

# THE BELL

**Benefice of East Lonsdale Life**

**February and March 2014**



**THE CHURCHES OF LECK, TUNSTALL, MELLING  
WRAY, TATHAM AND TATHAM FELLS**

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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: 74376  
**Revd Canon Norman and Dr Ann Dawson** Tel: 62936  
**Peter Osborne** Tel: 61029  
**Mary Winter** Tel: 21784

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'Benefice of East Lonsdale'**

**<http://eastlonsdalebenefice.wordpress.com>**

### **WARDENS**

<b>WRAY</b> HOLY TRINITY	Mark Rowland Tel 22484
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The cost will be £55

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SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

## Editorial

I hope you enjoy this very full edition, Happy New Year to you all!**Carole Butcher**

### Diary of a Lune Valley Vicar

Not paying attention...

**Thursday:** In Scotland, and consequently bored, I go for a haircut. As the cutter was from Glasgow and my first language is English, there were a number of communication issues which resulted in me consenting to a “long fringe”. I thought I was being offered a mince pie, but now I have a piece of hair I never had before and it keeps getting in the way.

**Monday:** Much mirth at work over new look; Gazza, our marketing manager, has offered to cut it but his own hairstyle inspires little confidence, and I shall just have to wait until the next two months pass and it's time to go once more to the shearers.

Dash back to the Lune Valley for the first of 102 Nativities. This is a good 'un. Mary and Joseph are in danger of being reported to the Social. The baby Jesus is being rocked to sleep in a determined and vigorous manner until Mary spots her mother in the audience (Holy Anny, God's Granny, pray for us etc) and waves. Jesus is now held by just the one leg, still being swung like a yo-yo, and Joseph is picking his nose.

**Christmas Eve:** Well, at least, there was a Mary. Here in Wray we ask for volunteers to play the parts in our Instant Nativity but the costumes provided for angels and kings are so luxuriously sumptuous that no one wants to wear the rags provided for the Holy Family, and you can't get a shepherd at any price. The show will not be halted for such quibbles and we can fondly imagine a Jesus in a manger. And it makes me think about my typical daily routine. I have, in theory, committed myself to be a Servant Of Christ - body and soul at His disposal for 24/7, but it's difficult to pay Him attention when I don't want to hear His commands, when I pretend to know better, and when I am so easily tempted into doing almost anything else. In theory, we are good Christians, in practice, we never pay Him quite as much attention as we pay to ourselves.

### NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

#### St Wilfrid's, Melling

In this lovely corner of England we've been blessed in not suffering the deluge that has affected so many other parts of the country over the last few weeks. Christmas has been, for most of us at least, the hoped for period of peace and tranquillity. In Melling our festive season has included two very well attended Carol Services. Sadly I could not attend that of Wennington Hall School but did attend and very much enjoyed the joint event between the Primary School and the Church. The service was very well attended and the children's performance of a potted version of A Christmas Carol was very well received. The Christingle Service held on the Sunday before Christmas was also well attended and it was partially conducted by candle light, which made it particularly special. Both these services were followed by mulled wine or juice and mince pies for all. In fact attendances over Christmas were so high that we actually ran out of hymn books and orders of service, though fortunately on different occasions.

On Christmas Eve we had a Midnight Mass where the Vicar's sermon captured the mood perfectly and was notable for both humour and pathos. There was a momentary ripple of concern, when he produced a boxed turkey ready meal from under his cassock, that he might deliver a rather long sermon and had come prepared. That moment of anxiety soon passed as it turned out only to be a prop in support of the message, that instant gratification is no substitute for the real thing and that, if you'll excuse the paraphrase, Christ is for life, not just for Christmas.

I know that he shuns publicity but I have to say a really big thank you to Harold White who has retired as our Financial Officer after many, many years of service. Harold's knowledge and expertise has provided a financial rock for St Wilfrid's and he will be a very hard act to follow; our very best wishes to both you and Edith.

A Happy New Year to one and all.

**JAC Beeson, Churchwarden**

### **St James the Less, Low Tatham**

Shelley's Wild West Wind from the last edition has certainly continued, accompanied by torrential rain, but aren't we lucky up here?

