

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life:

February and March 2015



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

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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: 015242 74376
Revd Canon Norman and Dr Ann Dawson Tel: 015242 62936
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Mary Winter Tel: 015242 21784

For further details please go to the Benefice website
'Benefice of East Lonsdale'

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COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL/MAY EDITION 2015

THURSDAY 12TH MARCH

EDITORIAL

I send warm greetings to you all for the New Year. In this issue you will find a brave poem from the First World War written by Edward Melbourne and an account of a rare visit to St Kilda. There are details of all the Lent Lunches and of a concert at St James the Less, Tatham given by the St Laurence Singers. **Carole Butcher**

DIARY OF A LUNE VALLEY VICAR by Mark Cannon

Enjoying a good Lent ...

Monday: As an attentive husband, I listen carefully to Mrs Cannon's plans and proposals for the week ahead, and I learn that on Thursday there is to be an appointment with the hairdresser. I need no more information (least of all as to costs and procedures) but I cunningly make a note on my Smartphone - 'remember to mention hair'; job done.

Wednesday: Lunch break at the office and we stroll into the beating heart of Undercliffe to find a sandwich. My colleague is not from the White Rose County, so he does not share in the legendary open-handedness and generosity for which we Tykes are noted, and he is fossicking about in Tesco for a sandwich costing less than 50p, whilst I, tiring of his meanness, am standing outside in the balmy Spring sunshine (note to Lancashire - other parts of England see the sun), when a burly beggar, over 6ft tall and adorned with muscles, asks for me for some change. I dip my hand in my pocket and find a pound coin, a quick fiddle reveals nothing smaller, and so I hand it over. He looks at it with suspicion and lopes off towards Pizza Hut. My colleague, who has been hiding behind a display of crisps and discount Maltesers, emerges with relief that he has not been asked and upbrates me for 'giving in'. I am explaining that I am doing what any Christian would have done and that he is an undoubted and unrepentant sinner, therefore already close to the fiery pit, when a shadow looms back over us; 'You couldn't make if £2, could you?' demands the beggar. I turn to find myself alone. 'Sorry' I say 'no more cash on me', why am I apologising?

Friday: Modern technology reminds me to lavish unbounded praise on the new and splendid haircut, and I am not one to miss the cue, so I shower compliments. Unfortunately, the appointment was cancelled, so the hair is pretty much as it was on Monday.

So, under the guise of being 'good', I have tried, as usual, to bend events to my selfish will. All my efforts this week have been superficially impressive, but collapsed under pressure. I didn't pay enough attention, and I didn't really want to help the poor. I did just what I wanted to do, and in my way. As Lent gets under way, it is a reminder that even when we think we are on the right track, we often fool ourselves, and need to take more time, and more effort to look into our murky hearts, and not just to coast through the spiritual life. Forty days and forty nights of going without helps us look again, and look more critically at where our lives are going.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Good Shepherd Church, Tatham Fells

Isobella Rose Barry, daughter of Gemma and Stu from Swans Farm, Lowgill was baptised in our church on Sunday November 23rd we wish her every blessing for the future.

On Sunday November 30th the children and parents from Tatham Fells School attended our Christmas Family Service led by Mark. The children told the Christmas story in a simple presentation and sang for us.

Our Service of Carols and Traditional Readings for Christmas on Sunday 21st December was planned and led by Ann. The church was filled almost to capacity and it was a delight to see so many children there. Hot mulled wine and spiced drinks with warm mince pies or shortbread were served afterwards.

On Christmas Eve our midnight service of Holy Communion was led beautifully as usual by Norman and Ann. This service is always so peaceful with the candles and gas lights giving a lovely ambience and a time for reflection.

Sadly we have lost two good friends from Tatham Fells since the last issue. Roger 'Chuck' Denby was laid to rest in our churchyard on Saturday 20th December and Robert Taylor on Friday 9th January. Both will be greatly missed and our prayers and condolences go out to their families. **Carole Butcher**

Holy Trinity Church, Wray

Christmas at Holy Trinity began with 'Carols by Candlelight' on Monday 15th December; a community celebration with the choir, readings and Carols organised by Mary. This was followed by a Jacob's Join supper. We were delighted to see so many people in attendance.

On Christmas Eve we held an evening Nativity Service which was much enjoyed by all ages. The children were all dressed up by Mary and Mavis and we had a wonderful little shepherd taking part who was a joy to watch.

We hope to start the next phase of the church refurbishment soon and will report on progress in the next issue.

