

Welcome to the July 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

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Reverend Nathaniel's welcome

I love a BBQ! I have wonderful memories growing up of my dad cooking on the grill, in the sunshine of summer, but also in the rain with an umbrella held overhead and on more than one occasion in the snow with me or my sister as a very cold helper. I still love cooking on the grill when I can, even in the rain. There is something special about food cooked outside on a grill, the flame shooting up as a bit of fat drips down, the wind blowing, and sun shining, a nice drink in hand.

But there is something better about sharing that grill cooking with others. Something special about coming together. Turning it from just a nice meal in the garden to a proper BBQ, a bit of a party. We are experiencing this as a benefice; the Samlesbury Summer Garden Party, the Mellor BBQ, and the Balderstone Open Gardens. Occasions when we are coming together, to enjoy gardens, activities, food, and at times BBQ. These times of coming together are important, and not just because they are fun.

Christ calls us to be the Church, together. Not a collection of individuals that happen to spend time together on a Sunday. But a community, that knows one another, loves one another, helps one another. That goes beyond helping others, to invite them in, make them welcome. And times of coming together, for BBQs, garden parties or anything else are very important for this.

Summer is a wonderful season of coming together, and it is practically easier. The days are longer, the weather is warmer, there is a little less rain. As we enjoy this season, as we come together with friends, with church, with others, who can you invite in? Who can you welcome as Christ welcomes us?

United Benefice church services

	Balderstone	Mellor	Samlesbury
5 th July	9:30am United Benefice Confirmation	4pm Golden Opportunity, Sundae Service	11:00am Holy Communion
12 th July	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Family Service	11:00am Mission Praise
19 th July	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	4:00pm Evening Prayer
26 th July	4:00pm Café Church	9:30am Mothers' Union Holy Communion	11:00am BCP Holy Communion

We continue the normal rota system for Sundays in July, with the exception of the first week, where we have a “golden opportunity” Sundae Service in Mellor. 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

5 th July	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
12 th July	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
19 th July	Lord Jesus, we ask that you fill us afresh with your Holy Spirit as we worship you and seek your truth. Amen
26 th July	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

United Benefice diary dates

Wed 1 st	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 3 rd	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
Fri 3 rd	Mellor Summer BBQ, 30 Bosburn Drive	7:00pm

Tues 7 th	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Wed 8 th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 10 th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm

Tues 14 th	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Tues 14 th	Mellor Mothers' Union Summer Outing to Lytham	10:15am
Wed 15 th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 17 th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm

Tues 21 st	United Benefice at Communion St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Wed 22 nd	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 24 th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm

Tues 28 th	United Benefice at Communion St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Wed 29 nd	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 31 st	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm

United Benefice

Confirmation Service

What a privilege it was on Sunday 7th June at our joint Benefice service as many people gathered from the three parishes to support our confirmation candidates Heidi and Leila, and made welcome The Bishop of Burnley, The Right Reverend Joseph Kennedy to our annual confirmation service at St. Leonard's Church, Balderstone. It was amazing to see so many people come to support Heidi and Leila on their special day! What a joy it was to see two members of our church family committing their lives to God. After many weeks of exploring their faith together in our confirmation classes they both decided to remake the promises originally made at their baptisms, and declare their faith in God, their trust in Jesus, and their dependence on the Holy Spirit.

For many of us, confirmation represents a milestone—a moment to pause and reflect on our spiritual journey. While we may have been baptized as infants, this service is our opportunity to stand up and personally take ownership of our faith. During the service of Confirmation, the Bishop and the church asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to live as a follower of Jesus Christ.

During the service Heidi and Leila had the chance to publicly commit themselves to following Jesus and the Bishop anointed them with oil and prayed that they will be filled with God's Holy Spirit

After the service, about 60 people, including the candidates and their families, gathered in the school hall to meet over coffee and cake. It was a very memorable and special occasion.



We continue to pray for our candidates, that they may grow in their faith and find their places within our church communities.



