

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life

February and March 2013



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: 21030
Revd Canon Professor Robert Hannaford Tel: 74376
Revd Canon Norman and Dr Ann Dawson Tel: 62936
Peter Osborne Tel: 61029
Mary Winter Tel: 21784

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

www.tathamfells.me.uk/benefice/index.php

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

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Carole Butcher Tel 63095

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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

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This edition has been sponsored by St Peter's Church, Leck

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Editorial

In this edition you will find on page 8 details about an organisation called ‘Sycamore Tree’ and an account by John Ryle of a visit to a special church at Escomb known as ‘The Saxon Church’. Some gardening tips appear on page 9 and on page 10 we have a spotlight on Pancake Day with a recipe and tips for making pancakes.

Carole Butcher

Diary of a Lune Valley Vicar by Mark Cannon

Getting the message across ...

Wednesday: News out today that there are fewer Christians than we once thought. Only 59% of the population describes itself as Christian. It’s a higher figure in the Lune Valley, but I’d settle for half of 59% of the village on a Sunday morning. Are the churches doing something wrong?

In the evening I’m at a local Nativity play, and am seated next to the Innkeeper. I offer him £1 to say, “Yes, come in, we do have a spare double, and you can have a full English too.” But he is a resolute young Innkeeper, and he rebukes me with a loud cry, “Mark! That is not the story!” So, I’ve no worries about the young, and the church is, of course, pretty full.

Friday: It’s the Office Christmas Party. I am non-drinking this evening (well, only the teeniest Mojito, and whatever it was, it was very nice), but I sit amazed as my colleagues (all female) go through a range of cocktails as if they were about to embark on a long trek across the Sahara and had forgotten their water bottles. So, inevitably, their questions turn to religion – “Why do you have to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?” “Why do you think I’m a sinner?” (“I have the pictures on my iphone”, I am tempted to reply, but wisely don’t, as one ex-bouncer colleague has already put me in a headlock and tried to cast me onto the floor of a Morecambe pub). And, “Why doesn’t God do anything? If he did, I’d believe!” By the time I’ve formulated a theological response, it’s too late, and they are back to their

favourite topic; the countless ways in which men are not to be relied on.

And it looks as if God is included in that number.

Midnight Mass at Wray 11.30pm

Counting myself and the organist, there are seven of us in church trying to make ‘Once in Royal David’s City’ rock the walls. We finish at 12.30 with a dozen.

Wednesday: Back to school, and back to children to whom I’m explaining the significance of the Three Kings - with the aid of Norman the hamster, and the Lune Valley Crocodile. I think I’m doing quite well until a five year-old folds his arms, sits back on his chair, and declaims loudly, “This is a bit silly”. A teacher silences him in a way that only primary school teachers can, and I am left to ponder.

Are we out of touch with most of our neighbours? Do we say the wrong things in the wrong places at the wrong times? Most people do not believe because they have very little evidence on which to make a decision. But if God won’t do something for them, if he won’t stir Himself, then He has left it up to us Lune Valley Christians to make a difference in this valley ourselves. Clearly, I have not been all that successful in doing that. Is it time our churches changed?

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Holy Trinity, Wray

At the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve led by the Revd Mark Cannon, the children dressed-up and acted-out the Nativity story. This was enjoyed by everyone.

The Midnight Communion Service was not as well attended as last year, but was a welcome start to Christmas Day for those who were present.

The Christingle Service will be held at Wray Church on the 3rd February at 10am. Families would be very welcome.

Mary will be running her Young Children's Workshop on Good Friday in Wray Village Institute between 10am and 1.15pm. Older children would be very welcome to function as helpers. To register for the Workshop, please pick up a form from the school the week before the Easter holiday. Please see the notice board for details of the Easter services.

Judith Wrigley/Ann Anderson

St John the Baptist, Tunstall

Archdeacon Michael Everitt took the service at Tunstall on November 18th and was welcomed by a reasonable congregation considering how cold it was, especially without any heating! Members of the church entertained him and his young daughter to lunch in the Lunesdale Arms afterwards.

The Archdeacon visited again on November 26th to survey the books and general procedures of operation at St John the Baptist. He had a quick supper with Colin and I at home before addressing the PCC at their November meeting. It was quite an exhausting day and again bitterly cold but I believe that at long last we have an Archdeacon who is listening and responding to our thoughts and desires.

