

THE BELL

Benefice of East Ionsdale life
THE CHURCHES OF LECK, TUNSTALL, MELLING.
TATHAM, WRAY AND TATHAM FELLS

**DECEMBER 2011
AND JANUARY 2012**



The Adoration of the Magi
Kirknewton Church, Northumbria
SKETCH BY PETER OSBORNE
See 'Visiting Churches' inside

Diary of a Lune Valley Vicar

Banquets...

Wednesday: I am on the last day of a retreat in Wales (well, if you want to escape, you might as well get far, far away from civilised living), and the only problem is that the retreat centre (a sort of theological library with rooms attached) has stopped doing cooked breakfasts. I'm pretty sure monks and nuns start the day by wrapping themselves around a plate of b + e, but there's nowt but muesli on offer here. Fortunately, security is slight so I am able to have it away on my toes into the village where there is a Portuguese-run cafe, and they supply my bodily needs for a very reasonable £4.95. Sad to say, there's no black pudding in this Welsh desert, but fried bread is an acceptable offering instead.

Thursday: Bible-study group meets in the evening and, although I can remember little about what we study, I note with hearty approval that the post-prayer refreshment consists of a meat pie, plus peas, gravy, and a cake.

Friday: Back to work, and I find that, when wrestling with a tricky trust or wily will, a ginger nut dunked in a cup of tea is the ideal aid to thought but, due to all the women in the office going on a pre-crimbo diet in order to fit into those slinky Xmas-party dresses (such a shame that there isn't a branch of Evans in Morecambe), a drastic biscuit-ban is in place. Slices of mango do not dunk well in a cup of Earl Grey.

Sunday: Is there no escape from food? The reading is about a mass-catering picnic on the shore of Galilee and a surplus of food which astonishes the diners. It's not long since Jesus also provided a wedding with more wine than a hen night in Blackpool. Even I can note a food theme running through my week, and it will continue after the service when we gather to be sociable (and to eat). Sadly, I am at one of the six churches where home-cooked cakes do not appear after worship every week (despite many hints dropped in sermons, intercessions etc) ...but this is a good thing, as I am in danger of that neglected but deadliest of sins – gluttony. I am a glutton, and it is a sin well hidden in our age where gluttony is pretty much a default position and we rarely go hungry. In Jesus' day a banquet was a rare and magnificent event; a foretaste of a heaven where no one would ever go hungry. We never go without, because we have too much, and we enjoy our excesses.

In this Advent season we could try to cut back, to restrain ourselves, and to learn again that good living is a privilege and a grace, and to beware when it becomes more important to us than the Giver of All Good Things.

THIS EDITION OF THE BELL
IS SPONSORED IN MEMORY OF
BUNT AND ANNIE BELL

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Calendar of services for December

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

4th	Second of Advent		
	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM Mark C
	9.30am	Family Service	MELLING Ann D
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	WRAY Mark C
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	TUNSTALL Robert H
	2.15pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	T/FELLS Norman D
8th	Thursday Feast of the conception of the Virgin Mary		
	7.00pm	Holy Communion	TUNSTALL Robert H
11th	Third of Advent		
	9.30am	Holy Communion	WRAY Robert H
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING Mark C
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	LECK Norman D
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM Robert H
	11.00am	Nativity Service with Tatham Fells School	T/FELLS Mark C
13th	Tuesday		
	7.00pm	Carol Service with Melling School	MELLING Mark C
18th	Fourth of Advent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WRAY Norman D
	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	T/FELLS Robert H
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	TUNSTALL Mark C
	6.00pm	Village Carol Service	WRAY Mark + Mary
	6.00pm	Carol Service	LECK Robert H
	6.30pm	Carols + Traditional Readings for Christmas	T/FELLS Norman + Ann
24th	Christmas Eve—Saturday		
	4.00pm	Crib Service	TUNSTALL Robert H
	5.00pm	Candle-lit Crib Service	WRAY Mark C
	6.30pm	Crib and Carol Service	TATHAM Mark C
	11.30pm	Sung Eucharist	MELLING Robert H
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion (BCP)	T/FELLS Norman + Ann
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	WRAY Mark C
25th	Christmas Day		
	10.00am	Family Communion	WRAY Mark C
	10.00am	Family Eucharist	TUNSTALL Robert H