Our next 'Messy Church' will be held on Sunday 18th January. These events have proved to be a great success thanks to Mary and her helpers, especially those making the 'bacon butties'. **Judith Wrigley and Ann Anderson**

St John the Baptist, Tunstall

The year 2015 is under way and Christmas seems far off already. The services were all very well attended with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve seeing almost 80 adults and nearly 50 young people in attendance, over double last year's attendance. A special thank you goes to all the readers, to Toby Randall Paley for his expertise on the organ and to Simon Lawrence for his perfect rendition of Away in a Manger on the clarinet.

Easter is very early this year and the Lent Course will start on Thursday February 26th and continue every Thursday for five sessions including Thursday March 26th. Each session will begin at 7pm as usual with an hour of discussion followed by supper. If you would like to come please contact me on 74260 for more details. You may come to one or all the evenings just as you wish and although there is no charge it would be good to know who is attending in order for those who so kindly cater to have an idea of numbers.

A Lent Lunch of soup, bread and cake will be held in Tunstall Parish Hall hosted by Tunstall, Melling and Leck church members on Saturday March 14th from 12noon until 2pm and everyone is very welcome to attend.

The installation of the toilet is under way and should be fully operational by Easter. **Jane Greenhalgh**

St James the Less, Tatham

Thanks to the dedication of Messrs Wheildons the new heating system was fired up just in time to offer a doubly warm welcome to 'Brewers Apron' and our audience for their concert 'Autumn Leaves' in a church decorated in autumn colours of russet and gold. A full house was treated to a lovely evening of music and song rounded off by delicious food and a (small) drink. We would welcome 'Brewers Apron' back at any time!

Our traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service, beautifully led as always by Norman and Ann, attracted its usual large numbers so many of whom are old friends seen only once a year.

The Christmas spirit continued at the Benefice Service the following Sunday; nothing to do with the mulled wine that followed!

Meanwhile, plans are being laid for the next move to make the church more attractive as an asset to the community by the installation of a kitchen and disabled toilet.

John Holt

St Wilfrid's, Melling

I am told that attendances at Carol Services across the Benefice were high this year and I am pleased to report that in Melling we certainly had good congregations with over 300 at the Wennington Hall School Carol Service and around 150 at the village service which was held with the children and parents from St Wilfrid's School. The pupils at both gave wonderful performances; hats off to them! Well done and a big 'thank you' to teachers and helpers – brilliant. Our Christingle and Midnight Eucharist services were less well attended but I hope that all who did attend enjoyed them as much as I did, and thanks to those who provided mince pies.

Many thanks to all who supported the Christmas Craft and Gift Fair this year; we raised a sum of over £1,000 for Church Funds.

Following the success of the Levens Choir concert last year it is intended to arrange a series of Sunday afternoon concerts in Church this year which will hopefully become a regular feature; ideas welcome. We will be reverting to the Institute for our Ceilidh which is planned for the spring, assuming we can confirm the band that has made our last two Ceilidhs so much fun.

JAC Beeson

St Peter's Church, Leck

Celebrations for Advent and Christmas began on Advent Sunday, 30th November, with sung Evensong and Carols. Carols again were the highlight when we had our last Centenary Event of the year in the Fraser Hall on Sunday 21st December led by Revd Mark Cannon who interspersed the Carols with stories and anecdotes. Over 50 parishioners from Leck, Ireby and Cowan Bridge attended. This was followed by mince pies, mulled wine and the draw of the Grand Centenary Raffle which raised £300.

Christmas Day was celebrated with several visiting families making up a good congregation who were able to admire the beautiful Christmas tree which had been donated by Joss Robinson and decorated by Imogen and Alexander Royce.

We are looking forward to our Christingle Service on Sunday 26th January as well as our first 'Messy Church' service and the Alpha Course to be held in the Fraser Hall in the spring.

We have said goodbye to Eleanor Denby who has resigned as Church Warden and we wish to record our thanks to her for 15 years of dedicated service. Her support, commitment and tireless hard work have been much appreciated.

Joan Withers

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

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**

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st	Feast of the Presentation	Candlemas	
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
9.30am	Candlemas Service	Melling	Norman and Ann
10.00am	Morning Service	Wray	Peter
11.00am	Christingle Service	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert

Sunday 8th	Second Sunday before Lent	Sexagesima	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Robert
11.00am	'Messy Church'	Leck	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Mary
2.15pm	Evensong (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann

Sunday 15th	Sunday next before Lent	Quinquagesima	
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Robert
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Peter
10.00am	Christingle Service	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Norman and Ann

Wednesday 18th	Ash Wednesday		
10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
7.00pm	Holy Communion	Melling	Robert

Sunday 22nd	First Sunday of Lent		
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Robert

