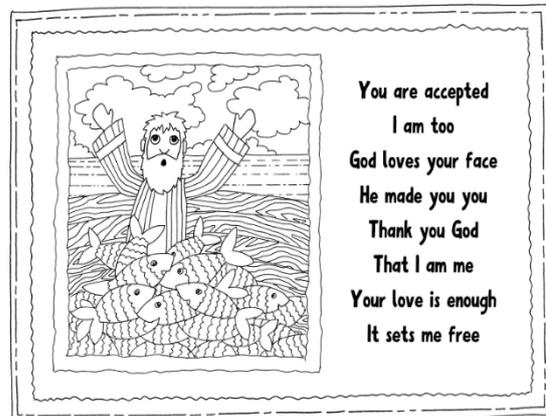
It seems like a long time since, we last told you about all the wonderful things that have been happening in Mellor. In fact, it has been nearly 5 months since our last magazine entry. Since then, we have celebrated Harvest, Remembrance Day, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany as well as tried to find the answers to big questions such as: ‘What is special about the place where we live?’ and ‘Why is water important to us?’ not to mention the very philosophical question of ‘Who are we?’ which Year 6 children have been exploring.

This term they are focusing on whether the punishment fits the crime in their topic of ‘Crime and Punishment’, whilst the rest of the juniors are learning about how space inspires us and the Infants are focusing on weather around the world and believe it or not that means learning about weather systems other than rain!



Back in December we took part in a very special assembly all the way from the Union Glacier in Antarctica led by explorer Robert Swan OBE. This was an unbelievable experience as the children had the chance to ask him questions about life as an explorer and what we can do to help save this part of God’s amazing world. Thankfully our classrooms were a little bit warmer than his -50 degrees tent! We now have the certificate of participation standing proudly in school as a reminder to everyone who enters here that we all have a huge part to play in ensuring God’s world is preserved for many more years to come.

In worship this year, working with Rev Nathaniel, we are looking at ways the Bible positively impacts on our wellbeing using an A-Z approach supporting children’s mental health in school. Each week a letter is linked to a Bible passage which helps us to reflect on our lives and actions through the words and actions of Jesus and his followers. Starting with A for acceptance, when Peter was accepted by Jesus (Luke 5:1-11), to L for lament, John 11: 1-46, (which includes the shortest verse in the Bible; ‘Jesus wept.’) We are learning how to look after our mind, bodies and souls in the ways that God wants us to. There are still many more letters to come and hopefully by the summer term we will all be experts in positive mental health practices and prayer.



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Thursday 5th January 2026
L.O.: To write command sentences.

S.C.: Orally compose each command sentence. Use illustrations from "Change Sign" to gather ideas. Identify verb at the start. C.U.E. Spelling, handwriting.

Be kind then you can be friends ✓

Pick up rubbish then you can save animals. ✓

Walk ^{a lot} then you will save the world. ✓

Plant seeds then you can make trees to make paper. ✓

Help ^{people} if they are sad ✓

Be kind to make the school a better place. ✓

Make ^{people} included. ✓

Listen ^{to} people. ✓

Don't hert back if they hert you. ✓

Some super command sentences.

As a school we continue to support the development of writing and young writers whenever we can, so our monthly newsletters have been filled with different authors each month, covering different abilities and genres. The February author is a young person in Year 2 called Florence, who has been learning about command sentences and has put together a piece of work 'commanding' us to be kind. We hope you enjoy reading it.

And finally, if you would like to find out what has been happening in all our United Benefice schools, then please use the links below:

Balderstone weekly newsletter:

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

Mellor monthly newsletter: <https://www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk/newsletters-2025>

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

Believing, Learning and Sharing Together from Mrs Embley-Peers and everyone in Mellor St Mary School.

St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury

Church

Love Stories: Real people whose love of God enables them to make a significant difference to other people's lives.

Janet Morley.



I have been unable to find a picture of Janet Morley to put with this article, but I've found this lovely picture of St Leonard's Hospice in York, where she worked and volunteered, instead.

Janet started as a volunteer when the hospice was opened, simply because she felt short of something to do and she liked working with people. She'd no experience of people dying so there was a lot to adjust to and understand. She still remembers clearly the shock she felt when the first person she

had helped had died.

Over time she became a care assistant and then went on to work in an administrator role which included fundraising but, employed or not, she continued to do some voluntary care assistant work for 30 years. She considered being with a person as their life ended as a great privilege. In 2014 she was awarded the Anne Norfolk Award for Lifetime Achievement in Fundraising by Hospice UK.

Janet didn't plan a career in hospice work she just took opportunities as they came along, considering herself to be simply in the right place at the right time. But those are the sort of coincidences God uses for people in his service. Being where he wants us to be as we're needed by others. Her care and concern for families in grief motivated all she did.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

Pam Daunton.

(I think I should have acknowledged that these pieces are taken from the book by John Sentamu: Agape Love Stories.)