Calendar of services for January

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

1st	Naming of Jesus			
	10.00am	Morning Worship	WRAY	Mark C
	11.00am	New Year's Day Service	T/FELLS	Ann D
	11.00am	Family Service	MELLING	Peter O
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	TUNSTALL	Norman D
6th	Friday—Feast of the Epiphany			
	7.00pm	Holy Communion	MELLING	Robert H
8th	Baptism of Jesus/Epiphany and Plough Sunday			
	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WRAY	Robert H
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING	Mark C
	10.00am	Holy Communion	WRAY	Robert H
	11.00am	Plough Sunday service	TATHAM	Ann D
	11.00am	Plough Sunday service	T/FELLS	Peter O
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	LECK	Mark C
15th	Second of Epiphany			
	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	T/FELLS	Norman D
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING	Robert H
	10.00am	Family Service	WRAY	Ann D
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	TUNSTALL	Robert H
22nd	Third of Epiphany			
	9.30am	Morning Service (BCP)	T/FELLS	Mark C
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING	Robert H
	10.00am	Holy Communion	WRAY	Norman D
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM	Mark C
	11.00am	Family Service	LECK	Robert H
29th	Candlemas—joint services for our six churches			
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist for Candlemas	TUNSTALL	Robert H
	7.00pm	Youth Service	TATHAM	Mark + Mary



FORTHCOMING CAROL EVENTS
EVERYONE WELCOME

Tuesday 6th December at 1.30pm

Wennington Hall School Carol Service at St Wilfrid's Church, Melling

Friday 9th December at 7.00pm

The Benefice Choir will lead Carol Singing in The Highwayman at Burrow

Sunday 11th December at 11.00am

Annual Nativity Service with Tatham Fells Primary School at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells.

Tuesday 13th December

Melling Parish Christmas Celebration with Melling School at St Wilfrid's Church at 7.00pm This is our annual Carol Service with active school participation.

Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm in Wray Institute. This popular Christmas event has been running for nearly 25 years and goes from strength to strength with its formula of readings and Carols with the Christmas theme. As usual there will be a Jacobs Join supper.

Thursday 15th December at 1.45pm

The Benefice Choir will be Carol singing at St John's Hospice in Lancaster

Sunday 18th December

Carol Service at 6.00pm at St. Peter's Church, Leck.

Annual Village Carol Service at 6.00pm at Holy Trinity Church, Wray.

The nine lessons and carols follow the traditional King's College format and regular and occasional worshippers, and everyone else, are most welcome at this enjoyable preparation for Christmastide.

Carols and Traditional Readings for Christmas at 6.30pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells.

The readings will be from the King James Bible and will trace the story of Christ's coming. All are welcome to attend this special service.

Monday 19th December at 7.00pm

Annual Christmas Carol Service at The Lunesdale Arms, Tunstall led by Revd Mark Cannon with the Benefice Choir. **Thank you Emma for your great hospitality every year.** A collection will be made in aid of the Lancaster Homeless Association.

Christmas Services

Tunstall– Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Everyone is invited to attend a special Crib Service at 4.00pm at St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall. There will also be a Family Eucharist on Christmas morning at 10.00am. All are very welcome.

Melling– Christmas Eve

There will be a special Sung Eucharist at the ancient church of St Wilfrid, Melling, at 11.30pm

Tatham-Christmas Eve

There will be the annual Crib Service at 6.30pm at St James the Less Church, Tatham. A lovely new hand carved crib in olive wood has been purchased in memory of Joyce Cornthwaite and this will be on display for the first time. The service will be followed by mince pies and wine at the Old Rectory.

Wray– Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

On Christmas Eve Mark welcomes adults and children to a short candle-lit Crib service at 5.00pm. This is the first time we have done this at Wray so please bring your youngsters to gather round the Crib. Mark is back again at 11.30pm for Midnight Communion, and yet again for the Christmas morning service at 10.00am

Tatham Fells-Christmas Eve

There will be the usual Midnight Communion (BCP) by candlelight at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells, at 11.30pm. The gas lights will also be lit if the weather is not too cold and frosty.

HOME COMMUNION AT CHRISTMAS

If you find it difficult to get to church, but would like to make your communion at Christmas, please contact one of the clergy who will be glad to arrange a home visit.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

BOON DAY

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 1ST
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH,
TUNSTALL 9.30—12.00**

Come along and enjoy meeting your friends and making new ones as we get together for a big clean before the festive season hits. Coffee and cakes will be provided and lots of gossip will be exchanged! Whether you usually come to church or not we will be delighted to see you. **Jane Greenhalgh**

**Saturday December 3rd
at 10.30am**

**CHRISTMAS FAIR
AND COFFEE MORNING**
in The Old School, Tatham Fells.

Santa will be paying a visit.