MARCH

Sunday 1st	Second Sunday of Lent		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Robert
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Morning Service	Wray	Peter
11.00am	Holy Communion	Tatham Fells	Robert
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Mark

Sunday 8th	Third Sunday of Lent		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Robert
2.15pm	Evensong (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
Sunday 15th	Mothering Sunday		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service with Melling schoolchildren	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Mothering Sunday Service with Wray schoolchildren	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Mothering Sunday Service with Tatham Fells schoolchildren	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert
Sunday 22nd	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Passion Sunday	
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Peter
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Robert
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Mark
Wednesday 25th	Feast of the Annunciation		
7.00pm	Holy Communion	Tunstall	Robert
Sunday 29th	Palm Sunday		
11.00am	Family Communion	Tatham Fells	Robert
6.00pm	Holy Week Service	Tunstall	Norman and Ann

Both services are for all six churches in the Benefice

FROM THE REGISTERS

Tatham Fells – Baptism
Isobella Rose Barry

Tatham Fells - Funerals
Roger ‘Chuck’ Denby
Robert Taylor

A Brave Poem

This brave poem was written by Lieutenant William Noel Hodgson MC who had been educated at Durham School and Christ Church, Oxford. He was the son of the first Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and he received his MC for his gallantry at the Battle of Loos. He was loved and known by his men as 'Smiler'. He wrote during the First World War under the pseudonym Edward Melbourne. He was bombing officer of the 9th Devons. He died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

This is a poem written in a billet in a beautiful wood 'Le Bois des Tailles' about three miles behind the lines in beautiful summer weather where even nightingales could be heard at times. It alludes to his memories of many wonderful sunsets which he had witnessed from what is perhaps the finest view in all England, Durham Cathedral as seen from the hill where the school is situated and where he was educated.

Dorothy Gibson

Before Action

By all the glories of the day
And the cool evening's benison,
By that last sunset touch that lay
Upon the hills when day was done,
By beauty lavishly outpoured
And blessings carelessly received
By all the days that I have lived
Make me a soldier, Lord.

By all of man's hopes and fears
And all the wonders poets sing,
The laughter of unclouded years,
And every sad and lovely thing;
By the romantic ages stored
With high endeavour that was his,
By all his mad catastrophes
Make me a man, O Lord.

I, that on my familiar hill
Saw with uncomprehending eyes
A hundred of thy sunsets spill
Their fresh and sanguine sacrifice,
Ere the sun swings his noonday sword,
Must say goodbye to all of this;-
By all delights that I shall miss
Help me to die, O Lord.

Edward Melbourne

St Kilda and the Wee Frees

Last summer I attended a wedding on the Isle of Lewis from where my daughter-in-law's family originate. Although in the distant past they rustled cattle (on one occasion paying the penalty of being smoked out of their broch in order to face the wrath of their clan neighbours), in more recent times they produced several ministers of the Free Church of Scotland. The 'Wee Frees' broke with the Church of Scotland in 1843 in what became known as the Great Disruption. Led by 450 of their clergy whole congregations questioned who ought to have the power to appoint ministers to office, although behind this disagreement was a sense in many highland communities that the churches in the lowland cities were becoming too elaborate in their forms of worship.

In 1904 there was a second split which was then followed throughout the 20th Century by periodic bouts of factionalism when whole congregations migrated in one direction or another. Even recent years have seen confrontations. It has been said that the Free Church of Scotland is 'an eternal rebuke to the world of greed and unfettered consumerism, brooking no compromise with the unbelieving world or with those believers who preach equality, inclusion and freedom to enjoy a quiet and easy life'. The Wee Frees brand of faith seems to suit the Highland soul.

I had long wanted to visit St Kilda and here was the opportunity. It lies in the Atlantic some sixty miles from the Scottish mainland and you need some luck to get there. Even in summer many trips are booked then cancelled because of the state of the sea. After four hours out of Lewis heaving around in a powerful launch the stacks and cliffs of the St Kilda group, higher and more remote than any others in the British Isles, rise out of the mist and spray. As we passed under them the sky was blotted out by hundreds of thousands of sea birds whirling and diving over the boat. These are some of the largest colonies of gannets and skuas found anywhere.

The largest island, Hirta, was inhabited from Bronze Age times until it was finally evacuated in 1932. Permanent residence is no longer permitted. The old village street of black houses and lazy beds remains and can be inspected. Some have been converted for use by study groups and wardens but the tiny Kirk and schoolroom are beautifully restored. The lack of any adornment, of a single inch of carved wood or symbol of any sort, is striking. Only the pulpit and the pews tell that it is a church.

