

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life:

April and May 2015



Leck, Melling, Tatham, Tatham Fells, Tunstall, Wray

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

The team of clergy and lay-people who run our Services at the six churches are:

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For further details please go to the Benefice website
'Benefice of East Lonsdale'
<http://eastlonsdalebenefice.wordpress.com>

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by Holy Trinity Church, Wray**

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the cost will be £55

Editorial

Spring will be here by the time this issue reaches you. Some daffodils are out in my garden already and the birdsong in the mornings is a joy to hear. I can hear curlews and oystercatchers calling as I type this message.

In this issue there is an account of a visit to Capernaum many years ago by Eric Baker. A very successful concert was held at St James the Less and there is some exciting news on page 10 on the picture that used to hang in St John the Baptist Church in Tunstall. Successful 'Messy Church' sessions have been held at both Wray and Leck churches and the Lent Lunches and Alpha Course are both going well. With best wishes to you all.

Carole Butcher

Diary of a Lune Valley Vicar by Mark Cannon

Getting the word out ...

Monday: I always say that being a Vicar is like drawing a winning lottery ticket. The hours are congenial, the lodging is free and there is no manager bothering you about targets, deadlines and disciplinary hearings. On the other hand, just to stop we clergy from laughing all day long, Satan has introduced Church Councils and unable to think up a convincing alibi, I find myself stuck in one such meeting. The debate is about where to place an item of noisy machinery in church (... but we've already got an organ ... Boom, boom!) The concern is expressed that if we stick it in the vestry then it will disturb the congregation – clearly just as they are settling themselves for a little nap when the sermon is due to start. Added to this debate, and in case they are not lulled into the land of nod already, we place an order for plump cushioning in the pews. (We will, of course, have to remove them during Lent.)

Friday: I am at a funeral tea. There is not a huge attendance and the hotel owner is trying to force us to eat the mounds of edibles. She wafts a slab of chocolate cake in front of me. 'Go on,' she says 'be naughty.' 'I'm sorry, I can't' I reply. 'Have a slice,' she persists, 'it's lovely.' 'No, really' I tell her, drooling all the while, 'I've given it up.' 'Is it something medical?' she asks and nudges me 'I won't tell anyone.' 'No' I advise her, 'it's Lent.' 'What's that then?' she asks accusingly 'is it like diabetes?' 'No, it's the forty days of fasting' I sense I am losing my audience, 'doing what Jesus did in the wilderness.' 'I've never heard of that' she declares. Ironically the building used to be a vicarage but not a shadow of a memory remains and I am thinking more and more that we have to struggle to get the word out.

Sunday: The church is freezing because the boiler has failed to ignite. This is like the old days. An ice-cold church, good long sermon and collection demanded with menaces. But the word is going and the church of which it is a part is meaning less and less to a new world. We do need to refresh our buildings, our liturgies, our language, our costumes and our words if we are ever going to persuade our neighbours to come in.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Good Shepherd Church, Tatham Fells

The windowsills in our church were decorated with lighted candles for our Christingle Service on Sunday 1st February. Oranges representing the world had been prepared for us by Revd Mark and Heidi. After the candles were lit we said the Christingle prayer and sang the Christingle song.

Children and families from Tatham Fells School attended our service for Mothering Sunday on 15th March. Mark talked about all the many things that mothers do for us. The children gave bunches of daffodils to their mothers and to members of the congregation. Refreshments were served in The Old School after the service.

Carole Butcher

Holy Trinity Church, Wray

Our 'Messy Church' in January was, as usual, a great success. We will be holding another in the summer but as yet a date has not been arranged.

Tony Sedgwick and Richard Denby will be working on the refurbishment of our church during March and April. We will have more to report in the next issue.

We are looking forward to our Easter services; our Devotional Hour on Good Friday and Holy Communion on Easter Day. An especially important event on Good Friday is the Children's Workshop run by Mary.

After Easter we have our Scarecrow Festival in Wray. There will be an exhibition in church organised and set up by the usual group of church ladies. This will run from Saturday 25th April until after Wray Fair on Monday 4th May. This has proved to be extremely popular in the last five years with a different theme on each occasion. Our church will cater for refreshments on Friday 1st May and we are looking for additional helpers. There will be a 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday 3rd May at 3pm led by Mary.

Mary presided over a lively Mothering Sunday service attended by a large congregation which included many children. Three of the children read the story of Moses in the bulrushes. Bunches of daffodils were distributed by the children; refreshments were served after the service.

Judith Wrigley/Ann Anderson

St John the Baptist, Tunstall

Huge thanks go to Nick Gillibrand and the Tunstall Trust for raising the funds and organising everything to do with the rather splendid new toilet in the car park at St John the Baptist which will open in time for the Easter services.

