

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life:

December 2016 and January 2017



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:

Revd Mark Cannon (Priest in Charge) Tel: 015242 21030
Revd Canon Norman and Dr Ann Dawson Tel: 015242 62936
Amma Judith OCMM
Sister Sue OCMM (Revd Canon Dr Sue Williams)
Peter Osborne Tel: 015242 61029
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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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**Copy date for the February and March 2017 edition
Sunday 15th January**

Editorial

Welcome to the December 2016 and January 2017 edition of The Bell. In this edition you will find all the news from our churches, a thank you letter from Sister Sue and Amma Judith with a list of daily worship times at St Joseph's House of Prayer, facts about Christingles and the Children's Society, facts for kids about snow and all the Christmas service times.

May I wish you all peace at Christmas and hope for the year to come.

Carole Butcher

Diary of a Lune Valley Vicar by Mark Cannon

A word in season ...

Thursday: Start off with an easy warm-up – assembly at a local school. Usual blather about crocodiles and hamsters, and then a charming teacher asks if I'd mind talking about evolution to the top class. What I know about evolution is about just as much as your average Lancastrian knows about cricket but I advise the students from my vast store of knowledge and no one throws a brick at me.

Friday: Am lounging about in the office with a cup of Earl Grey and a custard slice musing that I am possibly in heaven, when in breezes the son of a colleague. He has just had his son baptised and is telling us about it. He didn't, he explains join in with the promises that parents and godparents make about renouncing evil, turning to Christ and promising to follow Him etc. This is because he is not convinced about the church's teachings. He is 'spiritual' (whatever that means), but can't accept all the 'made up stuff', pedalled around by yours truly.

I make a brief presentation. It's not made up. The Gospels and Paul's letters have good provenance, they go back to within a generation of Jesus' death. We can trace the development of church teaching through the New Testament and the primitive church fathers. We can note that the gospel writers include references to current history, and that they are all consistent in their message. I finish with a question for him, 'Where's the body? If Jesus was dead, why haven't any of his enemies produced it? Why would the disciples make it up?' I press him to come up with his explanation. There is more than a fairy story here, I suggest.

Friday plus 20 minutes: My colleague bursts out laughing. She shows me a post that her son has just put on Facebook, it reads ... 'just been chatting with a deluded vicar'.

It is a bit of a problem. We need to speak to the people and we do that week by week. But even if we were confident enough to outline the Good News, how many want to listen to us? Perhaps if I'd offered him some custard slice he would have paid more attention.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Holy Trinity, Wray

The joint Benefice Communion Service taken by Sister Sue was held at Holy Trinity Church in October. Refreshments were enjoyed by everyone afterwards and members of the congregation were able to look at the changes which have been made to our Church. The coffee morning we held in Church using our new kitchen in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care and our Harvest Supper in Wray Institute in aid of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal were well supported.

The Remembrance Service in November was well attended, especially by many people from the village.

We now look forward to our Christmas programme which includes Carols by Candlelight in Wray Institute led by Mary. There will be songs by the Christmas Choir and a Jacob's Join supper. We all enjoy this annual event which is full of Christmas spirit.

The village Carol Service alternates each year and this Christmas we join the Methodists in Chapel on Sunday 18th December.

At 5pm on Saturday 24th December the children will dress up in church and act out the Nativity story; this is a lovely time. On Christmas morning there will be Christmas Family Communion at 9.30am

At 9.30am on Sunday 8th January there will be 'Messy Church' held with Christingle; everyone is welcome to come and join us for bacon butties.

Judith Wrigley/Ann Anderson

St James the Less, Tatham

One of our favourite services is the annual Harvest Festival and this year's celebration was no exception. The church was its lovely best, Sister Sue led the service which was most enjoyable and the sale and simple lunch which followed was its usual convivial event.

In contrast, we are very sad to say farewell to Norman and Carole Dove who have both been stalwarts of St James the Less for many years. Norman was a long time Church Warden with a particular interest in the fabric and churchyard. A man of his word he worked quietly behind the scenes much to the benefit of his fellow Warden and without fuss or having to be asked. A great loss indeed, they take with them our gratitude and best wishes as they move nearer to their family 'down south'.

Christmas starts earlier every year it seems, our usual highlight being the Carol Service on Christmas Eve. We always celebrate Plough Sunday at Tatham which will be later than usual in 2017 on 22nd January, followed as ever by bacon butties; come and join us.

The Friends invaluable work continues. The new toilet, the work of many hands, is virtually complete in time for the visit of the Leyland Brass Band on 26th November; next the Brew Point!