The only access to the school room is from within the Kirk. The copper plate writing in the school register is perfection. In this remotest of places the map of the world displays all the red bits of empire which highlanders, including many from St Kilda, helped populate. Steel-tipped pens lie on the desks, the ink wells long since dry.

Following the Great Disruption the St Kildans drew the short straw and got a minister from the Wee Frees. In short order he stopped the music, dancing and social traditions for which these simplest of people were celebrated. All attended the Kirk twice on Sunday and at other times too. Each service was lengthy, always exceeding two hours with much time taken up by the sermon. The collection of eggs, catching and gutting birds for oil, and all other work ceased for the day. No food was cooked. Sunday was silent except for the voice of the minister and the sea birds.

John Ryle

Friends of St James the Less Church, Tatham

A lively and productive meeting of the Friends was held on January 12th at The Bridge Inn. Some 18 members were in attendance when it was reported that the first draw of the 100 Club had been made following the Plough Sunday service on January 11th and our congratulations go to the three winners. The lucky numbers are 12, 20 and 35. We are delighted that the 'Club' has got off to such a good start but it will be even more successful as we increase the number of participants. Contact Sue Wood on 015242 21170 or sue@lavenderblue.uk.com who will be pleased to let you have full details of how you can take part.

We are also pleased to announce that the renowned St Laurence Singers will be giving a concert at the church on Saturday 21st February. The concert entitled 'Love is in the air' starts at 7.00pm. Tickets are £12.50 each and include a meal and wine. They can be obtained from Barbara Harrison 015242 21101 and Sue Wood 015242 21170. Why not come along and enjoy a relaxing evening of music together with a delicious meal?

Later in the year the Friends will be organising an Open Gardens Day and Garden Party so watch out for further details.

In the meantime the Friends continue to support the PCC in 'bedding-in' the new church heating system and developing proposals for a new kitchen and WC in the church.

The next meeting of the Friends will take place at The Bridge Inn on Wednesday 18th March 2015 starting at 7.30pm. Anyone wishing to join us and assist with the preservation and development of the church and its greater use by the community would be made very welcome.

Colin Burford

Wray Youth Group – 11-14 year olds



The YOUTH GROUP had its first meeting before Christmas, which was a great success (Christmas crafts, food and discussion). We hope to meet monthly and the planned day is the 4th Friday of the month but please contact Mary Winter on 015242 21784 or Helen Staveley on 015242 21192 to confirm.

Joyful Noise and After School Club in Wray Church

Joyful Noise – Thursday February 5th and Thursday March 5th at 2pm

After School Club – Friday February 27th and Friday March 20th after school until 4.45pm

Contact Mary Winter (21784) for further details



Messy Church at Leck St Peter's

'Messy Church' is a Sunday morning service with a difference! It is informal, and for all ages, with a particular focus on involving children in art and craft activities. There will also be plenty for adults to do, a short talk, and some singing and a bacon sandwich to finish! Our first 'Messy Church' will take place on Sunday 8th February at 11.00am led by Mark Cannon. **Tom Shuttleworth**

Messy Church at Holy Trinity, Wray

'Messy Church' at Holy Trinity, Wray has been going very successfully for a little while now. Children and adults are welcome to come along and join in the fun. The latest session happened on Sunday 18th January. More details will appear in the next issue. **Editor**

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

LENT LUNCHESES

Lent Lunches in Tatham, Wray and Tatham Fells this year will be held on Thursdays as usual from 12noon to 1.30pm on the following dates:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| February | 19 th | The Old Rectory, Low Tatham (John and Phyllis Holt) |
| | 26 th | Riggs Farm, Tatham (Brian and Olive Beard) |
| March | 5 th | Brackenbottom Barn, Lowgill (Rick and Margaret Baker) |
| | 12 th | Hawthorns, Lowgill (Liesel Fox) |
| | 19 th | Laith House, Tatham Green (Martin and Althea Gillibrand) |
| | 26 th | Tatham House, Wray (Mark and Sue Rowland) |

Do join us for soup/cheese/fellowship: All welcome; proceeds to charities.

Contact Liesel Fox on 62486 for enquiries or further information.

LENT LUNCH IN TUNSTALL PARISH HALL

A Lent Lunch of soup, bread and cake will be held in Tunstall Parish Hall hosted by Tunstall, Melling and Leck church members on Saturday March 14th from 12noon until 2pm and everyone is very welcome to attend.

Contact Jane Greenhalgh on 015242 74260 for further details.

St James the Less Church, Tatham
Saturday 21st February at 7pm
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BY THE ST LAURENCE SINGERS
£12.50 including meal and wine
Tickets Barbara Harrison 21101
or Sue Wood 21170

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