Welcome to the November 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

Contents

Reverend Nathaniel's welcome 3
United Benefice church services 4
Prayer diary 4
United Benefice diary dates 5
St Leonards Church, Balderstone 6
Balderstone Social Committee 6
Open Gardens 6
Balderstone Harvest Supper 6
St Leonard's School 7
Balderstone Mothers' Union 8
Mellor St. Mary's 9
Mellor Mothers' Union 9
Mellor Mothers' Union Lunch 9
The Card Ladies 9
Little Angels 10
St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury 11
Open Gardens 11
United Benefice Community News and Events 12
Mellor Village Hall 12
Samlesbury Area Civic Society 12
United Benefice Contacts 13
Useful Website Links 13
Magazine Adverts 14

Reverend Nathaniel's welcome

I usually have a terrible memory. If it is not written down, more likely than not I will forget. And even if it is written down, that relies on me remembering to check the note. Memory is a funny thing; all of us will have different moments we focus on and commit to memory. When a big event happens, if you ask 4 people to tell you about it you could get 5 different stories.

One of the most important things we can remember are the people who matter to us and shape us. The teacher who inspired us at school, the friend who supported us during a difficult time, the family who loves us and helped us grow. Remembering these people is not just about remembering events and moments that happened, like a list of facts. It is remembering how they made us feel, the smile they brought to our face, the laughter that filled the room. But these memories will often be tinged with sadness and grief, when we are forced to say goodbye to those special people we have known. No matter what we do grief might never full leave, even if it fades it can return at the most unexpected moments, triggered by a smell or sounds that reminds us of the person and people we love. It can trap us in the past, holding to memories of what was. Or we can take those memories and look forward, asking how we can learn from and honour the people who made us who we are.

I always think of November as a moth with a particular focus on remembrance. It is, of course, the month of Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day when we remember all those who have lost their life in war, those who risked their life in the defence of others, and those who continue to do so. November also begins with the Church festivals of All Saints and All Souls. All Saints remembering the saints and inspirations of faith that have gone before. Those who are famous and have been celebrated for generations like St Peter and St Paul and St Mary. Those who are more obscure or local, and those saints who are known to God alone, and the people they helped. In All Souls we remember and pray for all the departed.

The people who shape us are never forgotten, and while we remember them each day, we give special remembrance and thanks in November. As we remember the people we love, how can we learn from the people we remember and look forward to where God is calling us to go?

United Benefice church services

	Balderstone	Mellor	Samlesbury
1st November	9:30am Holy Communion	4:00pm Evening Prayer	11:00am Holy Communion
8th November	10:30am Remembrance Service	09:00am Holy Communion 10:15 Remembrance Service	11:00am Remembrance Service
15th November	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	4:00pm Evensong
22nd November	4:00pm Forest Church	9:30am Mothers' Union Holy Communion	11:00am BCP Holy Communion
29th November		9:30am United Benefice Holy Communion	

Prayer diary

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

Sun 1st	All Souls commemoration of faithful departed at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm

Tues 3rd	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Tues 3rd	Little Angels at St Mary's Church, Mellor	2:15pm
Wed 4th	Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Wed 4th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 6th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
Sun 8th	Remembrance Sunday at all churches/memorials	11:00am

Tues 10th	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Tues 10th	Mellor Mothers' Union at St Mary's Church, Mellor	1:30pm
Wed 11th	Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Wed 11th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 13st	PALS at Mellor St Mary's school	1:30pm
Fri 13st	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
Sat 14st	Quiz Night, at Mellor St Mary's school	6:30pm

Tues 17th	United Benefice at Communion St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Wed 18th	Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Wed 18th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 20th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm

Tues 24th	United Benefice at Communion St Mary's Church, Mellor	9:30am
Tues 24th	Little Angels at St Mary's Church, Mellor	2:15pm
Wed 25th	Choir Practice at St Mary's Church, Mellor	6:30pm
Wed 25th	Bell Ringing Practice at St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury	7:30pm
Fri 27th	United Benefice Evening Prayer at St Mary's Church, Mellor	4:00pm
Sat 28th	Mellor Christmas Fayre at St Mary's Church, Mellor	10:00am
Sun 29th	Brass Band concert at St Leonards, Balderstone	6:30pm

St Leonards Church, Balderstone

Balderstone Social Committee

Dates for your diary:

- Candlelit Brass Band Concert – Sunday 29th November at 6.30pm at Balderstone Church
- Balderstone Christmas Fair – Saturday 5th December at 2pm at Balderstone School

Sian Riddell

Open Gardens

Our Open Gardens events in the summer raised a fantastic £1,774. Half of this amount will be going to our chosen charity, Parkinsons UK. A huge thank you once again to everyone that opened their garden and of course everyone who came along and supported the events.

Sian Riddell (on behalf of the Social Committee)

Balderstone Harvest Supper

What a wonderful evening it was once again.

A lovely service in a beautifully 'harvest-decorated' church, with a large, joint choir, supported by joyful singing on the part of the congregation.

A special thank you too, for all those who came from our neighbouring churches. We really do appreciate your attendance and look forward to that each year. Thank you so much.

It was great that the farming community was able to join with us in large numbers this year by bringing the event forward one week.

Thank you also to the school for accommodating us and a sincere thank you to everyone who helped set things up and make the school hall and tables such a lovely setting for our annual event. Thank you for the food etc supplied and to all those who helped make the event run so smoothly, as it did.

An enormous thank you too, to Cathy Evans who coordinates this event on behalf of the Social Committee. I know how much Cathy appreciates the teamwork support she receives prior to, during and after the event. The team runs like clockwork, based on all the experience over the years we had with Catherine Dixon at the helm. We miss you Catherine, and we send our love and best wishes for an improvement in your health. In your absence, Sian is ensuring that the Social Committee continues the amazing work you did, as our Leader for nearly forty years.