St Leonards Church, Balderstone

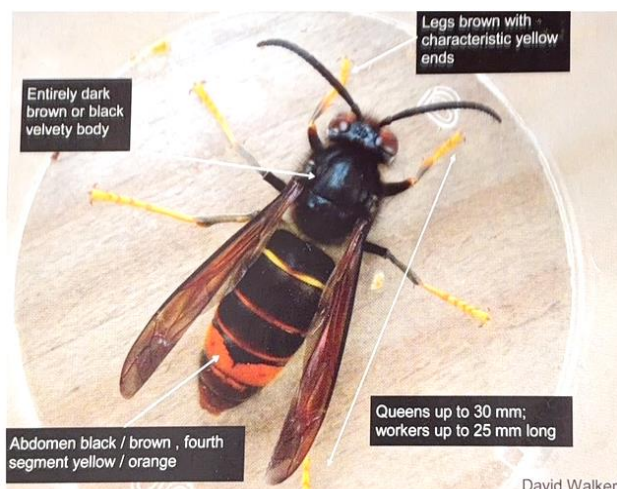
Balderstone and District Women's Institute

WATCH OUT!!

We recently had an extremely informative talk from one of our members, Caroline Coughlin, who works for DEFRA as a Bee Inspector. Much of her time currently is spent finding, tracking and helping to eliminate

Yellow legged Asian hornets

These insects are a highly aggressive & significant predator of our honey bees and other pollinators. Remember: no pollinators, then no food chain!

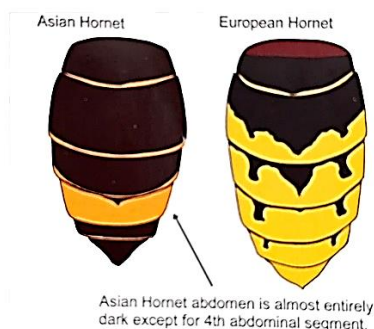
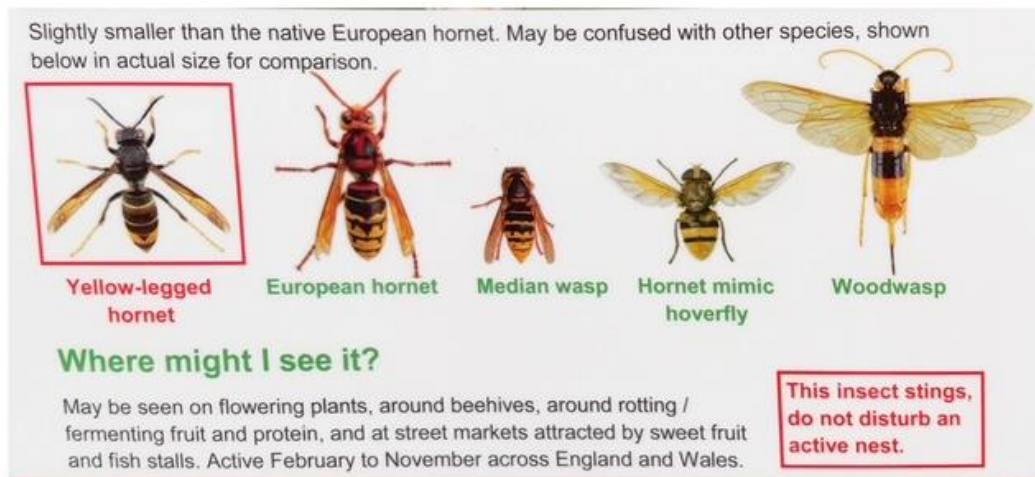


This insect was originally from Asia where it does have its own predators. Here it has none!

It was accidentally introduced into France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly on the continent. It was first seen in the UK in 2016.

Introduction through: imported flowers & plants, fruit, garden items, in vehicles and on timber. It may be able to fly across the Channel.

Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man-made structures, sometimes closer to the ground.



This insect stings!
Please report any sightings immediately.
Download the Asian Hornet Watch App

Please report sightings immediately with a photo:

- using the Asian Hornet Watch app
- online: nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet

Scan QR code to find out more and report a sighting:

Yellow-legged (Asian) hornet is a serious threat to honey bees and other pollinators.