John Holt

St Peter's, Leck

Our Harvest Festival Service was well attended and it was lovely having Sister Sue leading us in her first service at St Peter's. Many thanks to Rebecca Litherland and team who organised hot dogs, apple cake, wine and soft drinks after the service. An extra surprise came in the form of another cake made by Olivia Ley and presented to James Kay-Shuttleworth who was celebrating his 9th birthday that day. Thanks also go to everyone who helped with the preparation, the provision of food and for decorating the Church so beautifully.

On Sunday 16th October the congregation welcomed Juliet Rose Kay-Shuttleworth and her parents and godparents to her baptism. Other members of the family, along with many friends, attended the service which was expertly taken by Mark.

We now look forward to Advent and Christmas. We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

Joan Withers

Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells

The annual Harvest Service on Sunday 2nd October with the primary school was led by Mark and Judith. Mark kept everyone entertained in his usual way. The Harvest Songs of Praise in the evening was led by Ann. The auctioneer at our Harvest Auction this year was Isaac Middleton who raised a good sum of money for the church, well done Isaac!

The funeral of Doreen Denby took place on Saturday 8th October. Doreen was much loved and will be missed by her family and friends to whom we send our condolences.

We had our annual Harvest Supper and Domino Drive organised by the Village Society in the evening of the same day. Our thanks go to all who helped in any way. The proceeds were also given to church.

Our service of Remembrance was a moving tribute to all those who gave so much.

We are looking forward to Advent and Christmas beginning with the Christmas Family Service at 11.00am on 4th December. The children from Tatham Fells School will be performing 'One Bright Star' during the service which will be led by Mary.

There will be a concert of Celtic Christmas Strings on Sunday 11th December at 2.30pm and on Sunday 18th December we will have our annual Carols and Traditional Readings for Christmas led by Ann.

Carole Butcher

St John the Baptist, Tunstall

The ashes of Lucy Mattinson were buried in our churchyard on the 16th September and she is now at rest with George. On a brighter note we had a lovely christening on the 9th October for Bethan Emily Eckley who thoroughly enjoyed the day, looking very relaxed and happy throughout.

The weather is changing so I am glad that our Church gates were cleaned and painted and now look beautiful. I would also like to thank Peter Beesley for all his time, care and effort into sanding down and repainting the railings, all is looking splendid.

Our Remembrance Service was well attended and, although cold, the rain held off; thank you to John Clare who laid the wreath.

If anyone would like to join us in decorating the Church for Christmas we will do this at 10am on Thursday 15th December and if you have a holly tree with berries all contributions will be gratefully received. The Annual Carol Service (which was held in The Lunesdale) will be held this year in the Village Hall at Tunstall on the 19th December at 7pm.

Sue Hunter

St Wilfrid's, Melling

In September we held a Churchyard Tidy-up Day, which provided an opportunity to go beyond the usual maintenance that our wonderful team of regular volunteers provide throughout the growing season. St Wilfrid's churchyard is in increasingly good condition and is a tribute to the power of working together to achieve a common, altruistic goal. Given the very limited local facilities in our part of the Parish, developing the sense of community is a vital role for St Wilfrid's. One advantage of the 'Cathedral of the Valley' is that we have acoustics that are unchallenged by the smaller churches and the recent choral concert by the Lindun Singers demonstrated this to the full.

This was the latest in our series of concerts which have placed community cohesion and fellowship at the centre of our activities. We hope that our positive approach to strengthening the community will help the resurgence of St Wilfrid's Christian congregation. At the same time the cost of maintaining the building and the financial needs of the Church of England have to be met, so I hope to be able to report in the next issue that our main annual fundraising event, the Christmas Craft and Gift Fair, has been equally successful. A Merry Christmas to one and all.

JAC Beeson

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2016 AND JANUARY 2017

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday 4th Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Sue
11.00am	Christmas Family Service	Tatham Fells	Mary
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Sue
2.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Wray	Congregation

Sunday 11th Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Sue

Monday 12th

7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Wray Institute	Mary
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Thursday 15th

7.00pm	Village and School Carol Service	Melling	Mark
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Sunday 18th Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Morning Service	Wray	Sue
4.00pm	Christingle Service	Melling	Mark
6.30pm	Village Carol Service	Leck	Mark
6.30pm	Carols and Traditional Readings for Christmas	Tatham Fells	Ann

Monday 19th

7.00pm	Village Carol Service	Tunstall Village Institute	Mark
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Christmas Eve