The elements did not deter the faithful followers of our Carol Service on Christmas Eve; we were pleased to welcome some 120 stalwarts of all ages, from a few months to 90 plus years. Once again we are indebted to Norman and Ann Dawson for their leadership of a lovely service.

As I write, we look forward to Plough Sunday and Bacon Butties on Sunday 12th January.

We have received the Quinquennial Report from our architect. Thankfully nothing too serious was found but some re-roofing and replacement of porous stonework will mean considerable expense in the near future.

Following our concern about the long term future of the church we are holding an Open Meeting on Monday, 20th January at the Bridge Inn when we hope to get some ideas to secure its existence as an important presence in the Parish.

We look forward to the fellowship of the Lent Lunches and the opportunity they give us to contribute to the benefit of those less fortunate than ourselves. Every one is welcome to join in these simple but happy lunches. The first one is on Thursday, 6th March at the Old Rectory at Lower Tatham from 12.00 mid-day. Further venues will be in the Wrayly Mail.

**John Holt**

### **Good Shepherd Church, Tatham Fells**

Our Christmas Family Service led by Mark with the children and families from Tatham Fells School was lively and well attended. The story was all about unwanted gifts and how on his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday 1,010 years ago, Mark had longed for either a chopper bike or a space hopper as a gift but ended up being given a geometry set; how does one cope with such disappointment at such a young age? The children were then asked what they would like for Christmas and amidst much merriment one child was encouraged to come out to the front and ended up with water being dripped on his head. Don't ask me how or why, I was laughing too much!

The annual Christmas Fair turned out to be a success after a slow start. Father Christmas was as popular as ever, ably attended by Lucy and Connie Staveley. There were various stalls including cakes and crafts with raffle and tombola; £740 was raised.

The service of Carols and Traditional Readings on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December had a good attendance. Warm thanks to the readers and special thanks to Ann and Norman for both arranging and conducting this popular service; home made mince pies and Glühwein or juice were served at the end.

Our midnight service on Christmas Eve was both moving and meaningful. This service was also conducted by Norman and Ann to whom we send our warmest thanks and appreciation.

Our biggest news is that we will be installing a biomass boiler in the church in January. Work will have started by the time you read this and we are looking forward to a greener way of keeping everyone warm at our services and the church aired during the week.

**Carole Butcher**

### **St Peter's Church, Leck**

We began preparing for Christmas on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 with an Advent Sunday Sung Evensong led by Norman and Ann Dawson. The choir was in attendance and it was moving to sing the psalm, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis as well as JS Bach's 'Sleepers awake' as an Advent anthem. It was also a treat to sing Norman's prize-winning Advent hymn 'We wait as the frozen winter earth.'

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, as part of the celebrations for the centenary of the rebuilding of St Peter's, Leck, there was a social get-together in the Fraser Hall, Cowan Bridge. Mark Cannon led the proceedings with seasonal jokes, stories and readings, while the choir led the singing of carols.

The Leck St Peter's School Carol service led by Revd Robert Hannaford on Thursday the 19th of December at 6:30pm was a wonderful evening of readings and Carols. It was very well attended by the family and friends of the children taking part and members of the Leck and Cowan Bridge community. Everybody was invited back to the school afterwards for mulled wine and

mince pies. The children and congregation at St Peters really are very good singers and make a wonderful sound; I am hopeful that we will have many more wonderful services when the school joins us.

Our Christmas day service on 25th December at 9:30am was very well attended (despite the mix up with the times). The service began with the first verse of 'Once in Royal ...' sung by the children in the congregation, in candlelight, which was a lovely start. Christopher Gibbs (Will Kay-Shuttleworth's father-in-law) sang the chorale in the two top parts. Peter Entwistle steered everyone through it and the end was met with a round of applause. Revd Robert Hannaford officiated and the readings were read by Edward Peckston and Hector Kay-Shuttleworth, they were both excellent readers and had everyone's praise. This very special service was enjoyed by all who attended.

Finally, from Annie, 'A big thank you to everyone who donated money or helped in any way towards my trip to Africa with Tearfund; your support was greatly appreciated and I will be sending in a report after my return in March.'