Mellor St. Mary's

Mellor Mothers' Union

Margaret Baldwin opened our 9th June 2026 meeting and welcomed back Roger Hussey, Fraud Safeguarding Officer for Lancashire Constabulary who has visited previously, to update and highlight the recent fraud and scams he has dealt with. Roger advised the members on a number of items, such as passwords, AI, PayPal and the Fraud Reimbursement Scheme. His advice was very informative, saying scammers trick victims into transferring money directly or giving up personal information. Roger suggested ways for us to protect ourselves and pointed out one scam in particular being how a fraudster/scammer can copy and record any well known TV personality's voice and use it to persuade the person they have telephoned they are a genuine caller in their act to deceive you out of money and they are able to create convincing evidence to back up their lies. This can also be used in emails or on social media apps by inserting fake photos.

Throughout all the information Roger gave us, his main advice was always quite clear: if someone calls you, don't be eager to give information, stop and think, slow the call down and don't listen to any time restrictions the scammers set as they rely on rushing you to confuse and achieve their objectives.

Roger handed members booklets with advice and telephone numbers for us to refer to. Rita Gorman thanked Roger and said the evening was extremely useful to all the members.

Frances Jackson

Deputy Roving Reporter

Dates for the future:

- July 14th M.U. Summer Outing to Lytham
- August 11th Marion Lofthouse: My Netball Journey
- September 8th Rev Nathaniel
- October 13th M.U. Autumn meal
- November 10th Cheryl Whalley: Deanery Presiding member
- December 8th M.U. Christmas Party



The Card Ladies

During the month of June we have donated £ 25 to Guide Dogs for the Blind charity, and £25 to the Rosemere Cancer Foundation. All of these Charities were suggested to us by Church members, so if you have any particular charitable organisation that you support, we would be happy to help.

Once again thank you, as always, for your support, without which we would not be able to make our donations.

The Card Ladies

Mellor St Mary School

It's hard to believe that another year has flown by with so many amazing experiences for all our children to remember and look back on, from learning about seaside holidays in the past at Fleetwood museum and convicting a criminal in our Magistrates Court, to developing our school grounds for all God's creatures as part of our whole school sustainability day. The children have, as always, been exceptional and are a real credit to our parents and our local community. They have all worked incredibly hard and deserve the rich rewards that come with this. Thank you to you, our UB community, for all the support you have given us over the course of the year, with homework, additional learning opportunities, after-school enrichment activities, transporting sporting teams to and from events, FOSMS fundraisers, charity events and church services. We love working in partnership with you.

However, no matter how amazing this year has been, no one wants the time to say goodbye to come round any sooner. This year, we will be saying goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children and their families, who, in a few more weeks, will have flown the nest, ready to start their new educational journey elsewhere. This year, it is going to be especially hard for me as a headteacher and a mum. After seven years of walking to and from school together, my own daughter will be leaving Mellor to head off to high school. So it is with a very heavy heart that we have to say farewell to Year 6. Our school has been blessed by the presence of 21 wonderful children who have been amazing role models as well as incredible living examples of our core Christian values. But the time has come for them to move on, take what they have learnt from us and continue to grow as world citizens caring about our planet, living in diverse communities and sharing their faith with all whom they meet.

If you would like to wish them well on their next stage of life, you are more than welcome to join us for their leavers' service in school on the 17th July, starting at 1:30pm. Tissues are provided free of charge!

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/stream/newsletters/full/1/-//>

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.

So, farewell to the Class of 2026

We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day.



Little Angels

It was lovely to welcome Sarah to our final meeting this term. The children enjoyed dabbing paint with a cork, making a picture to represent our world, and listening to a story.

The children from school came across to sing songs for us; always a delight to see some former 'little angels.'



Charlotte and George will soon be joining them as they take their next step along the world. We wish them much joy at school, and also Rupert when he begins his school days at St Peter's at Salesbury.

