

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life

**FEBRUARY/MARCH
2012**



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

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 Professor Robert Hannaford

Tel: 015242 74376

Revd Canon Norman Dawson

Dr Ann Dawson

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WARDENS

WRAY

HOLY TRINITY

Mark Rowland Tel 22484

Frank Gretton Tel 22311

TATHAM

ST JAMES THE LESS

Phyllis Holt Tel 21443

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TATHAM FELLS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

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ST WILFRID

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LECK

ST PETER

Eleanor Denby Tel 21793

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Sponsorship if you wish to sponsor an issue as an individual, in memory of someone or as a business please call Carole on 015242 63095. The cost will be £50.

**This edition has been sponsored in memory of
DORA MAY, LES AND CHRISTINE SMITH**

EDITORIAL

It has been agreed that The Bell will be produced bi-monthly from now on. You will find service times on the middle two pages and a list of church staff on the front inside page. I am most grateful to Revd Canon Robert Hannaford, Edward Mason, Edward Huddleston and Sue Marsden for their help with the new layout and to Ann Dawson for proof reading.

We are looking for businesses/organisations to place adverts on the back page to help with the cost of producing our magazine. The circulation is now around 750 copies and rising. Please get in touch with me if you are interested.

COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL/MAY ISSUE

THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2012

Carole Butcher—Tel 63095

Benefice website—'Benefice of East Lonsdale'

Faith Matters: God our Creator

The following short meditation is planned as the first of a series of occasional reflections on central elements of Christian belief and practice. I have taken God and Creation as my theme and I will follow this with other thoughts on the same theme over the next few issues of the Bell. Please feel free to raise with me anything that occurs to you after reading my pieces. I will also be happy to address specific themes and questions upon request.

1. Created for a Purpose

Whenever we come across something that does a job or performs a task - whether its a shoe horn or a Jumbo jet - we know that someone made it.

Objects like this don't happen by accident. They have to be planned and designed.

Things in nature also work to a plan. Trees grow from seeds and then feed by drawing nutrients from the soil. Nature itself cannot plan or design anything. How then can we explain the natural purpose evident in the world around us? The whole idea is ridiculous unless we believe that someone created it so. Only God is capable of design and planning on such a scale. Unless we believe in the Creator the order and purpose of the world makes no sense.

Canon Robert Hannaford

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

St John the Baptist Tunstall

After the awful storms it is good to be able to report that we only lost one tree at Tunstall. Interestingly the loss of this tree was probably down to years of having a compost heap around the roots of the tree, a salutary lesson to us all. We still have to have the other large beech tree surveyed but it has survived the dreadful winds so it may well be alright.

The Christmas services were extremely well supported starting off with the now annual Carol Service in the Lunesdale Arms admirably presented by Mark. The collection for the Lancaster and District Homeless Christmas Appeal yielding £237.77. Thank you Emma for your great welcome.

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve saw about 90 souls attending whilst the Christmas Morning Service congregation totalled over 60.

Apart from Church Services and extra Carol Services the Parish choir were very busy over the Christmas season singing at the Highwaymen on December 9th where £90 was added to Parish funds. They also sang at the Hospice on December 15th where they were well received by a large number of patients, and then at the Lunesdale Arms on Dec 19th .

JG

Good Shepherd Church, Tatham Fells

On Saturday December 3rd we had a concert of Medieval music presented by the Artisans. It was most appropriate for the start of Advent. The concert was followed by a light supper and wine.

Our Christmas services were very well supported. Sixty seven were present at the candle-lit service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday evening 18th December. Lessons were read by representatives from local organisations and afterwards hot mince pies, mulled wine and hot spiced berry drink were served.

The midnight service on Christmas Eve was well attended. The gas lights and candles were lit giving a wonderful ambience.

There was a good turn out for our Family Service on the morning of New Year's Day morning. Our thanks go to Ann Dawson for preparing a most moving service and to Margaret and Eric Baker for providing refreshments in The Old School.

A very successful Plough Sunday service on January 8th was led by Peter Osborne. Annie Denby gave a presentation about the Diocesan Youth Conference she had attended at Myerscough last September. The service was followed by a ploughman's lunch.

CB

Holy Trinity Church, Wray

Early in December, villagers sang carols around the Christmas tree, with donations going to St. John's Hospice. The nativity scene made by Bill Bowman using his advanced scarecrow building skills was appreciated by all. Ladies from the church provided tea, soft drinks and mince pies in the Institute.

