

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life:

April and May 2016



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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Revd Canon Norman and Dr Ann Dawson Tel: 015242 62936
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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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Sunday 8th May**

Editorial

Welcome to the April and May edition of our magazine. I hope you will enjoy reading all the news from around the Benefice. Peter Osborne has been out and about visiting churches again. His account of a visit to St Mary's church in Gosforth appears on page 8. Margaret Baker has researched the entries in the Visitor's Book at The Good Shepherd Church and her findings appear on page 9. There are two exciting musical concerts coming up at Tatham Fells Church, in April and May. Do try and come along to support us if you can. Exciting things are happening at Tunstall Vicarage and we look forward to welcoming Sister Sue and Sister Judith soon.

Carole Butcher

Diary of a Lune Valley Vicar by Mark Cannon

Wednesday: So there I am in my mighty (1.6litre) Peugeot people carrier carving a way through the rush hour traffic in Bingley. I see a gap and roar forward leaving a cyclist gasping at my power. I am just attempting to overtake a minibus and I put my foot down to claim the outside lane. Does my engine leap forward, do I whizz past with a cheery wave? No, I slowly decelerate however hard I press and this appears to annoy the large black Range Rover behind me who emphasises his displeasure with flashing lights and a gesture which might have been a blessing, but could also be a bit more urgent. My car slows down and even the minibus is a speck in the distance as I drop right down to 60mph. Apparently, I am told later by a cheerfully avaricious mechanic, I have gone into 'limp mode'. You can try as much as you want but the power and the response is not there, the engine just limps along.

Thursday: Just a mere £280 (cash) later and I am back thrusting away on the A65. My thoughts now take a philosophical turn. Just how many other parts of my life are in 'limp mode'? Prayer comes to mind as a neglected area; theology is stuck in 1983; nearest and dearest might detect a slackening of effort and the body of my youth is hiding somewhere underneath the excesses of middle-age. In fact, I am trying to identify any piece of my life which is zooming ahead and can only come up with cake consumption.

Saturday: In the Dales and we notice a church coffee morning in a village hall. No 'limp mode' here; anyone who so much as looks through the door is ruthlessly channelled past (a) the bouncers in charge of bring and buy, (b) the extortioner in charge of a (fixed) tombola barrel, (c) the sales team flogging raffle tickets and (d) the guardian of the teapot. All in all, I am £8 down before so much as a sip of Earl Grey tea passes my lips. But, lo and behold, as the raffle is drawn, out comes my ticket. My approach to the table is met with the muted applause reserved for 'foreigners' who dare to win. When my second number is drawn and I spring rejoicing to my feet and put my snout in the prize trough again, I detect a slackening of enthusiasm amongst the canny Dalesfolk, but when my third number comes up I get only two feet through what has to be described as open and freely-expressed Yorkshire Hostility, when a hand pulls me down - 'Don't you dare!' I graciously allow a local to take my prize.

Sunday: The reading in John's Gospel offers the promise, via Jesus, of life in all its fullness. No 'limp modes' when you follow Christ. There may be problems and challenges (crucifixion springs to mind) but one cannot deny the energy and vitality in His life of faith. Jesus is accused of many things, but 'dull and boring' do not appear on the charge sheet. We relish and enjoy those moments when life gives you three winning raffle tickets, but there is always the dreaded 'limp mode' pulling us back. Follow me says Jesus, set yourself free.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Holy Trinity Church, Wray

Our evening prayer service on the first Sunday in February was well attended as usual. We held our Mothering Sunday/Messy Church service with plenty of children on 6th March and this proved very popular.

Sunday 3rd April at 2.30pm will be our next afternoon 'Evening Prayer' service and on Sunday 1st May there will be a Songs of Praise at 2.30pm in church; we will encourage visitors to join us.

The exhibition in church during the Scarecrow Festival will be based on the Old Trades of Wray. We welcome any input from anyone who has artefacts related to these.

Work has slowed down in church at the moment but we hope to make a start on the kitchen soon.

Ann Anderson/Judith Wrigley

Good Shepherd Church, Tatham Fells

Candles glowed on the windowsills at our Christingle service on Sunday 7th February. Mark told the Christingle story and everyone enjoyed putting together their Christingle orange. The collection was for the Children's Society.