The churchyard walls have been stripped of much of the ivy which, although pretty, damages the stonework. Several rhododendrons have also been severely pruned to encourage new stronger and healthier growth.

The Lent course has inspired all those who have attended; this year's theme was Hope Actually, a course provided by the Church Urban Fund which you may well still be able to download. It has helped us to realise that despite all the horrors in the world with which we are bombarded every day, there is also a vast amount of love and good.

We have no less than three weddings to celebrate between April and the beginning of July this year and our happy band of volunteer cleaners will be busy getting the church spruced up for these very special occasions.

At Tunstall we celebrate Mothering Sunday by lighting candles for all our mothers whether still with us or not. It gives us all the chance to reflect on the very special people all mothers are.

We had one Lent Lunch for the whole parish on March 14th and a donation was given on behalf of all three churches to charity.

Jane Greenhalgh

St James the Less, Tatham

The highlight of the last two months was the concert given by the St Laurence Singers entitled 'Love is in the Air.' This choir of many talents captivated a full house of almost 100 by the variety of their programme and the quality of their singing. The event was organised by the Friends who left no stone unturned to produce a splendid evening in a beautifully decorated church, rounded off by a 'Veda Supper,' during which the monthly draw for the Hundred Club was made.

It was Tatham's turn to host the annual Women's World Day of Prayer in early March. This worldwide ecumenical service is held in a different church in the area each year and thus comes round every ten years or so; the theme this year came from the Bahamas, symbolised by the presentation of 'local' produce, bananas, pineapples etc. but no oranges!

We have obtained an estimate to restore our creaking, groaning organ. The six figure sum is entirely out of our reach, even if a grant was obtained and it seems likely we will have to dispose of it if we can and if we are allowed to do so; very sad but times move on.

John Holt

St Peter's Church, Leck

February saw our first attempt at 'Messy Church' which was led by Tom and Clare Kay-Shuttleworth. Approximately 50 people attended with a large percentage of them being children. The theme was LIGHT and whilst the children engaged in making lanterns and stained glass windows, the adults listened to Mark as he spoke about the 'Light of the World;' songs were led by Tom on his guitar. The service ended with everyone enjoying drinks and delicious bacon butties ably prepared by Bill Shepherd assisted by Vanessa Livesey. As this was such an enjoyable experience for so many it is hoped to have another one sometime in the summer.

The Alpha Course had its introductory meeting on 3rd March at Leck Hall hosted by Tom and Clare Kay-Shuttleworth; it will continue on Tuesdays until mid May. It has been suggested that another one may run later in the year.

St Peter's School held its Easter Service in Church on 26th March; it was an enjoyable occasion as usual.

Joan Withers

St Wilfrid's Church, Melling

Lent is upon us. In a season of sorrow and joy it is appropriate that this year so far has been one of mixed blessings.

We have held two funerals in church, sad occasions for family and friends, but we have also had three christenings. We therefore mark the passing of Norman Jones and Reg Braddon while at the same time welcoming William and Isabel Howson and Myles Ablett to our congregation.

We have had a similar mix of news regarding the Church. We thought we had a problem with one of our bells towards the end of last year but on inspection the good news is that the bell is fine (joy); however, on the downside (sorrow), we have been told that the same inspection revealed some damp penetration in the tower. We don't know how long this has been going on but it has definitely started since the last Quinquennial inspection (5 yearly inspection) which, seeming to follow in good Melling tradition, was more than 5 years ago. This and the damp penetration will have to be remedied this year.

We had a lovely sunny spring morning for our Mothering Sunday service. The vicar gave a relaxed service to the nearly 30 who were present in the congregation which left us all grateful for the influence of our mothers.

JAC Beeson

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR APRIL AND MAY

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

PLEASE NOTE: Services are correct at the time of going to press
but the person or persons taking a service may change

APRIL

Thursday 2nd	Maundy Thursday		
7.30pm	Commemoration of Institution of Holy Communion	Melling	Robert
Friday 3rd	Good Friday		
10.00am	Good Friday Service	Tunstall	Robert
10.00am	Children's Workshop	Wray	Mary
- 1.15pm		Institute	
12 noon	Devotional Hour	Wray	Mark
2.00pm	Devotional Hour	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
Sunday 5th	Easter Day		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Robert
11.00am	Holy Communion	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert
Sunday 12th	Second of Easter		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Robert
11.00am	Celebration of Marriage and Family life	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Mark
2.15pm	Evensong (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Peter
Sunday 19th	Third of Easter		
	Good Shepherd Sunday		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Family Service	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Family Service	Tatham Fells	Peter
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Mark
Sunday 26th	Fourth of Easter		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Wardens
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Morning Service	Wray	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Mark