The Carol Service in the Lunesdale Arms on December 17th proved to be as popular as ever and Mark excelled himself at this his third event there. Just over £280 was raised for the Edward Street Homeless project in Lancaster.

Heating! At long last we are in sight of starting the heating project at Tunstall. It has taken longer than we expected but these

things do. We expect the contractors to start work at the end of January and it will take about six weeks to complete. Because of health and safety, insurance etc. the church will have to be locked during this time.

Jane Greenhalgh

Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells

We were delighted to welcome the children and families from Tatham Fells Primary School to our Christmas family service in early December. The children had prepared some readings and sang a song. Refreshments were enjoyed in The Old School afterwards.

On Saturday December 8th we held our annual Christmas Fair in The Old School. The stalls looked colourful with crafts, cakes, woodwork and jewellery on offer. There was tombola, a bran tub and a raffle and Father Christmas paid a visit, much to the children's delight. Coffee and mince pies were served and over £750 was raised with a donation going to the Exodus House Orphanage, Hannah Burch's charity.

On Sunday 16th December we had Carols and Traditional Readings for Christmas at 6.30pm when we welcomed a large congregation of 60 people from the local community. The service was planned and led by Ann Dawson and the readings were given by various representatives of local organisations. This was followed by home made mince pies and mulled wine or spiced hot drink which was served in the church. The collection was donated to the Children's Society.

The midnight service of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve beautifully prepared and led by Norman and Ann Dawson was well attended. The church which was lit by gas light and candlelight looked delightful. The collection was donated to the charity 'Embrace the Middle East'.

Carole Butcher

St James the Less, Low Tatham

We have enjoyed a busy and very happy Christmas. The calendar allowed us to hold three services over the twelve days starting with our now traditional Carol

Service on Christmas Eve, this year arranged by Norman and Ann with great care into a real service rather than just a sing-song. Ann's prize-winning Carol is lovely, while Norman's explanation of the crib enthralled us all; adults and children - yes, children at Tatham! About 105 people filled the church and a lot of mince-pies disappeared at the Old Rectory afterwards.

We were delighted to welcome a goodly gathering from all parts of the Benefice at the Joint Service the following Sunday; our thanks go to the Benefice Choir for their contribution.

A quieter Service on Epiphany Sunday brought celebrations to a suitable end and allowed us to enjoy the lovely decorations for the last time.

As we go to press we look forward to Plough Sunday and Bacon Butties on Jan 13. It will soon be Lent; and Lent lunches I hope. And I think it stayed light a little later this evening. Here's to a Happy 2013 and 'Let there be Light'.

John Holt

St Wilfrid's, Melling

It has been another hectic Advent and Christmas at St. Wilfrid's.

Our thanks first of all must go to all who attended the Christmas Fair on December 1st. It was really good to see so many people and better still, what a wonderful sense of community was achieved. We raised over £600 for the Church which is absolutely fantastic. There will definitely be another fair this year, we are planning on November 23rd so that is a date for your diary. Again we need to thank the commercial donors for the raffle prizes; Jo & Cass, Spirit of the Andes, Hornby Butchers, Let Them Eat Cake and Melling Village Shop. Also thanks to those who contributed bottles to the Basket of Bottles prize. I think we ended up with a prize of over 20 bottles of wine. Thanks also to the stall holders who

seemed to be busy for most of the day at least, so hopefully it was worth their while too.

There was only one problem, a family called Ellison won some Jam and Lemon Curd in the raffle. Unfortunately over-zealous clearing up meant that their phone number was lost. Does anyone know the Ellisons? (Not the ones in Wray - I have checked with them - any help would be gratefully received.)

The Wennington Hall School Carol Service was attended by over 250 people and we are very grateful to the School for providing another lovely Christmas tree which was enjoyed by all who came to Church right up until Epiphany. The Melling St Wilfrid's School Christmas Service was well attended too and the mince pies and mulled wine after the service were an excellent festive touch.

We saw in Christmas Day with a Midnight Mass, with the Church illuminated by what seemed like hundreds of candles it was a wonderful heart warming experience enjoyed, I am sure, by all who attended. May I wish all the best to all for 2013.