We had a peaceful service of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday led by Norman and Ann.

The children and families from Tatham Fells School attended our Mothering Sunday service. The children read out thank you messages and gave out posies to their mothers and others in the congregation. A display from the latest 'Loaves and Fishes' session at school was in place at the front of church. The theme was 'Care of the Earth' with flowers and Easter symbols.

We are looking forward to two 'Music in the Fells' concerts, the first on Saturday 9th April at 7.00pm and the second on Saturday 21st May at 7.30pm details for both concerts appear on page 11.

Carole Butcher

St James the Less, Tatham

We now have our very own mains water supply to join our B4RN connection to add to our efforts to join the 21st century. Whatever next? We hope it will be the installation of a brew station and toilet, the plans for which are on the 'slow cooker' at Blackburn Diocese. A busy summer lies ahead, we hope. We also look forward to giving a warm welcome to Sister Sue and Sister Judith as they move to Tunstall Vicarage. They will be a valuable addition to our Church Staff and indeed our whole community. Wray Fair is on the horizon. It is never quiet for long!

John Holt

St Peter's Church, Leck

We have had a lot of activity in Leck and Cowan Bridge over the past two weeks as the B4RN Broadband cable has now reached virtually every household. This includes St Peter's which means that, should a connection be required, we have the facility already there. It has involved much hard work and dedication by many people but has created a real sense of community spirit of which everyone has felt a part.

There is a real feeling of spring in the air with lambs appearing everywhere and Easter on the horizon. Our Mothering Sunday Service was a combination of Eucharist and Messy Church with lots of children and adults collecting posies for their mothers. It started with drinks and homemade cakes and finished with yummy bacon butties prepared by Bill Shepherd and his willing assistant Ross

Hunter. Tom played his guitar for some of the singing, whilst Peter played for the hymns and there were plenty of activities for everyone before the Service ended with the Eucharist.

A second Alpha Course has been running at Leck Hall with Tom and Clare. Tom has contributed to this report with the following: 'The 10 weeks of our Alpha Course have raced past and we've had another wonderful group and a great time of learning together. We're already looking forward to the next one - hopefully in the autumn. Please get in touch if you'd like any information about it - lunesdalealpha@gmail.com.'

The prospect of having Sisters at the Vicarage in Tunstall is an exciting one. It is hoped their presence will give a new focus to our life in the Benefice.

Due to an oversight, we forgot to record the burial of Laurence Preece last December following a service in the Methodist Chapel, Cowan Bridge ... for which we apologise.

Joan Withers

St John the Baptist, Tunstall

February has been a quiet month with the weather gradually improving, it has been a delight to see the snowdrops and daffodils brightening up the churchyard, which is looking particularly beautiful, especially with some frost and wonderful light too. We had a lovely Christening Service on 28th February when Sophie Alice Holmes was baptised and enjoyed all her family around her.

At the time of going to press we have the promise of a Lent Lunch in the Village Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 19th March and an Easter Egg Hunt for all the children after the service on Easter Sunday; hopefully on another sunny day.

The next church clean is at 10.00am on Tuesday 5th April; this is a good chance to get together and catch up. We can then look forward to the forthcoming wedding of Alison Howson and Simon Travis on 16th April.

There are a few social events in the pipeline with more information to follow on your notice boards. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter.

Sue Hunter

St Wilfrid's Church, Melling

The Women's World Day of prayer service was held at Melling this year. It has been ten years since our church last hosted this interdenominational service and it has snowed on both occasions, during the service ten years ago and, thankfully, just in the morning this time. The service, written by the women of Cuba, included many hymns and songs which were quite new to us but which, with the help of the choir, were very much enjoyed. The theme of the service was 'Receive children, Receive me' and it was both appropriate and delightful to have fourteen children from St Wilfrid's school introducing the service with some facts about Cuba and its Spanish heritage, short prayers, and a lively rendering of the song 'Our God is a great big God'.