Happy holidays to everyone, keep safe, with love from the L A team ... until we meet again in September xx



St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury

Samlesbury School

Where has the year gone? There's been so much to celebrate this year that we'd need our own magazine to share it all with you, and in the midst of everything we do as a school, we've had our SIAMS inspection and Ofsted inspection, both of which were such positive experiences!

This time of year, though, is all about our amazing Year 6 pupils, and the Class of 2026 is another fantastic group of children we couldn't be prouder of! They started their time at Samlesbury just as the Covid pandemic hit (which already seems like part of the history books now), and nothing seems to hold them back. They are children who enjoy life to the full, who are confident trying new things even when they're not sure they'll succeed, and who think of others and take their responsibility to one another with thought and care. We will really miss them all as they move on, but we know they are fully prepared for the next step of their journey! And a huge thank you to all the staff for their dedication, hard work, enthusiasm and fun – enjoy your summer break when it begins!



Year 6: Keep letting your lights shine. Be inspired to live as a light to others, using what you have learnt at Samlesbury as a guide for doing good and making a difference. Remember that God's love and grace will go with you wherever you go!

Lucy Sutton & Louise Quayle

Co-Headteachers, Samlesbury CE Primary School

Flower arranging

On Saturday 29th May, a number of volunteers were expertly guided by Christine in the basics of arranging flowers for display in church. Many thanks to Christine for generously donating her time and expertise, and to Glen and Grace for arranging the session and bringing us together.

The volunteers were: Harold, Helen, Nathaniel, Alex and Rachel.



Tea and Music

“CREAM TEA & MUSIC IN THE GARDEN”

Saturday 25th July 2pm

£6

Woodhook Farm, Roach Road, Samlesbury

Book with Grace Eastham 01772 877076

United Benefice Community News and Events

Open Gardens Month – 13th June to 19th July

This year we'll be holding our popular Open Gardens month, with lots of different gardens open around the community. Funds raised will include a donation to Parkinsons UK.

We would still like to add a few more open gardens to our programme so if you have a garden, however small or large, neat or tidy, and would be willing to open it for an hour or so and maybe serve some simple refreshments, please let us know (sianriddell1@gmail.com).

We'd love to get as many people involved across the Benefice, so whether you're from Mellor, Samlesbury, Balderstone or anywhere else in our community, we'd love you to come along or maybe open your own garden.

Wednesday 1st July - The Orangery, Bowfields Lane, Balderstone 2-4pm

Saturday 4th July - Holmes Cottage, Higher Commons Lane, Balderstone time TBC

Sunday 5th July - Pickering Fold Farm, Bezza Lane, Balderstone 10:45 – 1:15

Tuesday 7th July – Balderstone school, Commons Lane, Balderstone 3:20 – 4:20

Friday 10th July - Riversleigh, Jacksons Bank, Balderstone 2-4pm

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July 11am to 4pm:

- 85 Ribchester Road, BB1 9HT
- Holly Cottage, BB2 7EJ
- Whinney Lane Barn, BB2 7EH

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 - Games 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 be 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.

Mellor Village Show

The Village Hall, Mellor
Sunday, 6th September, 2026

2-4pm



Would you like to exhibit in this year's show?

Art (Any Medium) ♦ Crafts (Assorted)

Children's Section ♦ Home Produce

Flowers and Plants

Foliage and Flower Arrangements

Fruit and Vegetables ♦ Photography

Entry forms are available in local shops.

Find us on: www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow

United Benefice Contacts

St Leonard's Church, Balderstone

Churchwardens: Mary Shorthouse – mary.shorthouse@outlook.com – 07880 715 547
Ryan Dixon – ryandixon466@gmail.com - 07976 323 221
PCC Secretary: Kathy Evans - kabelliveau@btinternet.com
Treasurer: Keith Roberts
Headteacher: Victoria Gow - 01254 769 150

St Mary's Church, Mellor

Churchwardens: Sarah Shaw - sarahlucy93@hotmail.co.uk - 07450 295 417
Lloyd Brown – 07714 791 256
Tony Daly