Jac Beeson

St Peter's, Leck

We had a good attendance at the service of Evensong on Advent Sunday. It was most enjoyable and everyone felt it was the beginning of Christmas.

Although the Carol Service on 23rd December was not very well attended we were delighted to have five children reading poems and other material. We served mulled wine and oat slice after the service, which again was most enjoyable.

The service on Christmas day was very well attended and we were pleased to welcome 52 adults and 20 children to our Family Eucharist. The choir sang very well; a fitting start to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Eleanor Denby

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2013

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

3rd February	Candlemas - Feast of the Presentation		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM	Robert
9.30am	Christingle Service	MELLING	Mark
10.00am	Christingle Service	WRAY	Mary
11.00am	Christingle Service	TATHAM FELLS	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	TUNSTALL	Robert
10th February	Sunday next before Lent - Quinquagesima		
9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	WRAY	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	TATHAM	Norman/Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	LECK	Robert
2.15pm	Afternoon Service	TATHAM FELLS	Peter
	with 'Sycamore Tree' (<i>see page 8 for further details</i>)		
13th February	Ash Wednesday		
10.30am	Holy Communion	WRAY	Mark
7.00pm	Holy Communion	TUNSTALL	Robert
17th February	First Sunday of Lent		
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
24th February	Second Sunday of Lent		
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	TATHAM FELLS	Ann
9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	WRAY	Norman
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	LECK	Peter
	with 'Sycamore Tree' (<i>see page 8 for further details</i>)		
3rd March	Third Sunday of Lent		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM	Mark
9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	WRAY	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	TUNSTALL	Robert
2.15pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	TATHAM FELLS	Mark
10th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday		
9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service	MELLING	Peter
10.00am	Mothering Sunday Service	WRAY	Mark

11.00am	Morning Service	TATHAM	Ann
11.00am	Mothering Sunday Service	TATHAM FELLS	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	LECK	Robert
17th March	Fifth Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WRAY	Norman
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM FELLS	Robert
9.30am	Morning Service	MELLING	Mark
10.00am	Morning Service	WRAY	Peter
	with Sycamore Tree (<i>see page 8 for further details</i>)		
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	TUNSTALL	Mark
24th March	Palm Sunday		
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	TATHAM FELLS	Ann
9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING	Mark
10.00am	Holy Communion	WRAY	Robert
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM	Robert
11.00am	Morning Service	LECK	Mark
6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)	WRAY	Mark
	<i>(A joint service for all six churches)</i>		
28th March	Maundy Thursday		
7.30pm	Holy Communion	TATHAM	Mark/Robert
	<i>(A joint service for all six churches to commemorate the institution of Holy Communion)</i>		
29th March	Good Friday		
10.00am] - 1.15pm]	Children's workshop	WRAY INSTITUTE	Mary
10.00am	Good Friday Service	TUNSTALL	Robert
11.00am	Children's Service	TUNSTALL	Robert
12 noon	Devotional hour	WRAY	Mark
2.00pm	Devotional hour	TATHAM FELLS	Norman/Ann
31st March	Easter Day		
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	TATHAM FELLS	Norman
9.30am	Sung Eucharist	MELLING	Robert
10.00am	Family Communion	WRAY	Mark
11.00am	Family Communion	TATHAM	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	LECK	Robert

FROM THE REGISTERS

Melling – Funeral

Patricia Lunt, followed by cremation at Torrisholme

SYCAMORE TREE

Sycamore Tree is part of the Prison Fellowship which does such amazing work in our prisons. They give a 6-week course for prisoners, which includes a talk from somebody who has suffered from crime. This 'restorative' process is very successful in helping prisoners understand what they are doing. Whereas normally nearly all prisoners simply return to crime when they leave prison, Sycamore Tree helps about one in three to completely turn their life around. Anyone who would like to know more about this work would be welcome in Tatham Fells Church on Sunday February 10th at 2.15pm or at Leck Church on February 24th at 11.00am. There will be presentations by John Nelson and Ruthie Woodhouse, who are part of this great work in local prisons, and tea afterwards! They will also be making a presentation at Wray on 17th March at 10.00am