School



This term is always such a special one in the school calendar as we welcome Spring and look towards Easter. Our Christian value this half term is Compassion and as you can see our bible verse, this half term's verse is relevant to everyone, everywhere. In school we apply our bible verse and value to daily life and I'm sure you'll be able to see through this article how our amazing children reflect this through all we do in school.

The infants now have a brand-new outdoor learning shed! Mrs Smalley has worked really hard to get this area up and running and as you can see, the children are loving using the space to develop so many different skills!



“Play is the highest form of research.” — Albert Einstein

“The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning through play this term in our infant classroom. Through their play experiences, they have developed a wide range of positive characteristics. They have strengthened their communication and language skills by sharing ideas and negotiating roles, built confidence by exploring new challenges, and demonstrated creativity through imaginative thinking.



Play has also supported the development of resilience and perseverance as children learned to solve problems, adapt their ideas, and try again when things did not go as planned. Working collaboratively has encouraged teamwork, empathy, and respect for others, while independent play has fostered curiosity and self-motivation. It has been wonderful to



see how purposeful play continues to nurture both their personal growth and their love of learning.” Mrs Smalley (infant teacher).

As always, our Forest School sessions have continued through rain, sleet and occasional sunshine! As well as learning about the outdoors, Forest School is a valuable time for children to learn about themselves and grow in confidence. This last half term they've especially been looking at team work and communication skills as well as what it means to persevere which was our Christian value last half term. As you can see from the photos, they were having a lot of fun practising!



The children in Reception class thoroughly enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. They listened to the story 'Cleversticks' and had the opportunity to practise using chopsticks while tasting noodles. The class also took part in a New Year parade around the school and greatly enjoyed role-playing in our Chinese restaurant!



Once again our pupil leaders in school have been busy showing their leadership skills through charitable work - they are fabulous and we are so proud of them. They organised a charity sale to raise money for our sponsored child Bristy, which is done through the Christian charity Compassion. Thanks to their hard work, they raised a fantastic £152.42 from everyone's post-Christmas clear out. This covers a third of the year's sponsorship. It's fantastic to see our children leading by example, showing independence, and taking the initiative!



We were also asked by a national publisher in January to be a reviewing school for newly published children's story books by Christian authors. The books all got a big thumbs up from the children and it's a real compliment to school to have been asked to do this!



We've also had a Science WOW Day in January when children spent the whole day focusing on investigations, data and interpreting evidence. We had all sorts of experiments going on including an investigation including an campfire!



And as always, we continue to be an exceptional Church of England primary school which our recent SIAMS inspection in December confirmed:

“The deeply embedded Christian vision drives the life and work of this vibrant and successful Church school. By understanding the needs of their distinct community very well, leaders make purposeful and wide-reaching decisions that enable pupils and adults to ‘let their light shine.’”

We couldn't be prouder of our children, our staff, our families and the wider community who enable us to be the wonderful school that we are!



Lucy Sutton &
Louise Quayle

**Co-Headteachers
Samlesbury CE Primary
School**

United Benefice Community News and Events

Quiz Night

Samlesbury War Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane, Samlesbury, PR5 0UY.

Quiz Nights at Samlesbury War Memorial Hall on Saturdays at 7.30pm.

Chase away those winter blues! Everyone welcome.

Teams of up to 6. Join a team when you get there if you're not in one.

- With supper: Lancashire Hot Pot or Cheese Bake (V, GF) £8.50. Under 11s £3.50.
- Without supper: £3.50.
- Unlimited tea & coffee is included.

Bring your own nibbles, alcohol or 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're having supper or not by the Wednesday before.

Next quiz dates :-

- Sat 7th March 2026

Donations for Church Flowers

Every week we have flowers in church. They are always done by the Flowers Ladies, who have been arranging them for many years. Would anyone like to join us in making church look lovely? It is only about once a month, and it is a very satisfying couple of hours. Also would anyone care to donate money to buy flowers. We have had in the past many people who donated in memory of family and friends for an anniversary or just a seasonal display, such as Christmas or Easter. If you could donate money it would mean we can continue to keep the church looking lovely all year.

Many thanks in advance. Please contact me in church at St Mary's Mellor.

Joan Moss

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>

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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 07962 121 678 or John Greaves 07910 235 256, when you would be made very welcome.

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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

Administrator: Andrew unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com
Vicar: Nathaniel Gilmour rev.n.gilmour@gmail.com - 01254 937 123

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>

United Benefice Magazine – March 2026

Magazine Adverts

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

An advert costs just £25 for 12 months.

To join our community of advertisers and place an advert, please contact the United Benefice Office by emailing unitedbeneficebms@outlook.com

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Absolute Enigma Studio	07817 398494
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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
Creations Gardening Services	07950 242171
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
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	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
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NSS News	01772 455421
Old Oak Farm Nurseries Garden Centre	01254 852065
Pennine Service Station Ltd	01254 812715

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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
Taylor's 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.Alty & Sons Ltd: The Alty Funeral Service	01254 503240
X-Press Ironing Services	07712 413904