4.00pm	Crib and Carol Service	Tunstall	Sue
5.00pm	Instant Nativity	Wray	Mark
6.30pm	Crib and Carol Service	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.30pm	Midnight Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	Melling	Mark

Christmas Day

9.30am	Christmas Family Communion	Wray	Mark
10.00am	Christmas Eucharist	Tunstall	Sue
11.00am	Christmas Eucharist	Leck	Mark

2017

JANUARY

Sunday 1st	Second Sunday of Christmas		
9.30am	New Year Service	Wray	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Sue
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Sue
11.00am	New Year Service	Tatham Fells	Peter
Sunday 8th	Epiphany Sunday		
9.30am	Messy Church and Christingle	Wray	Mark and Mary
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Norman and Ann
2.15pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mark
Sunday 15th	Second Sunday of Epiphany		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Morning Service	Wray	Peter
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion	Melling	Sue
11.00am	Morning Service	Leck	Mark
Sunday 22nd	Third Sunday of Epiphany		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Sue
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mary
11.00am	Plough Sunday Service	Tatham	Peter
11.00am	Morning Service	Tunstall	Mark
Sunday 29th	Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas)		
11.00am	Benefice Communion	Tatham Fells	Mark
5.00pm	Vespers at St Joseph's House	Tunstall	Sue and Judith

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 pleased to arrange a home visit.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wray Funeral

Clara Elizabeth Barton

Leck Baptism

Juliet Rose Kay-Shuttleworth

Tatham Fells Funeral

Doreen Denby

Melling Funeral

Howard Parkin

Tatham Baptism

Eric William Shuttleworth

Tunstall burial of ashes

Lucy Mattinson

Tunstall Baptism

Bethan Emily Eckley

The Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary

Dear Friends

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to you all for your kindness, generosity and welcome as we have moved into St Joseph's House. We are so grateful to you all and especially to those who helped with the decorating in August; the mainly anonymous donors who have left gifts of fruit and other goodies on the doorstep; and to everyone who brought gifts and kind wishes to our first Open House. We are truly humbled by the kindness and generosity of you all.

We have so enjoyed being able to be with you at Sunday Services as we begin to get to know you – and you, us – a little better. As both Sisters have an appalling memory for names, please do forgive us if we either get your name wrong or have to ask on a number of occasions to remind us what your name is. Those 'little grey cells' soon get overloaded!

Part of our vision for St Joseph's House is that it should be a place of welcome and hospitality for folk from across the various villages and communities whether you attend church or not. That's one of the reasons why we have organised our regular Open House afternoons. It's been a great pleasure to meet with folk from across the United Benefice to simply chat over a 'cuppa' and a piece of cake. We're having our next Open House on Saturday 10th December so do please feel free to pop in during the afternoon. The plan is that we'll be 'Open House-ing' regularly across the year.

As you would expect from two nuns, we do pray rather a lot but that doesn't mean that everyone else is excluded. We are more than happy to welcome people along to our regular round of services during the day in the Bethany Oratory in St Joseph's House. Please do feel free to come along to any one of them; (just to say the daily Eucharist which doesn't have any hymns so is a much shorter service than the usual Sunday parish Eucharist!). The magazine Editor has kindly included our service times in the magazine (see below) and everyone is welcome. If anyone has something or someone they'd like us to pray about just let us know and we'll include it in our daily intercessions.

Once again, a huge thank you to each and every one of you, may God bless you richly.

With prayers
Sisters OCMM

OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER AND SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY
2.00PM CLOSING WITH VESPERS AT 5.00PM
Come and go as you please; Tea, Coffee, Cake on offer
ALL WELCOME

St Joseph's House of Prayer - Daily Service Times in the Bethany Chapel

The Sisters keep Monday as their rest day

Tuesday – Saturday

7.00am	Lauds followed by Community Intercessions and Silent Prayer
7.30am	Prime
8.00am	Eucharist
12.45pm	Sext
5.00pm	Vespers

Sunday

7.00am	Lauds
7.20am	Prime
12.45pm	Sext
5.00pm	Vespers

CHRISTINGLES AND THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



This winter we have planned three Christingle services in the Benefice. The first will take place at Melling on December 18th, the second will be combined with a 'Messy Church' at Wray on January 8th, and the third will be held at Tatham Fells on February 5th.

It has long been our practice to send the collections from these services to the Children's Society, along with any amounts our schoolchildren raise with their special collecting candles. Consequently, in the past two years we have sent a total of £700 to them. In those same two years there were more than 11,000 Christingle services in Britain, raising £2.4 million overall, and allowing the Society to help over 52,000 children in this country.