MAY

Sunday 3rd Fifth of Easter

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Family Service	Melling	Mark
11.00am	Family Service	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Norman and Ann
3.00pm	Songs of Praise	Wray	Mary

Sunday 10th Sixth of Easter Rogation Sunday

9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Mary
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Robert
7.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann

Thursday 14th Ascension Day

10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
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Sunday 17th Seventh of Easter Sunday after Ascension

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Robert
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Norman and Ann
10.00am	Family Service	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert

Sunday 24th Pentecost

9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Wardens
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Morning Service	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Visiting Priest

Sunday 31st Trinity Sunday – 5th Sunday

11.00am	Family Communion	Melling	Robert and Mark
6.00pm	Choral Evensong	Wray	Mark

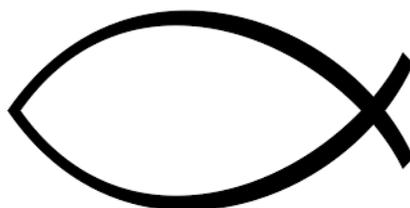
Both services are for all six churches in the Benefice

FROM THE REGISTERS

Leck, Funeral Service
Elizabeth Hazel Stephenson

Melling Funerals
Norman Jones
Reg Braddon

Melling Baptisms
William and Isabel Howson
Myles Ablett



I went one day to Capernaum ...

It was almost a biblical life-span ago so my memories have dimmed. However certain events remain clear.

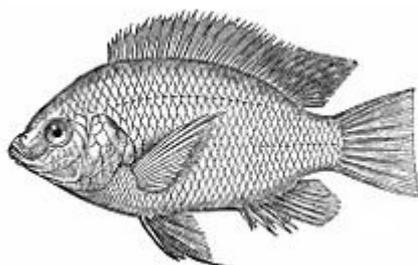
From Pardess Hanna five of us went East by car towards the Sea of Galilee, making a call at Mount Tabor on the way. This mountain is like a monstrous pimple on the fairly flat area of the Jezreel Valley. It looks like a volcano, but isn't, it's an example of a monadnock (look it up!). Mount Tabor is 575 metres high and it is possible to drive up to the summit along a highly contorted road. At the top are two Christian monasteries: the Eastern Orthodox Sanctuary and the Church of the Transfiguration. It has been suggested, at this place, that Christ was transfigured before Peter, James and John. It is, after all, only eleven miles from the Sea of Galilee to which the disciples proceeded on foot, after the event. We drove, instead, to Capernaum to the North West of the Sea and somehow arrived without passing through a modern town.

'This is the carpenter's shop', we were told. I failed to observe any wood, or shavings, or people. Everything seemed blindingly bright, except me. I thought that because it was mid-day only mad dogs and Englishmen were about. I discovered later that the old town was a ruin and that the carpenter's shop was probably in the imagination of the guide.

Jesus had certainly done much of his teaching nearby and Simon Peter's home had been in the old town.

We must have had a packed lunch there and afterwards a swim was suggested. The Sea of Galilee, thirteen miles long by eight miles wide, is fed by the river Jordan which flows through it from North to South.

Unfortunately, the fresh water input is much reduced due to irrigation requirements. Also, salt water springs leak into the bottom of the lake. Its maximum depth is about sixty three metres but the lake is around two hundred and ten metres below sea level. It is termed a 'freshwater lake.' By mistake, as I was swimming in it, I took a mouthful. If that is fresh water then I am an *Acanthobrama terraesanctae*, which, of course, is the name of one of the species of fish that probably lived in the lake. Still living in the water, though much reduced in numbers, are *Tilapia* otherwise known as St. Peter's fish. In biblical times they probably reached sixty centimetres in length, now reduced to thirty centimetres.



Tilapia – St Peter's Fish

The place where we had the swim consisted of a little bay with a stony beach backed by some rocks. The shore line had an arc-like appearance. I wondered if it would work as an amphitheatre. You will, no doubt, appreciate how difficult it is to talk to a hundred people in the open air. Five thousand would have been impossible. Perhaps Jesus used a natural amphitheatre.

I swam to the focal point of the arc and prepared to make a speech. Such sound was more of a gasp because one of the Tilapia chose that moment to take a bite at me. I became aware of a shoal of them. They were small but had sharp teeth. An undignified retreat was considered to be obligatory and I never did manage to put my theory to the test.

Much later I came to the realisation that I had been to the land of the disciples and possibly even walked in the footsteps of Jesus. I had experienced the Sea of Galilee and I wonder if the disciples had ever swum in its waters. One thing I am fairly sure of – they would never have gone, as the Australians so aptly put it ‘skinny dipping.’