**Geoff Leech and Annie Denby**

### **Holy Trinity, Wray**

A happy New Year to all from Wray Holy Trinity Church.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December, Mary led us into Advent with a family service and Advent hymns.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December saw the lighting of the Christmas tree outside Wray Institute with carols led by Wray Methodist Chapel. Tea mince pies and biscuits were provided by the ladies of Holy Trinity. This has proved to be a very popular event at which donations were raised in aid of St. John's Hospice.

A big 'thank you' to everyone involved in decorating the church for Christmas, providing us with a wonderful and inviting venue for the celebrations.

The event, 'Carols by Candlelight' was staged on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December in the Institute. Carols and readings on a Christmas theme were followed by a 'Jacob's-Join' supper. Mary led the village choir in seasonal

songs and the magnificent sum of £200 was raised and donated to the Christ Church Shelter for the Homeless.

The United Carol Service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December was this year hosted by Wray Trinity Church. This was exceptionally well-attended despite the poor weather. Tea and mince pies followed the service.

A Nativity Service was held on Christmas Eve led by Mark. The attendant children dressed up as usual for the event. Family Communion was celebrated on Christmas Day and was attended by many welcome visitors to the village.

The Annual Christingle Service, led by Mary, will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Ann Anderson and Judith Wrigley**

### **St John the Baptist, Tunstall**

There has been a great community spirit in church during the last two months with many people getting involved in different activities.

The Christmas season started on a high with the Annual Carol Service in the Lunesdale Arms attracting a record number of people and resulting in a superb collection of £340 which has been donated to the Morecambe Food Bank. Thank you to all who participated.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> December twelve of us met in church and had a really enjoyable time decorating and cleaning for the Christmas Season. On January 6<sup>th</sup> another group of us met to clean and undecorate the church! Cake, coffee and chat were on tap on both occasions and we all had a good time with much laughter, catching up with each other.

The crib service on Christmas Eve was well attended and it was lovely to see so many children there. Thank you to all the readers and children who participated.

On Christmas day 59 souls attended the first Christmas Day Service there has been in Tunstall for many years. It was a lovely service taken by Norman and Ann who very kindly made space for Colin and I to reaffirm our wedding vows made fifty years ago on December 28<sup>th</sup> 1963. This was quite a surprise for the congregation because we had not mentioned it to anyone. It was extraordinarily emotional for both of us and

for many in the congregation and we thank Norman and Ann for arranging this for us.

Tunstall will have had its

Quinquennial Inspection in January and we are hopeful there will not be anything major to do.

The Afternoon Tea Services start again in February. Please see the service rota

for greater detail. A Lent Course is being arranged and further information will be soon be available from me on 74260.

There is a feeling of great optimism at Tunstall which is a great basis for growth in the coming year; Happy New Year to everyone.

**Jane Greenhalgh**

## **CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2014**

**BCP = Book of Common Prayer**

<b><u>February 2<sup>nd</sup></u></b>		<b><u>Candelmas, Feast of the Presentation</u></b>	
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Robert
9.30am	Family Service	Melling	Ann
10.00am	Christingle Service	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Christingle Service	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert
<b><u>February 9<sup>th</sup></u></b>		<b><u>Fourth Sunday before Lent</u></b>	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Mary
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Robert
2.15pm	Evensong	Tatham Fells	Peter
<b><u>February 16<sup>th</sup></u></b>		<b><u>Third Sunday before Lent</u></b>	
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Robert
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Morning Service	Wray	Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Mark
<b><u>February 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b>		<b><u>Second Sunday before Lent</u></b>	
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Norman
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Robert
4.00pm	Afternoon Service	Tunstall	Ann
	<i>preceded by Afternoon Tea 3.30pm</i>		
<b><u>March 2<sup>nd</sup></u></b>		<b><u>Sunday next before Lent</u></b>	
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
9.30am	Family Service	Melling	Norman + Ann
10.00am	Morning Service	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Family Service	Tatham Fells	Norman + Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert
<b><u>March 5<sup>th</sup></u></b>		<b><u>Ash Wednesday</u></b>	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Tatham Fells	Norman
7.00pm	Holy Communion	Tunstall	Robert