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR APRIL AND MAY 2016

BCP= Book of Common Prayer

PLEASE NOTE the services are correct at the time of going to press
but the person or persons leading the service may change

APRIL

Sunday 3rd	Second Sunday of Easter		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Mary
11.00am	Family Service	Tatham Fells	Peter
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Norman and Ann
2.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Wray	Congregation

Sunday 10th	Third Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Norman and Ann
2.15pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mark

Sunday 17th	Fourth Sunday of Easter		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mark
9.30am	Morning Service	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Leck	Peter

Sunday 24th	Fifth Sunday of Easter		
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Congregation
9.30am	Morning Service	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	Tunstall	Congregation

MAY

Sunday 1st	Rogation Sunday		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Morning Service	Leck	Norman and Ann
11.00am	'Messy Church'	Tatham Fells	Mark
2.30pm	Songs of Praise	Wray	Mary

Thursday 5th	Ascension Day		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann

Sunday 8th	Sunday after Ascension		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Mark
7.00pm	Evening Prayer	Tatham Fells	Mark

Sunday 15th	Feast of Pentecost Whit Sunday		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mark
9.30am	Family Service	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Norman and Ann
Sunday 22nd	Trinity Sunday		
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Peter
9.30am	Morning Service	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tunstall	Mark
Sunday 29th	First Sunday after Trinity		
11.00am	Benefice Communion <i>A service for all six churches</i>	Melling	Visiting Priest

FROM THE REGISTERS

Leck, Burial
Laurence Preece

Melling, Baptism
Archie Christopher Coe

Tunstall, Burial of ashes
Margaret Elizabeth Entwistle
Michael R Hurst Entwistle

Tunstall, Baptism
Sophie Alice Holmes

Keep us O God, from all harm. Let us be large in thought word and deed. Let us be done with all fault-finding and leave off self seeking. May we put away pretence and meet each other face to face without self pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous. Let us take time for all things good, make us to grow calm, serene and gentle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realise it is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are one. And O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

Mary, Queen of Scots

VISITING CHURCHES

The Cross and the Serpent

The Cumbrian coast has a mixed history visible in stone. The great Anglo-Saxon cross at Irton, c.800, signifies an early church there. But Christianity was already present before that through Roman Christian soldiers and even more through Celtic missionaries, whose influence is seen on that cross. Then came the Vikings, c.850, not just to pillage but to settle and soon, to be converted. At first they used their own Norse stories on their Christian carvings. The greatest example is at Gosforth.

The village was close enough to the coast to be very affected by the changes. There is a holy well with signs of a very early well chapel. Then there is evidence of a 'clay daubin' (wattle and daub) church by c.700 and of a Christian sculpture 'school,' later taken over by the Vikings.

It is for Viking sculpture that Gosforth is most famous. In the church there are two hogback tombs rich in carving, made like little houses for the dead. They must have been disliked by 1100+ when the church was rebuilt and they were built into the foundations. But by 1896, when it was rebuilt again, there was more historical interest and they, as well as other interesting old stones, were kept in the church. The hogbacks show both twisted serpents and Christ crucified.

The same mixed imagery occurs on the most famous Gosforth sculpture of all, the great cross in the churchyard. Tall and slender, because it grew from the Norse tradition of wooden crosses, this magnificent piece dates from c.940. It shows a series of scenes, some upside-down, from the Ragnorok, the story of the end of the old gods – an appropriate overture to the triumph of Christ shown in the cross at the summit. You see Odin's son, Vidar, who came to life again as a prototype of Christ's resurrection. You see serpents and Saviour, Jelling jaws and Jesus all mixed up so as to show the transition from paganism to Christianity. Yggdrasil, the old tree of life and knowledge, down below gives way to the new tree of life, the Cross itself.

Peter Osborne



The Cross in St Mary's churchyard, Gosforth

**Comments from the Visitors' book
at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells
researched by Margaret Baker**

This is a shortened version of some of the comments which I found interesting. It reflects on the Parishioners who help in many various ways. The book was started in 1984 and has been written in by at least 15 nationalities.

The main comments:-

A delightful church, nice to find a country church that is still with open doors.

Many similar comments:-

Quaint, peaceful, lovely and serene.

Beautiful window at the main entry.

Lovely view from the bell tower!

Staying in area and sought the church after reading back cover of the cook book 'Manna'.

Super flower festival. Usually it is the silence that moves me – here it is the scent!

God's own country untouched by hand and perfect.

Many comments:-

Looks so cared for.