What a pleasure it is at the end of the event to see so many people 'mucking-in' (to use a Lancastrian expression) and return the school building to 'normality'.

Long may this wonderful event continue.

John Mather (on behalf of the Social Committee)

St Leonard's School

It has been a busy start to the school year at Balderstone. Our Year 5 and 6 children began the year with a residential trip to Wimmarliegh for PGL.





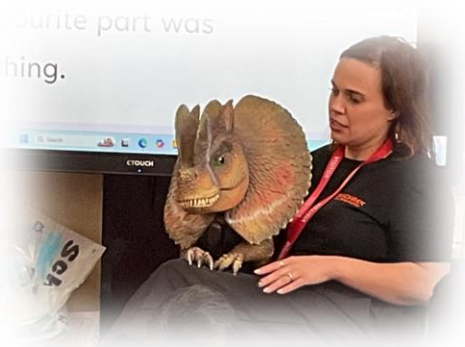
It was great to see them conquering fears and working together as a team as they spent 4 nights away from home to take part in lots of adventurous activities.





Back in school, we had a visit from JAM the dinosaur along with baby dinosaurs. This was a very exciting day and we discovered a lot, not only about dinosaurs, but about ways in which we can help others.







It was also lovely to welcome Bishop Joe into school. He enjoyed his tour round school and led worship. He talked to the children about the role of a Bishop and then linked this to how Jesus is the Good Shepherd who takes care of his people.





As a school we took part in the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. Each class created their own obstacle course to complete and brought a donation in. It is great to support the diocese in this way. We also sent food to the foodbank.

Nicola Draycott

CONTACT DETAILS: head@balderstone.lansc.sch.uk 01254 769150

Balderstone Mothers' Union

We held our wave of prayer service in October, where we pray for our link dioceses throughout the world. It is always a nice service. Janet organises our hymns and everyone takes part.

Our next meeting is on November 17th when our Presiding Member Cheryl Sandford is our speaker and she will be talking about Family War Heroes.

Our Christmas Lunch is at the Fielden's Arms on December 9th at 1:00pm. Please note change of date from 8th. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Susan Baron.

Mellor St. Mary's

Mellor Mothers' Union

Our next meeting will take place at 1 .30p.m. November 10th in St. Mary's Narthex when we welcome Cheryl Sandford the Whalley Diocesan President as our speaker.

Margaret

Mellor Mothers' Union Lunch

Members arrived at The Millstone in Mellor for our arranged Autumn lunch on Tuesday 13th October and were shown to the main restaurant which filled up quickly. Margaret Ashton brought the room to order to welcome everyone and reminded members that the next meeting would be the first to be held in the afternoon rather than the evening, then thanked the organisers of the lunch, Pam Jackson and Christine Redman, for all their efforts and finished by asking Jane Bury to say Grace.

The room was brightened by a lovely autumn sun and members were seated at a number of tables of different sizes and then our food began to arrive with a variety of pre-chosen menu choices passing by the tables until everyone had been served and continued chatting and eating.

With the mains completed and some members venturing a dessert, teas and coffees were served as people had cheerful conversations across the different tables saying how much they had enjoyed their food.

All too soon it was time to leave after a lovely afternoon with plenty of food and friendly conversations.

Frances Jackson (Deputy Roving Reporter)

The Card Ladies

We sold our cards at the recent Macmillan Coffee Morning which was held in Church on Friday 25th September.

The event was very well supported, and we were able to raise £100, all of which was sent to Macmillan. We have also sent £25 to Parkinsons UK this month.

Our Christmas cards will be on sale in Church very soon, also please look out for our Poppies that will also be on sale very soon. All proceeds from the sale of Poppies will be sent directly to the Royal British Legion. It is a privilege to be able to support these worthwhile charities, something we wouldn't be able to do without your valued support. Thank you!

The Card Ladies.

Little Angels

As always, it was a delight to welcome our friend, Sarah to lead our meeting. The children enjoyed listening to her story and painting colourful pictures.









It was a real pleasure to welcome Noah's baby brother, Logan at just 4 weeks old.



We meet again on Tuesday 24th November when the children from school will be joining us.

St Leonard the Less, Samlesbury

Open Gardens

Our Open Gardens events in the summer raised a fantastic £1,774. Half of this amount will be going to our chosen charity, Parkinsons UK. A huge thank you once again to everyone that opened their garden and of course everyone who came along and supported the events.

Sian Riddell (on behalf of the Social Committee)

United Benefice Community News and Events

The Christmas Choir

All are invited to join this pop-up choir which will do two performances:

- Mellor Methodist Church on Sunday 6th December at 1.30pm
- Lammack Methodist Church Sunday 13th December at 2pm

Weekly rehearsals will begin at:

- Lammack Methodist Church on Thursday 1st October 1-2pm
- Mellor Methodist Church on Monday 5th October 7-8pm

The programme will consist of musical items such as lesser sung carols etc. The main aim of the choir is fellowship, so if you feel you can't sing but like the idea, please come, see what we're about and hum along. There's no pressure if you decide it's not for you.

If anybody can play an instrument, even if it hasn't been picked up for years and a high standard was never reached, you would be so welcome to bring it, and we can spend some time getting you sorted to accompany some of the items.

Julie McGurty

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.

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:	Nicola Draycott - 01254 769 150

St Mary's Church, Mellor

Churchwardens:	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 - pam.daunton@btinternet.com
Churchwardens:	Vacant
PCC Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Susan Bell - sbell625@gmail.com
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/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

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
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.Alty & Sons Ltd: The Alty Funeral Service	01254 503 240
X-Press Ironing Services	07712 413 904