<b><u>March 9<sup>th</sup></u></b>	<b><u>First Sunday of Lent</u></b>		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Robert
11.00am	Family Service	Tatham	Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Mark
2.15pm	Evensong	Tatham Fells	Norman
<b><u>March 16<sup>th</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Second Sunday of Lent</u></b>		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Robert
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Peter
10.00am	<b><i>*Messy Church</i></b> <i>The first of what we hope will be many such events.</i>	Wray	Mark + Mary
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert
<b><u>March 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Third Sunday of Lent</u></b>		
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mary
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Robert
4.00pm	Afternoon Service <i>preceded by Afternoon Tea 3.30pm</i>	Tunstall	Visiting Speaker
<b><u>March 30<sup>th</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Mothering Sunday</u></b>		
9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service <i>with Melling schoolchildren</i>	Melling	Norman + Ann
10.00am	Mothering Sunday Service <i>with Wray schoolchildren</i>	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Mothering Sunday Service <i>with Tatham Fells schoolchildren</i>	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Eucharist for Mothering Sunday	Leck	Robert

***\*Messy Church – Wray- March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am.***

Not your usual service today. Messy Church is for all ages - children and adults in the same building but with various activities including crafts, worship, and food. We can promise bacon sandwiches and an informal, relaxed atmosphere.

Messy Church is very different to our usual Sunday mornings and it focuses on bringing all ages together, creative opportunities, worship, and hospitality. The “Messy Church” started in Portsmouth in 2004 as a way of encouraging people who had given up on the traditional church pattern. It has grown from strength to strength even as far as the Land of Oz. We are not sure how it will turn out, but you are, of course, most welcome.

**From the registers**  
**Low Tatham – funeral**  
**Graham Henry Gardner**

**VISITING CHURCHES**  
**ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HELSINGTON**



St John's Church was built in 1726 from an endowment by John Jackson of nearby Holeslack Farm and so its isolated position owes much to the proximity of the farm which is down the track towards Sizergh Castle, near Kendal. The church serves the village of Brigsteer at the bottom of the scar, but the Parish is called Helsington after the name of one of the twenty four townships which constituted the greater parish of Kendal. The church was a daughter church of Kendal Parish Church. The parish now forms a part of the Two Valleys Team.

There are some interesting features in the church principally a mural painted at the East end in 1919 just after the First World War by a Miss Saumarez. The mural is effectively a war memorial reflecting the post war desolation in borrowing from the view outside to depict a scene of mountains, the river and sea and kneeling angels in prayer. The altar frontal is uniquely decorated with tooled leather panels. The wooden panelling and pulpit in the chancel were part of the 1908 restoration of the church. At the back of the church is the chamber organ made by Samuel Renn of Manchester c1845 which has a high quality mahogany case and matching lyre ended stool. It was purchased for the church for £35 in 1902.

I visited the church last year on a walk from Sizergh Castle with my friends from Tatham Fells WI led by David in his role as a walk leader for the Sizergh Estate. The church overlooks a stunning view of the Lake District hills and the Lythe Valley which sweeps down to the sea. The mural in the church seemed all the more moving when it was pointed out that the kneeling angels' faces are those of local girls. I can thoroughly recommend the walk, the visit to the church and the cream tea in the National Trust Café at Sizergh afterwards. David will be leading more walks this year, including an archeological walk which takes in a field full of ant hills created by the yellow wood ant, a favourite food of the green woodpecker. Do get in touch if you are interested and I can keep you informed of dates. **Carole Butcher**



## **The Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP)**

Each year, on the first Friday in March, Christian women from all denominations and from all over the world meet in local groups to worship together and to learn about and pray for a particular country, whose women have produced the order of service for that year.

In our area the nine churches, Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic, on either side of the Lune valley hold the service in turn, this year we are at St Mary's in Hornby. Although our name is WWDP we welcome men and young people too and in the last few years various local Primary Schools have contributed to the service.

This year the service has been put together by the women of Egypt on the theme 'Water in the Desert'. Whilst we may feel we have rather too much rainfall, it is sobering to think what life would be like if water were as scarce as it is in many parts of Egypt.