One of my favourites:-

PS God lives in the north

Rare and wonderful

Christened here in 1932

Tatham Fells Primary School – Topic on special places:-

We enjoyed looking very carefully at the church, each saying a pray (sic). We think our church is wonderful – a credit to everyone concerned.

We enjoyed the brilliant organist.

A house of peace and calm.

My ancestors c.18th, c.19th were blacksmiths here in Lowgill.

Beautiful Roll of Honour.

A joy to join in your service (Australia).

So grateful to always find respite here.

Surely the most beautiful church in the world.

Went to Old School 60 years ago – nice to be back.

Open and warm.

Beautiful altar cloth.

Wonderful tapestry.

What a fabulous church with an obvious dedicated community. The embroidery on the altar is exquisite – a lasting testament of the friendship of those involved.



Part of the beautiful altar super frontal

LOAVES AND FISHES

After School Club at Tatham Fells Primary School

Our after school club with a Christian theme has been running now since 2009 with the very first taster session being on Thursday 9th July that year. The theme was 'Creation' with games and craft activities, songs and snack time. A special time was allocated for prayer, worship and Bible stories. Susan Witts from the Blackburn Diocese led the first session.

Norman and Ann Dawson ran the sessions each month during term time, with the assistance of many helpers, from September 2009 until July 2014. Numbers attending increased from around 20 per session in 2009 to over 30 in 2014. We are most grateful to them for five years of dedicated service.

Sara Mason and team took over from Norman and Ann in September 2014 organising all the games and activities. Sarah Lowther, who is a member of staff, provides much needed help with this. Revd Susan Seed from Lancaster took over the singing, prayers and Bible stories with the assistance of Liz Whitfield from Bentham Methodists. We are most grateful to them for their valuable input.

We run a session once a term and now have a steady number of 30+ children of all ages who enjoy all the activities provided, who take part enthusiastically in the singing and who listen attentively to the Bible stories. Our latest theme for the session on Wednesday 2nd March was 'Care of the Earth' with flowers and Easter symbols. Amongst other things the children made decorated crosses, painted symbols on tiny glass vases/candle holders and created some stunning cardboard daffodils on long sticks. These were all put in the display at church on Mothering Sunday.

Carole Butcher

Collections for the Children's Society

We have sent £245 to the Children's Society. This total comes from the collections at the Christingle Services held at St Wilfrid, Melling and at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells, together with the amount returned in Christingle Collecting Candles from their two primary schools. Thank you to all who contributed.

Ann Dawson

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, TATHAM FELLS MUSIC IN THE FELLS 2016 SEASON



Saturday 9th April at 7pm Award winning fiddle player and singer **Tom McConville** will entertain us blending music from his home town of Newcastle with Irish, American and Scottish influences creating a sound that has jazz, folk, bluegrass and classical influence. He will be accompanied by guitarist **David Newey** whose guitar style is unique and unrivalled.

Saturday 21st May at 7.30pm – **Iosif Purits** is a young Russian classical accordion player who has become one of the best known accordion musicians of his generation. Iosif has travelled around the world performing at the most prestigious concert venues. His extensive repertoire ranges from Russian to Japanese works and from classical to contemporary music.

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE LESS LOW TATHAM

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will take place on Monday 9th May at 7.30pm at The Bridge Inn, Low Tatham. This is the first AGM since the Friends was registered as a charity. Consequently each of the officers/trustees will stand down and elections will take place for the new trustees.

Colin Burford

Church of the Good Shepherd Tatham Fells MUSIC IN THE FELLS 2016 SEASON CONCERTS

TOM McCONVILLE, FIDDLE
and
DAVID NEWAY, GUITAR
Saturday 9th April at 7.00pm

IOSIF PURITS,
CLASSICAL ACCORDION
Saturday 21st May at 7.30pm

TICKETS FOR EACH CONCERT:
£15 inc. wine and nibbles
from Jane Proctor 62648
or Carole Butcher 63095

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WRAY CHURCH

Joyful Noise at 2pm Thursdays
April 7th and May 5th

After School Club
until 4.45pm Fridays
April 1st and May 13th

Youth Group:
Please contact Mary Winter for dates

Contact: Mary Winter 21784

FARM COMMUNITY NETWORK

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