Various stalls including
Cakes, crafts, tombola, bran tub
Mince pies and Coffee
ALL WELCOME

**Church of the Good Shepherd
Tatham Fells**

**Saturday December 3rd at 7pm
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

THE ARTISANS

present the

‘Medieval Experience’, a musical
journey through Medieval Europe
with hurdy gurdy, harp and occasional bagpipe

Tickets £10

to include light refreshments,

**from David and Carole Butcher
015242 63095.**

**THE PERFECT START
TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

St James the Less Church, Tatham
Presents

“CHRISTMAS CRACKERS”

An evening of music and fun with

BREWERS APRON

Saturday 10th December at 7pm

Tickets £12.50

to include Hot Pot Supper
and glass of wine

Contacts

Phyllis Holt 015242 21443

or Linda Kirkby 015242 21486

DON'T MISS IT

THE LAST CONCERT

WAS A SELL OUT

**St James-the-Less
Tatham**

PLOUGH SUNDAY SERVICE

On Sunday 8th January

at 11.00am

led by Ann Dawson

Followed by bacon butties

ALL WELCOME

**Church of the Good Shepherd
Tatham Fells**

PLOUGH SUNDAY SERVICE

On Sunday 8th January

at 11.00am

led by Peter Osborne
Followed by soup and
ploughmans lunch in

The Old School

ALL WELCOME

REMEMBRANCE

Tatham Fells

The junior children from Tatham Fells Primary School led a short act of remembrance at the memorial in Lowgill village on Friday 11th November. Harry Lane, Isabelle Woodhouse and Savannah Threlfall all read their own poems. Lars Verhagen and Alexander Stone placed crosses at the foot of the memorial and Ellie Williams laid the wreath. Around 20 people from the village and surrounding area also attended.

There was a good attendance at The Church of the Good Shepherd on Sunday 13th November for the Remembrance Day Service which was led by Reverend Canon Norman Dawson. Readings were interspersed with moving hymns and pieces of music. The names of the fallen were read out by Eric Baker then George McIntosh laid the wreath of poppies; after which the Last Post led into the two minutes of silence. **Carole Butcher**

Wray

There was the usual full church for the evening service on Remembrance Sunday, taken this year by Reverend Canon Robert Hannaford of Tunstall. Children from Wray School read a Remembrance poem and the bugler sounded the Last Post following the laying of poppy wreaths by David Hartnup and Raymond Fox. Tea and biscuits were served afterwards. The collection raised £180 for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. **John Ryle**

WHY DO THE POPPIES GROW?

All the soldiers that died in the war;
Why do the poppies grow?
All the countries that fought in the war;
Why do the poppies grow?
All the homes that were bombed in the war;
Why do the poppies grow?
All the rationing that had to be done;
Why do the poppies grow?
All the lonely children;
Why do the poppies grow?
All the people that had to be brave;
Why do the poppies grow?
All the tears that were shed;
Why do the poppies grow?
They grow for my Uncle Jimmy.
That's why the poppies grow.

By Harry Lane (Year 5)
Tatham Fells School

World War II was a gruesome place
There really wasn't much room for fun
What a disgrace!
Most men went to go and fight,
Children were evacuated
Which gave them a fright!

Not much to eat in the city
But lovely fresh eggs in the country.
Though no bananas at all
What a pity!

In the country you could grow your own,
The land girls worked the fields
Stacking hay they had mown.

By Isabelle Woodhouse (Year 3)
Tatham Fells School

REMEMBRANCE

Travel back with me to 1939 into World War II.
Where soldiers fought for us all to have peace
and families had to be safe.
Mums becoming land girls and children being
evacuated and dads and granddads being
soldiers in the war.

Lots of soldiers died in the war so we
remember them on remembrance day.
We say thank you to them for all they have
done.

By Savanna Threlfall (Year 3)
Tatham Fells School

VISITING CHURCHES

AN ANCIENT CHURCH IN NORTHUMBRIA

We were staying at Kirknewton. It is the nearest village to Gefrin, the lost Anglo-Saxon town which was almost certainly the site of the first conversion of the English people in the North. There, as told by Bede, St. Paulinus preached to the Northumbrian court and caused that striking reply from the chief pagan priest: "For us life is like a bird flying through a hall at night. It comes from darkness, flies through the firelight, then into darkness again. But this man tells of light beyond the darkness." There, in the River Glen, the saint baptised thousands.