Carols by candlelight with seasonal readings filled the Institute on Tuesday December 13th. Singing was led by the Methodist Singers who entered into the spirit of Christmas using the rhythm of their digital piano to good effect. A collection of £140 went to the Christ Church Night Shelter in Lancaster. This was followed by a Jacob's Join supper.

It was the turn of Holy Trinity to host the joint carol service, which was also well attended. Natasha's solo set the atmosphere in the candle light. At both events, an "All Comers" choir, brought together and trained by Mary Winter, sang a selection of carols. Such fun was had when practising at the home of John and Frances Parkinson that the choir is looking for further opportunities to sing at village events. Tea and mince pies concluded the proceedings.

This year we held a Crib Service on Christmas Eve. The foundation of its success was an impromptu nativity play directed by Mary.

A host of little angels, suitably clad from a dressing-up box at the back of the church, processed to surround a self-conscious Mary and Joseph. Parents and grand-parents were captivated.

For the second year running, a Midnight Communion was held. This is now a significant service for many in the village.

Joyful Noise Grows Up

After years of the much-loved 'Joyful Noise' for pre-schoolers, Wray Church has started a programme for older children as well. This new club (currently still seeking a suitable name) takes place on the second Tuesday of each month from 3.30-5.45pm in the Holy Trinity Church Wray. The proceedings are led by Mary Winter, assisted by an army of volunteers. The children have a snack, ring the church bell, sing, take part in treasure hunts, do crafts and, most of all, pause and reflect. The two meetings to-date had the theme 'The Gift that Lasts' and 'You are the Gift'.

If you think that your child might enjoy the club, please phone Mary Winter on **015242-21784** for further information.

Advance date

During the Scarecrow Festival on Sunday 6th May at 10am in Wray Church, there will be a 'Songs of Praise' service organised by Mary Winter. Visitors to the festival will be encouraged to participate.

SEE CHURCH NOTICE BOARD FOR ANY DETAILS NOT IN THE BELL

AA

... Continued on page 8

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

February 5th Third before Lent, Septuagesima

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|----------|--------------|
| 9.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | TATHAM | Mark |
| 9.30am | Family Service | MELLING | Peter |
| 10.00am | Christingle Service | WRAY | Mark Mary |
| 11.00am | Family Service | T/FELLS | Ann |
| 11.00am | Sung Eucharist | TUNSTALL | Robert |

February 12th Second before Lent, Sexagesima

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|--------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | WRAY | Mark |
| 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | MELLING | Mark |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion | WRAY | Robert |
| 11.00am | Morning Service | TATHAM | Ann |
| 11.00am | Sung Eucharist | LECK | Mark |
| 2.15pm | Evening Prayer (BCP) | T/FELLS | Peter |

February 19th Next before Lent, Quinquagesima

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|----------|--------|
| 9.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) | T/FELLS | Robert |
| 9.30am | Morning Service | MELLING | Ann |
| 10.00am | Family Service | WRAY | Mark |
| 11.00am | Sung Eucharist | TUNSTALL | Robert |

February 22nd ASH WEDNESDAY

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| 10.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | T/FELLS | Norman |
| 7.30pm | Holy Communion | TUNSTALL | Robert Mark |

February 26th First of Lent

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|--------|
| 9.30am | Morning Prayer (BCP) | T/FELLS | Ann |
| 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | MELLING | Mark |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion | WRAY | Robert |
| 11.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | TATHAM | Norman |
| 11.00am | Family Service | LECK | Mark |

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR MARCH

4th March Second of Lent

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|----------|--------|
| 9.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | TATHAM | Norman |
| 9.30am | Morning Prayer | MELLING | Robert |
| 10.00am | Morning Service | WRAY | Peter |
| 11.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | T/FELLS | Norman |
| 11.00am | Sung Eucharist | TUNSTALL | Robert |

11th March Third of Lent

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|--------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | WRAY | Mark |
| 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | MELLING | Robert |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion | WRAY | Mark |
| 11.00am | Family Service | TATHAM | Peter |
| 11.00am | Sung Eucharist | LECK | Robert |
| 2.15pm | Evening Prayer (BCP) | T/FELLS | Mark |