Amongst their recent initiatives the Society has held three successful campaigns. The **Handle with Care** campaign has led to all ten councils in Greater Manchester committing to help children in care to settle and thrive when they are placed away from home. The **Show Some Warmth** campaign has resulted in five of the leading energy companies changing their practices to improve life for children and families with problem debt. The **Wolf at the Door** campaign has changed the council tax and debt collection policies of many councils, protecting children and young people from intimidating bailiffs. Most recently they have launched the latest stage of their **Debt Trap** campaign, focussing on ending the damage that debt causes to children, including stress, anxiety and depression.

One of their ongoing projects is the **Future Links** initiative. This works with the most marginalised groups of disabled young people aged 14-25. As part of this project volunteer mentors, usually university students, work one-to-one with learning-disabled young people or those on the autism spectrum who are facing additional challenges in their lives, such as mental health issues, bullying and social isolation.

These are just a few aspects of the Society's work and I hope you will agree they are well worth supporting.

Do join us at one of the Christingle Services if you can.

Ann Dawson

SNOW FACTS FOR KIDS



- Snow forms when water vapour in the atmosphere freezes into ice crystals
- Snowflakes form in a variety of different shapes.
- Snow is a form of precipitation, other forms of precipitation are rain, hail and sleet.
- Light and fluffy snow is often called 'powder'.
- Heavy snowfalls are often called 'snowstorms'.
- Snowstorms with high winds are often called 'blizzards'.
- Snow reflects a high level of ultraviolet radiation and can cause snow blindness (photokeratitis). Sunglasses, goggles and other eye protection help absorb the ultraviolet rays.
- The highest snowfall ever recorded in a one year period was 31.1 metres (1,224 inches) in Mount Rainier, Washington State, United States, between February 19th 1971 and February 18th 1972

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WRAY CHURCH



Joyful Noise at 2pm

Thursdays 1st December, 5th January

After School Club until 4.45pm

Fridays 9th December, 13th January

YOUTH GROUP

This group is for 11-14-year-olds. We meet approximately every fortnight in Wray Church from 7.30pm-9.00pm. You do **NOT** have to be a church-goer to attend! Right now we are working on two projects: making cushions to decorate the 'young people's corner' in the newly refurbished Wray Church, and preparing for the December Craft and Card-making afternoon (which we're running) on December 10th. Come along and join us! Food, friendship, fun – and the chance to do things that matter in your community.

Next meeting Friday December 9th

Please note that due to Mary's ever-evolving job situation there may have to be changes of day. If uncertain please ring Mary on 015242 21784.

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

**Good Shepherd Church
Tatham Fells**
SATURDAY DECEMBER 3rd
10.30am – 12 noon
CHRISTMAS FAIR
in The Old School
Crafts and cake stalls
Tombola, Bran Tub and Raffle
Visit from Father Christmas
Coffee and mince pies

**GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
TATHAM FELLS**
CELTIC CHRISTMAS STRINGS
AFTERNOON CONCERT
Sunday December 11th at 2.30pm
A Festive Feast of Harp and Guitar
**Chris Newman and
Maire Ni Chathasaigh**
Tickets £15; £5 children; £35 family
Carole Butcher 015242 63095
Jane Proctor 015242 62648

CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENTS
Sunday 4th December
Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells
Christmas Family Service
with Tatham Fells School at 11.00am
Monday 12th December
Wray Carols by Candlelight
in Wray Institute at 7pm
Thursday 15th December
St Wilfrid's, Melling
Melling Village Carol Service
with Melling School at 7pm
Sunday 18th December
St Wilfrid's, Melling
Christingle Service at 4.00pm
Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells
Carols and Traditional Readings
for Christmas at 6.30pm
St Peter's Leck
Village Carol Service in Church 6.30pm
Monday 19th December
Tunstall Village Carol Service
In the Village Institute at 7.00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
St John the Baptist, Tunstall
Crib and Carol Service at 4pm
Holy Trinity, Wray
Instant Nativity at 5pm
St James the Less, Tatham
Crib and Carol Service at 6.30pm
Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells
Midnight Communion at 11.30pm
St Wilfrid's, Melling
Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES
Holy Trinity, Wray
Family Communion at 9.30am
St John the Baptist, Tunstall
Sung Eucharist at 10.00am
St Peter's, Leck
Sung Eucharist at 11.00am

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