With my spirits lifted by this memory, and by the proximity of St. Cuthbert's way, I entered Kirknewton Church. Like many up there it serves a number of small hamlets. Could it live up to those ancient origins? In structure, no; but it does have something extraordinary in the relief sculpture of the Adoration of the Magi. No one knows its age, but it is certainly very early medieval and by local craftsmen. But what a sense of form and space they had! Many a modern sculptor would be proud of such work.

More recent things too were moving: the neat graves of airmen from Milfield base, mostly Canadians, who had given their lives in the fight against Nazism and who now rested in this peaceful and sainted landscape: and the memorial to Josephine Butler the social reformer who went from this village to aid helpless women in London.

As so often in our small parish churches, Kirknewton reminds us of both our ancient Christian inheritance and its rich ongoing value in a changing world.

Peter Osborne

WWW – the Authorised Version

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abram Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. She was a strong and comely woman and was affectionately known as Amazon Dot Com. And she saith to Abram her husband, 'Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?' And Abram did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, 'How, dear?'

And Dot replied, 'I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages telling what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who payeth the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS).

Abram thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. The drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abram sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was called Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures: Hebrew to the People (HTTP).

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of many drums, that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, William of Gates, who bought up every drum maker in the land. And he did insist on drums to be made that would only work with his drum heads and drumsticks.

Lo, Dot did say, 'Oh, Abram, what we have started is being taken over by others!' And as Abram looked out of his tent across the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known, he said, 'We need a name that reflecteth what we are.' And Dot replied, 'Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators.' 'YAHOO!' saith Abram. And because it was Dot's idea they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abram's cousin Laban, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. His searching tool became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE). And that is how it all began!

Contributed by Ann Dawson

Drums

In ancient times certain drums were made from a clay jar, with a donkey skin stretched over the big open side. Some drums were made of wood with leather stretched over the open end.



SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER

4pm—6pm

**VICARAGE HOUSEWARMING
(slightly delayed)**

Come and see us for a taste of Christmas
and raise funds for a Tanzanian hospital

Mulled wine, mince pies etc.
ALL WELCOME

**WISHING EVERYONE
PEACE
AT CHRISTMAS TIME
AND HOPE
FOR THE YEAR TO COME**

FARM CRISIS NETWORK—helping farming people through difficult times. This is a charity set up by the churches to provide help and support to farming people who might benefit from a bit of assistance. A Helpline is open from 7am to 11pm every day of the year offering help with overwork, anxiety, illness, isolation, form-filling, regulations, debt, bereavement and other issues. The FCN is staffed by volunteers with a farming and pastoral understanding—just a phone call away.
Tel: 0845 367 9990 Website: www.fcn.org.uk

CONFIRMATION ... contact Mark (21030) for more details of adult and child classes – the Bishop will be conducting a service of confirmation in the benefice on March 13 2012.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Tunstall—Funeral

Marie Jean Elise Brown

Leck—burial of ashes

Alan Cornthwaite

Wray—Baptism

Oscar James Glen Cheshire

TRIBUTES for individuals are always welcome for inclusion in our magazine
Please contact Carole Butcher 63095 with any information

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 Professor Robert Hannaford

Tel: 015242 74376

Revd Canon Norman Dawson

Dr Ann Dawson

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WARDENS

WRAY	Mark Rowland Tel 22484	Frank Gretton Tel 22311
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TUNSTALL	Jane Greenhalgh Tel 74260	Gill Stephenson Tel 74250
MELLING	Max Godfrey Tel 21312	
LECK	Eleanor Denby Tel 21793	Fanny Leech Tel 72009

The Benefice Website is now LIVE Please go to Google and take a look on Benefice of East Lonsdale—welcome

We are also on Facebook, the website 'A Church Near You'
and we are linked to the schools' websites and now to Wray Village website

Carole Butcher

CHURCH NEWSLETTER – THE BELL

The Bell is produced on a monthly basis to keep church members and friends updated with all the services and events in our six churches. There will be nine issues each year. December and January will be in one issue and also July, August and September to take account of holidays. We welcome other contributions (in fact, we need them) so please send contributions to Carole Butcher – Tel: 015242 63095

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE IS 15TH JANUARY