Egypt is one of the oldest civilisations in the world, the pyramids, its most famous landmarks, were built between 4,000 and 2,700 BC. Apart from the Nile valley the majority of the country is desert, where only a few Bedouin and oasis dwellers survive.

The population of Egypt is around 86 million and the main language spoken there is Arabic, most people are Muslim but around 12% are Christian. Only 72% of the population are literate, with more men than women being able to read. Millions of children are born in poverty and many rural adolescent girls are discouraged from completing school, facing lives of early marriage, illiteracy and domestic abuse. The church in Egypt is doing all it can to counteract this.

Egypt is still in turmoil after the uprisings of 2011 and many Christians there feel that their lives and livelihoods are under threat. We would love to see you at our local service, at 2.00pm on March 7<sup>th</sup>, as we support them by our thoughts and prayers.

**Ann Dawson**



## Children's corner

### What is Lent?

The Church's season of Lent takes place in late winter and early spring, usually between the middle of February and the middle of April, depending on the date of Easter. Our modern word Lent is a shortened form of the word *lenten* which meant the season of spring in the version of English spoken here some six to eight hundred years ago.

Lent lasts for forty days, which is meant to remind us of the forty days that Jesus spent alone in the wilderness, as he decided just how he would tell the good news of God's love to the people around him. Because Jesus fasted, that is ate nothing, in the wilderness, Lent became a time of fasting for Christians in preparation for Easter. During the early centuries this fasting was very strict. Only one meal a day, in the evening, was allowed and in most places meat and fish as well as eggs and cheese were absolutely forbidden.

From around the ninth Century this began to be relaxed so that the first meal was allowed around 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and by the fifteenth Century it became usual to eat at mid-day. At the same time, during what we call the Middle Ages, people were allowed to eat fish, eggs and cheese during Lent, but still no meat.

The way of working out the forty days before Easter has varied considerably in Christian history but by the seventh Century it was agreed by the Western Church that Lent should begin on Ash Wednesday and carry on until the end of Holy Week, not including Sundays. The fourth Sunday in Lent, near the middle of the season, was known as 'Refreshment Sunday' and we now celebrate this as Mothering Sunday.

Ash Wednesday gets its name from the custom which began in the Middle Ages of marking each person's forehead in ash with the sign of the cross to show both how sorry they were for what they had done wrong and also their promise to try to live the way Jesus had taught. In many churches this ash is made by burning the palm crosses that were given out just before Easter the year before.

Nowadays few Christians fast strictly in Lent, though many will not eat meat on Fridays. Most Christians use the time to study their faith more deeply and to give generously to charity. They may also decide to give up something they see as a luxury or indulgence and give the money they save to a good cause. How might you keep Lent this year?

**Ann Dawson**



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

**LENT LUNCHESES**  
at 12 noon until 1.30pm  
on Thursdays throughout Lent

**First lunch on Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>**  
at The Old Rectory, Low Tatham

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
at Tatham House, Wray

**March 20<sup>th</sup>**  
at The Hawthorns, Lowgill

**March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
please refer to church noticeboard  
**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

at Tatham Green

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
at Brackenbottom Barn

**ALL MOST WELCOME**

**Contact Sue Rowland 22484**

**WOMEN'S WORLD**  
**DAY OF PRAYER**  
Prepared by the women  
of Egypt

**Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**2.00pm**  
St Mary's Church, Hornby

**ALL WELCOME**

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**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**  
**IN WRAY CHURCH**  
**Joyful Noise**  
Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm  
Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm  
**After school club, straight after school**  
Friday February 28th until 4.45pm  
Friday March 21st until 4.45pm

**MONDAY NIGHT GROUP**  
**AT HIND LEA, MILLHOUSES**

Discussion group for young people  
of all faiths or none  
every other Monday night  
during term time for year 9 upwards  
Curiosity and an inclination to argue  
highly desirable

**Contact Mary Winter 21784**

**St Peter's Church, Leck**  
**CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**  
**2014**

**Proposed rosebud procession**  
an appeal for pastel-coloured  
bridesmaid's dresses in all sizes  
contact Annie Denby 21793

**Brontë Pilgrimage**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014**  
further details later

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