Eric Baker



Church of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor

Exciting news on the painting that used to hang in Tunstall Church

Great things are afoot regarding the painting that used to hang in Tunstall Church. About four years ago I met with Alan Wilkinson from Ecclesiastical Insurance to discuss the premiums for the next few years. On the way out Alan remarked that the picture of Christ being taken down from the cross was not listed on the insurance schedule. The premiums, had we wished to keep the church open as we have always done, would have been huge so, after talking with the diocese, I had the picture removed into safe storage.

Around that time a BBC programme called Fake or Fortune was just beginning. If you have seen it you will know that they take one picture and find out whether it is by a notable artist or not. I approached them and after much negotiation and a great deal of invaluable input from both Peter Osborne and Sara Mason, they are using this picture on one of their programmes. They have only chosen four pictures for the next series from thousands of possible ones and a whole hour of prime time TV will be devoted to this picture and the church.

The value of the painting is insignificant, the current assessments by well-known art historians fluctuate wildly between £10,000 and £100,000, but the publicity for the church from the programme will be the prize. Filming started in March and Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould from The Antiques Road Show are fronting the programme. I will let you know the date of transmission which will be sometime in June this year. Ours will be the last in the series of four programmes to be aired; watch this space!

Jane Greenhalgh

Womens World Day of Prayer

The service this year was held at St James the Less, Tatham, on Friday March 6th at 2pm, with 50 ladies (and two men) attending from our nine participating churches. The service was put together this year by the Christian women of Barbados and gave us a much deeper picture of those islands than the usual holiday brochures show. It is perhaps not unsurprising that Barbados has to cope with the effects of immigration, poverty, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence and HIV and Aids as, sadly, such problems occur throughout the world.

The service was led by three members of St James' congregation, helped by a further dozen ladies from the other churches, and was enjoyed by everyone. Afterwards we were treated to a splendid afternoon tea prepared by St James' ladies and had time to chat to those from the other churches, many of whom we rarely meet otherwise.

The collection of £223 has now been sent to the central WWDP office in London and will be used to benefit a wide range of charities and projects.

Ann Dawson

Collections for the Children's Society

We have had four Christingle Services, at Melling, Leck, Tatham Fells and Wray, as well as a Carol Service at Tatham Fells, with collections for the Children's Society at all five. A total of £456 has now been sent to the Society. This was made up of £240 from the Carol Service, £198 from the Christingle Services and £18 from the collecting candles.

Thank you to all who have given to this very worthy cause, which helps the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in our country.

Ann Dawson

Children's Corner Pipistrelle Bats



The Pipistrelle Bat is the smallest and most common of Britain's 17 species of bat. It appears earlier in the evening than most other bats. Pipistrelle bats vary in colour from pale brown to almost black but usually they have red brown fur. They have small dog like faces with a broad flat head and short broad ears. They have fairly narrow wings and a short tail. Their ears and muzzles are darker than their fur. The bats emerge from their roosting about 20 minutes after sunset, generally earlier on warmer nights.

Pipistrelle bats feed on a wide variety of small, flying insects such as mayflies, lacewings, small moths, midges, caddis flies and mosquitoes. A single pipistrelle may consume up to 3000 insects in a night, showing both how important garden insects are and how useful bats can be in controlling unwanted species. For this reason they are an important addition to the garden to help to keep flying insect populations under control.

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

**GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP
FOR CHILDREN AGED 7+
FRIDAY APRIL 3rd
10AM - 1.15PM
IN WRAY INSTITUTE**

Crafts, activities and much more
**Please contact Mary Winter
Tel: 21784 for details
ADULT HELPERS ALSO NEEDED**

**JOYFUL NOISE
AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
IN WRAY CHURCH**

April

Joyful Noise Thursday 16th at 2pm
After School Club Friday 24th until
4.45pm
Youth Group Friday 17th - time to
be decided.

May

Joyful Noise Thursday 7th at 2pm
After School Club Friday 15th until
4.45pm
Youth Group - date to be decided.

**Please contact Mary Winter
Tel: 21784 for further details**

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
WRAY**

Beginning on Saturday 25th April

EXHIBITION

as part of Wray Scarecrow Festival

ST PETER'S CHURCH, LECK

**A TEAM OF 10 BELL RINGERS
FROM GUILDFORD, SURREY
will ring the bells at Leck Church
on Wednesday 29th April
for 30 minutes
commencing at 9.30am
This will be part of a 3-day tour
Other churches include
Dent, Sedbergh and Ambleside**

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**Kirkby Lonsdale Choral Society
Saturday 9th May
St Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale
Requiem - Maurice Duruflé
Te Deum (Opus 103) - Dvorak
Cantata No 140 (Sleepers Awake) -
JS Bach**

Cost £8 including wine or juice
Children and students free
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Bronwen and Peter Osborne
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on the following dates
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Monday 25th May
Sunday 21st June
Sunday 28th June
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