

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life:

June and July 2015



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

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

The team of clergy and lay-people who run our Services at the six churches are:

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Revd Canon Professor Robert Hannaford Tel: 015242 74376
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**For further details please go to the Benefice website
'Benefice of East Lonsdale'**

<http://eastlonsdalebenefice.wordpress.com>

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**This issue is sponsored as a tribute
to Dennis and Eleanor, father and daughter
for their June birthday month**

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Copy date for the August and September issue

Sunday 12th July

EDITORIAL

In this issue you will find an account by Peter Osborne of a visit to the Basilica of San Domenico in Bologna and an article by Ann Dawson about 'Belonging to Church'. May I wish you all peace for the spring and summer months, especially those who mourn the loss of loved ones **Carole Butcher**

DIARY OF A LUNE VALLEY VICAR by Mark Cannon

Friday: 'Oh, Vicar' breathes Fiona Bruce (off the telly), 'you are too strong.' No, this is not some mad Vicar fantasy, this was the nineteenth 'take' of me greeting Fiona Bruce as she walked up the path to Tunstall Church front door. We have been filming for BBC1's 'Fake or Fortune' - a programme designed to weed out the genuine article from fakers and cons and I had grasped her hand rather too heartily. Did I pass the test to qualify as a real Vicar? We will have to wait until July to find out. Anyway, filming continued in church as Fiona, Philip Mould (also off the telly - Antiques Roadshow), Jane our churchwarden and I self-gawped at our Old Master hanging on the side wall where it had been ignored by sleeping congregations for over 150 years. There was a tricky moment when Philip asked me to identify the various figures on the canvas. I was pretty certain that the dead body was Our Lord and that one of the ladies was Mary, because every other woman in the Gospels is called Mary, but I was stumped by the shadowy men in the background. Was that young man 'Gary' our Lord's neighbour's nephew? Jane dived in, I suspect she had been doing some revision, and she marked the old gent in a hat as Nicodemus. She was, as all churchwardens inevitably are, correct. She was invited back for another day of filming and I was given the elbow.

Monday: In to work in the centre of Lancaster with a pocketful of change to park up for a few hours. I have to find £3.90 (that is where your collections go) and I have many, many 5p pieces (again, from the collections of the devout). Forty five coins will give me half of what is needed. It takes a long time to put forty 5p pieces in a slot and the lady behind snorts a little. We married men take that in our stride but at about the £1.85 level the machine disgorges all my coins and a message flashes up 'Rejected'. So the BBC does not want me and nor does the parking machine. I'm just glad I'm not a UKIP parliamentary candidate or else I would feel very unloved.

Friday: At the funeral of a much loved parishioner we sing 'What a friend we have in Jesus.' When it seems that the whole world no longer values you at all, when you have turned your face against everyone else, then this simple phrase will ring true. His arms are always open.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

St James the Less, Tatham

The snowdrops and daffodils have gone and it is now bluebell time. Emily Brontë wrote that 'The bluebell is the sweetest flower that waves in summer time' I wonder if she saw them at Tunstall or Cowan Bridge.

Easter was celebrated, as it should be, as a happy and triumphant occasion as indeed was our service the following Sunday celebrating Marriage, linked to the Golden Wedding of John and Barbara Harrison. Sadly they have now left us to live in Caton but we are assured of their continued valued support.

Wray Festival brought two days of hard work; catering on the first Sunday followed by a stall on Fair Day. We were blessed with good weather on both days and assisted by our Friends, old and new, we raised a goodly sum for church

funds. It was also an opportunity to 'fly the flag' of St James the Less and demonstrate that we are not just good cooks but we also enjoy ourselves.

To end on a very sad note, we report the deaths of Elaine Poulton in late March, Elaine's funeral service was held on 27th March, and of Dick Kelsall in late April, Dick's funeral service was held on 7th May. Dick was a stalwart of our Church for many years, not only a regular attender but a giver of much practical help. We will miss him and treasure his memory.