A VISIT TO A SPECIAL CHURCH

A few years ago I found myself making a weekly journey up the A68, which takes one through that extraordinary bit of almost forgotten England - the old pit villages of West Durham. To the East the road presents spectacular views across the northern Pennines, while to the West the Wear and its tributaries drain down narrow wooded valleys towards Bishop Auckland, Durham City and Chester-le-Street. One week I organised the journey to allow time for a short diversion off the main road, down the steep sided valley of the Wear, to one of the most special churches in England. Simply known as 'The Saxon Church', Escomb, it has a strong claim to be older than almost any of the other 438 churches claiming remains which date from that period. Of these only ten per cent are earlier than 800AD and most of those have been incorporated into later, larger buildings, or are fragments.

A backwater these days, West Durham has had its moments in history. In the nineteenth century it was in the vanguard of the industrial revolution with great industries of coal, iron, and steel. But long before, and in a very different way, this region was also wide-awake. The northern half of what was not yet England was evangelised by the Celtic church of Columba, Cuthbert, Aidan and Bede, the well-spring from which Christianity and learning spread in those post Roman dark ages.

Probably some years after 600 AD (the wholly Celtic layout of the church suggests before the influence of Augustine's 'southern' building style which followed the Synod of Whitby in 664 AD), a settler party of Angles came across the North Sea and, tramping up the valley of the Wear, founded a new home in a 'combe' by the river. Converted by Celtic monks under the protection of King Oswald of Northumbria, they built their house for worship not in wood, as was usual, but in stone taken from the Roman fort across the river which the Sixth Legion had abandoned in 410 AD. Largely unaltered for 1300 years, this little church can have survived for one reason only. In all those years nothing happened down in the combe by the river. The later expansion of the village was on top of the hill, and another church was built. No-one here had money, plans or ambitions. No-one important took up residence. The little road led nowhere. But the church continued to stand, used for worship, never abandoned, (though it had a narrow escape in the nineteenth century before its cause was taken up by a local antiquary).

Today you come down the wooded hill surprised to find it at the bottom, surrounded by a small estate of very plain post war council houses. These stand on the site of the old village which was largely demolished by Bishop Auckland Council. The churchyard is bounded by a circular stone wall like a pound, the church standing in the middle. A porch was added in the 12th century and a notice on the door informs you that the key hangs by the back door of the house opposite. It turns easily in the lock. The building looks small enough from the outside, but inside it is tinier still with walls nearly 2 ½ feet thick, the nave only 50 feet by 15 and the chancel 10 feet square.

The chancel arch is wholly a piece of Roman lost property, tall, narrow and military-looking. The original windows are small and set high up, a reminder that the church was the only secure place to which those living in a village of hovels could flee. The wooden beamed roof stands almost as high as the nave is long. The signs of regular worship and care are present. There is fresh linen, polish, and a visitor guide. It is a quiet and holy place, its timelessness inviting prayer.

John Ryle

Spring is in sight

Gardening jobs for February and March

Source Royal Horticultural Society

In February there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and birds and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There is plenty to do indoors this month, all in preparation for the season ahead. Outdoors, the garden is coming to life again and it is time to clean ponds and prune shrubs such as wisteria.

Top ten jobs for February

1. Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some vegetables under cover
2. Chit potato tubers
3. Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches
4. Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
5. Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
6. Divide bulbs such as snowdrops and plant those that need planting 'in the green'
7. Prune wisteria
8. Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
9. Prune conservatory climbers
10. Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over winter

Be aware that freezing spells may have made ground water unavailable to plant roots. Plants could be on the dry side, despite the winter weather. Warm water makes effective irrigation in freezing conditions, especially for pots and containers, but only do this where absolutely necessary (e.g. for autumn-planted evergreens that are struggling to establish.)

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It is time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seeds, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

Top ten jobs for March

1. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
2. Protect new spring shoots from slugs
3. Plant summer-flowering bulbs
4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
7. Cut back *Cornus* (dog wood) and *Salix* (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
8. Keep on top of weeding
9. Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
10. Open the greenhouse or conservatory doors and vents on warm days

Widespread showers will feature throughout the month of March but the total rainfall is usually lower than earlier in the year. Heavy showers and melting snow continue to wash nutrients out of the soil, which will benefit from a mid-spring application of fertiliser. As temperatures rise and rainfall lessens, the soil begins to drain and become more workable.