PCC Secretary: Ann Doolan - anndoolan@btinternet.com - 07969 047 984
Treasurer: Mary Brown – 07832 625 646
Headteacher: Jo Embley-Peers - 01254 812 581

St Leonard the Less Church, Samlesbury

UB Licensed Lay Minister: Canon Pam Daunton - 01772 877 017
Churchwardens: Paul Daunton - 07979 496 499
John Eastham - 01772 877 076
PCC Secretary: Dr Nick Buckley – nickb2505@gmail.com - 07542 762 941
Treasurer: Gaynor Dockerill - 07563 262 784
Co-Headteachers: Lucy Sutton & Louise Quayle - 01772 877 200

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/ https://www.facebook.com/mellorparishchurch
St Mary's Church, Mellor	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

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

A&G Chimney Sweeps	07944 099 871
Absolute Enigma Studio	07817 398 494
Andrew Ball Plumbing & Heating Ltd	07817 844 002
Balderstone Logs	07976 323 221
Ben Lewis Tree Services	07843 018 973
Bowland IT Support Services	01254 947 082
Bowland Vets	01254 311 311
Canberra Fitness Centre	01254 765 084
Community Ukes	01254 813 210
C P Simm Fencing & Landscaping	07807 337 717
Creations Gardening Services	07950 242 171
Crochet Classes & Tuition with Keely Robertson	07904 590 552
D.J. Worcester Chimney Sweep	01772 616 467
Evabel Sundecks	01254 813 089
Fabric Box	07712 413 904
Fired 4 U (Paint, Pottery and Clay Studio)	01772 203 060
G.Cross Agricultural Engineering Ltd	07802 278 525
GO Driver Training	07931 316 109
Hair By Amy Campbell	07770 238 258
Hatha Yoga – Live Yoga UK with Blair	07511 591 880
Heritage Café at Samlesbury Hall	01254 812 010
Hoghton Contractors: David Devaney	07887 843 085
Hoghton Village Vet	01254 782 737
Home Care Mellor	01254 689 981
Homewise Society: Home Improvements Handyperson	01254 232 249
Hoze-It Power Cleaning Services	07841 348 290
Ian Wilde Independent Funeral Directors	01772 902 345
James L Knowles Electrician	01772 877 469
Let's Foster Carers (Mike Dixon)	07855 963 740
Lilac Tree Interiors at Holland House Garden Centre	07714 794 623
Mellor Brook & District Community Centre	07436 271 153
Mellor Plant UK	01254 812 937
Mellor Pharmacy	01254 812 999
M J Barton Contractors	07999 711 926
M W Holdsworth Builder & Property Repairer	07970 200 371
My Adventure Campers	07383 449 449
N & T Construction	07503 053 375
North West Autocare	01772 314 873
NSS News	01772 455 421
Old Oak Farm Nurseries Garden Centre	01254 852 065
Pennine Service Station Ltd	01254 812 715
Peter Whalley Plasterer	07709 673 310

Pete's Sports Massage	07584 655 855
Preston Garden Services Ltd	07855 974 540
Promedica 24 Care At Home	01254 411 004
Red Rose Insurance Solutions	01254 790 796
Ribble Home Surveys	07764 490 589
Right At Home Carers	01254 658 899
Samlesbury Secure Dog Run	07798 575 750
Stones Young Estate Agents	01254 682 470
Stove Installer	07787 858 585
Stuart Taylor International Ground Care & Trailers	01254 813 175
Taylors Chippy	07999 192 884
T.Forrest Pet Food	01254 852 873
The Old Coach House Antiques and Interiors	07598 878 498
The Retro Bungalow	01254 852 723
The Wilpshire Clinic	01254 246 144
Tiggis Italian Restaurant	01254 769 133
Wherry Gardens – Bespoke Garden Maintenance	07508 455 694
Wilpshire Dental Clinic	01254 205 529
W.M.Alt & Sons Ltd: The Alty Funeral Service	01254 503 240
X-Press Ironing Services	07712 413 904