John Holt

Holy Trinity Church, Wray

The weather was mixed during the week of our Scarecrow Festival and Fair in Wray but thankfully the Monday of Fair Day was sunny and very warm. The ladies of the church held an exhibition in church of all things connected with sheep amidst a beautiful display of flowers. Visitors, especially the farmers, were very complimentary and enjoyed seeing the exhibits. Thank you to everyone who loaned such a variety of sheep related items making the exhibition so much more interesting. On Wray Fair Day the vicar gave excellent performances in church as a 'Punch and Judy' entertainer with his newly acquired set of characters. The children (and Ann) were greatly delighted with the show.

On Sunday 3rd May, Mary organised a 'Songs of Praise' in church during the afternoon. Favourite hymns were chosen and some members gave a short talk about their choices. Many visitors to the festival joined the congregation and we had a fine sing. Mary continues to hold her popular meetings for the young people in the parish.

The first phase of our improvement project is almost complete with the reordering of the nave and chancel space. Phase 2, the installation of a new heating system, has also been approved in principle by the Diocese and new radiators will be installed within weeks. We now begin to prepare plans for a kitchen and WC to follow as phases 3 and 4. Eventually we will clean the window lights and decorate the whole interior, also improving the lighting. Shortly we shall have on display an example of the new seating which we intend to install in the chancel now the old choir stalls have gone. These very handsome chairs will soon be available for sponsoring in memory of loved ones and there will be an appeal to pay for them.

Ann Anderson, Judith Wrigley, John Ryle

Good Shepherd Church, Tatham Fells

Our Easter Day service led by Mark was celebrated with joy as usual. The church looked at its best filled with spring flowers.

The marriage of Nicholas Benson and Maureen Marguerie took place on Saturday 11th April and members of our congregation came along to sing. We wish Nicholas and Maureen every blessing in their future life together.

At our family service on Good Shepherd Sunday John Wilson brought a baby lamb to church. Peter Osborne led the service and told the children the story of the Good Shepherd. The children helped to feed the lamb at the end.

In the afternoon of the same day we welcomed Archie James Thistlethwaite, the son of Matthew and Fiona to our church family in a service of Holy Baptism. We wish Archie every blessing in his future life.

Our catering day at Wray Scarecrow Festival was held on the first Saturday of the Festival. The weather was cold and damp but this did not deter visitors in the morning or the runners in the early afternoon.

Sadly I have to report the deaths of Thomas Edwin Briggs (Tommy) and John Robert Smith (Jack). Tommy was Church Warden at our church for many years and Jack was also an attender at our church. Tommy was buried on 24th April and Jack on 28th April.

Carole Butcher

St John the Baptist, Tunstall

Easter and the church was filled with flowers and two good congregations. The Good Friday Service was perhaps not as well attended as in years gone by, but Easter Sunday had a good attendance of both adults and children, it was good to see so many families.

Spring cleaning took place of April 2nd in preparation for both Easter and the wedding of Jonathon Moffit and Jane Purcell on April 10th. There will be two more deep cleans on June 11th and June 25th both at 10am followed by cake, coffee and a chat as usual; everyone is welcome whether a churchgoer or not. These cleaning sessions are in preparation for two more weddings on June 20th and July 4th. We are all indebted to Jackie Beesley for organising these and also to Steve Barber, ably assisted by Carol, for cleaning the windows. The vestry and the passage leading to it have also had a good clear out making it less hazardous to get into the vestry!

The BBC will be filming again at the church on Monday June 15th; this will be the final day of filming for 'Fake or Fortune' which will be broadcast in July/August on BBC1. Hopefully I will have that date for the next issue.

There will be a meeting in church on Monday June 1st at 7pm; all are welcome. There is much to discuss and there will be an update on the picture.

It is hoped to have a Taize Service before the end of summer, possibly on a Friday or Saturday evening.

Date for your diary The Haffner Orchestra will be in concert at Tunstall Church on Saturday October 3rd; more details to follow.

The Church Wardens would like to express their warmest thanks and appreciation to all those who have given financially to the Church over the past 12 months. We are particularly grateful for planned giving under the Gift Aid rules because it enables the Church to recover an additional 25% of the donations from the Government thereby contributing one third of the costs required to keep the church open.