Young People's Corner

Shrove Tuesday

Spotlight on Pancake Day – 12th February 2013

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is celebrated throughout the UK by the cooking and eating of pancakes, a last feast before the fasting and self-denial of Lent. In some places pancake races are held where participants run along tossing a pancake as they go.

Another name for Shrove Tuesday is 'Fat Tuesday' or 'Mardi Gras', so called because of the tradition of eating rich food before fasting for Lent. The famous New Orleans Mardi Gras is celebrated on this day.



Pancakes (makes 8) – get an adult to help you

100g (4oz) plain flour

Pinch salt

1 egg, size 3

300ml (½ pint) milk (or milk and water)

Method

- Mix flour and salt in a basin, make a hollow in the centre and drop in the egg
- Stir with a wooden spoon and add the liquid gradually, until all the flour is worked in
- Beat well and add the remaining liquid
- The consistency should be like single cream
- FOR EACH PANCAKE heat a small amount of oil in the frying pan. When it is hot stir the batter and place approximately 3 x 15ml spoons (3 tablespoons) into the pan swirling it around to fill the sides – adjust amount according to pan size
- When golden brown underneath, toss or turn and cook the other side
- Turn out onto greaseproof paper or baking parchment, sprinkle with sugar and roll up
- Place on a hot dish and serve immediately with syrup, lemon or orange juice

Handy Tips

1. Make your batter either the night before Pancake Day or on the morning of the day. Letting the batter relax results in much better pancakes.
2. For an extra rich batter use full fat milk and melted butter
3. Whatever size pan you use, the batter must be about 2mm thick in the bottom of the pan. You should not be able to see through the batter.
4. Remember, unless you are very lucky, the first pancake will most likely stick. Do not worry, this is perfectly normal. (You can give it to the dog!)
5. Clean out the frying pan with a piece of kitchen roll and add more butter or oil each time – you will be less likely to get burnt bits

Sources: Be-Ro recipe book, the Internet and Encyclopaedia Britannica

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

LENT LUNCHES

At 12 noon on Thursdays until 1.30pm

Please contact

SUE ROWLAND on 22484

for further information

Thursday 14th February

at Carole and David Butcher's
High Ivah, Lowgill. Tel: 63095

Thursday 21st February

at Brian and Olive Beard's
Riggs Farm, Tatham. Tel: 62478

Thursday 28th February

at Sue and Mark Rowland's
Tatham House, The Gars, Wray. Tel: 22484

**Other Thursday venues in March will be
posted on church notice boards**

ALSO

at 12 noon until 1.30pm

Saturday 16th February

at Cowan Bridge Village Hall
organised by Eleanor Denby Tel: 21793

AND

at 12noon until 2pm

Saturday March 2nd

at Tunstall Parish Hall
organised by Jane Greenhalgh Tel: 74260

ALL WELCOME



LENT COURSE

7PM – 9PM

EVERYBODY IN THE BENEFICE WELCOME

The first meeting, followed by a light supper will be held at Tunstall House Cottage, Tunstall. Please phone Jane on 74260 if you would like to come.

First session Monday 18th February

Second session Tuesday 26th February

Third session Tuesday 5th March

Fourth session Tuesday 12th March

Fifth session Tuesday 19th March

WOMEN' WORLD

DAY OF PRAYER

Prepared by the women
of France

Friday 1st March at 2.00pm
at Wray Methodist Church

ALL WELCOME

MOTHERING SUNDAY

10th March

**Please see Service times
for all the services
on this special day**



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FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WRAY CHURCH

'Joyful Noise'

Thursday 7th February at 2.00pm

Thursday 7th March at 2.00pm

'After School Club'

Friday 15th February at 3.15pm

Friday 15th March at 3.15pm

MONDAY NIGHT GROUP

AT HIND LEA, MILLHOUSES

Discussion group for young people
every other Monday night

during term time for year 9 and upwards

**Please contact Mary Winter
21784 for further details of all the above**

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VALENTINE BISTROS

Saturdays 9th and 16th February

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday 10th March

Bookings: Call Karen on 015242 22496