18th March Fourth of Lent—Mothering Sunday

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|--------|
| 9.30am | Mothering Sunday Service | T/FELLS | Ann |
| 9.30am | Mothering Sunday Service | MELLING | Mark |
| 10.00am | Mothering Sunday Service | WRAY | Mary |
| 11.00am | Sung Eucharist | TUNSTALL | Robert |

25th March Fifth of Lent—Passion Sunday

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|--------|
| 9.30am | Morning Prayer (BCP) | T/FELLS | Ann |
| 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | MELLING | Robert |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion | WRAY | Norman |
| 11.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) | TATHAM | Robert |
| 11.00am | Family Service | LECK | Mark |

Monday 26th March Feast of the Annunciation

| | | | |
|--------|----------------|---------|--------|
| 7.00pm | Holy Communion | MELLING | Robert |
|--------|----------------|---------|--------|

FROM THE REGISTERS FUNERALS

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Eric Atkinson | Melling followed by interment at Low Tatham |
| Irene Mary Jones | Melling |
| Ann Hudson | Tunstall |
| William Easterby | Tatham Fells |
| Donald Denby | Low Tatham |

St Peter's Church, Leck

The congregation of St John the Baptist, Tunstall and St Wilfrid's Church, Melling joined with St Peter's Church, Leck on two occasions during the period leading up to Christmas. Both the service on Advent Sunday and the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 18th December were well attended. Mince pies, biscuits and mulled wine were enjoyed by all after the service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ED

St Wilfrid's Church, Melling

The Christmas period has been a very busy time for Melling. Apart from the usual Sunday morning services, we have had no fewer than six extra services to manage.

Eric Atkinson's funeral was not just an extremely sad occasion but a formidable logistical problem. It is unlikely that Melling Church has accommodated such a huge congregation for many years, if ever. It was a fantastic tribute to a well-loved and respected member of the local community. We had another funeral on January 3rd to celebrate the life of Irene Jones, the mother of Meredith Owen, Melling's representative on the TML PCC. Revd Mark Cannon took both funerals.

The traditional "Midnight Mass" service by candlelight on Christmas Eve was impressive and very well attended by regular church-goers in the whole Parish and also families and friends.

The Whole Benefice Service on January 6th was a first for Melling. Robert, Norman and Max sang the verses of the three Kings in "We three Kings"

Then we had two large Carol Services involving the two local schools.

The Wennington Hall School event was on December 6th and the school kindly provided staff to help with the setting up of the church which was completely full and the young people did really well in making the event most enjoyable.

The Melling School service was the following week and again was well supported with the usual nativity presentation and musical accompaniment. We are especially pleased to report an improved involvement with both schools. Both Head Teachers are extremely enthusiastic and are doing their very best to encourage mutual participation. We regard this as a vital component for the future of the church. We have arranged at least four events involving Melling School (and parents) for this year.

Melling's view for the future

This will be a challenging year as the national recession is obviously affecting the financial support for all charities and especially the Church and Parish. However, we now have a new regime in place that includes two Non-Stipendiary Ministers, Mark and Robert. Also, we have (in concert with Tunstall and Leck) cleared our

outstanding debt to the Diocese so we now have a "clean sheet". However, we need to reach out to the young people in the area who still regard church-going as "un-cool". Changing that view will be our top priority. Generally, the Melling congregation has been very supportive and we remain confident that our church will continue to be a cornerstone of the Parish for many years as it has been in the past.

MG

St James the Less, Low Tatham

There was a full house for the "Christmas Cracker Concert" given by Brewers Apron on December 10th. They gave a very varied programme which was followed by wine and hot-pot supper.

Our usual Crib and Carol Service on Christmas Eve was extremely well attended with the collection totalling £450 for Homeless Action in Lancaster.

There was a special Plough Sunday service on Sunday 8th January arranged and led by Ann Dawson. Bacon butties were served after the service. Both services were much enjoyed!

JH

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CORNER



FIVE THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT SPIDERS

1. Spiders have existed for at least 350,000 years and there are approximately 400,000 species of spiders in the world.
2. Studies have shown that you are no more than TEN FEET away from a spider and one estimate puts you as close as three feet.
3. Spiders have 48 legs ... eight legs with six joints on each
4. Some male spiders pluck their cobwebs like a guitar to attract female spiders
5. Little Miss Muffet of the Nursery Rhyme was a real girl. She was the daughter of Dr. Mouffet who believed spiders had healing powers when eaten.

DISCUSSION GROUP

A discussion group meets during term time at the home of Mary Winter. Young people aged from Year 9 are most welcome to attend. Please contact Mary on 21784 for further details.

Visiting Churches

St. Julian's, Norwich

"All shall be well..". Such were the soothing words of deep faith uttered by Mother Julian 600 years ago. She had come, after times of illness and difficulty, to live a reclusive life in the church in Norwich that now bears her name.

Crazy! Not her but me, who had always felt her to be very special. Brought up nearby and still going often to Norwich to visit my ageing mother, I had never been to the church. So as Mother slept her deep postprandial sleep I slipped away and took a bus into town.

The church is medieval but no longer architecturally special. Hitler's bombers saw to that. Now it is just one of those many churches built in the wealthy heyday of East Anglian wool production. Except. Except that it remains very special as Julian's church, her holy dwelling with the God she loved.

The bombs left little; some of the tower, some walls with Anglo-Saxon windows, the font with its figures of angels. The rest is rebuilt. But Julian knew those angels. She knew God. Her mystical writings, taken from visions, have modern resonance in her belief in God as mother. Jesus was to her like a mother in his wisdom, love and forgiveness.

She is still present there in spirit, and her message re-echoes down the years, quoted by T S Eliot, and comforting many. It is a good message for Christmas at a bad time for some people. Eliot enlarged it thus:

Whatever we inherit from the fortunate
We have taken from the defeated
What they had to leave us- a symbol:
A symbol perfected as death,
And all shall be well and
All manner of things shall be well
By the purification of the motive
In the ground of our beseeching.

Peter Osborne



B4RN – Broadband for the Rural North

Much of the area covered by the Benefice of East Lonsdale will soon be able to benefit from broadband speeds faster than almost anywhere else in Europe, following the launch of B4RN, a community owned company that was launched just before Christmas.

On the 15th December in the Storey Institute the CEO, Professor Barry Forde, gave a presentation to a packed auditorium of future subscribers, investors and industry experts, including representatives from like-minded communities as far away as Kent.

With the cooperation of landowners and using local labour, the company aims to provide the option of a fibre optic cable connection to every property in the parishes of Tatham, Roeburndale, Wray, Wennington, Melling, Arkholme, Quernmore and Over Wyresdale with Tunstall, Ireby, Cantsfield and Leck being amongst those included in the second phase.

Over half of those who could benefit from this imaginative proposal have already confirmed their intention

of subscribing and anyone else who would like to know how they might also receive their internet, television and telephone services through a single ultra-high speed cable should visit the barn website at www.b4rn.org.uk

Edward Mason

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

The Bishop will be conducting a service of confirmation in the Benefice on March 13th 2012.

Please check the Benefice website 'Benefice of East Lonsdale' in mid February for further details.

Please contact Mark on 015242 21030 for more details of adult and child classes.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

TATHAM FELS VILLAGE SOCIETY

Saturday 4th February 7.30pm
The Old School, Tatham Fells

TALKING TATHAM

Were you there?
Local life as captured by
Dennis Dafforn
£3 including tea/coffee/biscuits

ALSO AT THE OLD SCHOOL

Saturday 10th March 7.30pm

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

£6 including light supper

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT & HOT POT SUPPER

WEDNESDAY MARCH 14TH

Lunesdale Arms, Tunstall

Tickets and further information
available from

Olivia Ley on 74280

or Meredith Owen on 21416

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO
TUNSTALL MELLING & LECK
CHURCHES**

CHURCH WARDENS and TREASURER

It is nearly time to think about who is going to take on the offices of church wardens and treasurer for the coming year. If there are people out there who would like to become involved with the running of their Church please let your vicar know.

JG

THE REAL EASTER EGG

**The first and only Fairtrade
chocolate Easter egg to
explain the Christian
understanding of Easter.
Eggs will be available
from Catherine Hannaford
74376
from the end of February**

LENT LUNCHES

**At noon on Thursdays
during Lent**

Please contact

SUE ROWLAND on 22484

if you are willing to provide a venue
and a simple lunch of soup, rolls and
cheese

The first lunch will be on
Thursday 23rd February
at David and Carole Butcher's
High Ivah, Lowgill
Tel: 63095

**OTHER VENUES WILL BE POSTED
ON CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS**

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

Friday 2nd March 2.00pm
at St Peter's Church, Leck

ALL WELCOME