If any donors would like details of their gifts to the Church for the fiscal year ended 5th April 2015 for tax return purposes or indeed if anyone would like details of how to give to the Church in this tax efficient manner, please do not hesitate to contact our treasurer, Robert Rawkins, on 015242 73210 (robert@robertrawkins.co.uk).

Jane Greenhalgh and Sue Hunter

St Wilfrid's, Melling

We have had a quiet spring in Melling, Wrayton and Wennington. The congregation is feeling somewhat depleted; Max and Caroline Godfrey have moved some distance south, Jessie Gregson who was in hospital for a while is now in a care home and sadly a long time member of the congregation, Reg Braddon, died earlier this year. On the positive side we have had three christenings so far.

In my last contribution I was hoping for a quiet Lent and Easter and generally that has been the case, at least in church if not at home. The school provided an excellent rendition of the Easter story and the children were duly rewarded with seasonal chocolate eggs at a service that was particularly well attended.

Most effort now is going into planning future events. We have a churchyard 'tidy up day' planned for June and I will be hosting a thank you party, also in June, for our volunteers who help to clean the church, arrange the flowers, keep the churchyard tidy and generally help out at events.

JAC Beeson

St Peter's Church, Leck

Our Easter Sunday service was well attended and the choir sang a new anthem – 'Christians, shout for joy and gladness' (Bach) – which seemed to be well received. Our special thanks go to Peter Wodeman who played the organ for us and who lead the choir with great skill.

These last two months have been pretty uneventful in Leck. We have had our Quinquennial Inspection and await the report. We are, optimistically, not anticipating too many problems although we have been plagued by jackdaws nesting outside the netted louvre window and hurling twigs through the mesh into the belfry – what a mess! Do any of the other churches have a similar problem?

A date for the diary: On Saturday 27th June, Janet and David Nutall are hosting a Jazz Barbecue in their garden at The Old Vicarage. Further details appear on page 11.

Joan Withers

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR JUNE AND JULY

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

PLEASE NOTE the services are correct at the time of going to press but the person or persons taking the service may change

JUNE

Thursday 4th	Feast of Corpus Christi		
7.00pm	Holy Communion	Tunstall	Robert
Sunday 7th	First Sunday after Trinity		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
9.30am	Family Service	Melling	Robert
10.00am	'Messy Church'	Wray	Mark and Mary
11.00am	Family Service	Tatham Fells	Peter
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert
Sunday 14th	Second Sunday after Trinity		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Robert
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Mark
7.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
Sunday 21st	Third Sunday after Trinity		
	Birth of John the Baptist		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion	Tatham Fells	Robert
10.00am	Morning Service	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Robert
	<i>(A joint service for Tunstall, Melling and Leck)</i>		
Sunday 28th	Fourth Sunday after Trinity		
	Feast of St Peter		

10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Robert
11.00am	Sung Eucharist <i>(A joint service for Leck, Tunstall and Melling)</i>	Leck	Mark
6.00pm	Garden Service at Clearbeck House	Tatham Fells	Peter

JULY

Sunday 5th Fifth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Robert
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Morning Service	Wray	Peter
11.00am	Family Service	Tatham Fells	Robert
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Mark

Sunday 12th Sixth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Robert
10.00am	Holy Communion	Wray	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Mary
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Mark
7.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann

Sunday 19th Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Peter
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Visiting Priest
10.00am	Family Service	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Visiting Priest

Sunday 26th Eighth Sunday after Trinity

11.00am	Family Communion <i>A service for all six churches followed by a picnic</i>	Tatham	Mark
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FROM THE REGISTERS

Tatham Fells, Funerals

Thomas Edwin Briggs (Tommy)
John Robert Smith (Jack)

Tunstall, Wedding

Jonathon William Moffitt
Jane Eve Purcell

Tatham Fells, Wedding

Nicholas Benson
Maureen Bernadette Marguerie

Low Tatham, Funerals

Elaine Poulton
Dick Kelsall

Tatham Fells, Baptism

Archie James Thistlethwaite
son of Matthew and Fiona

THE BIG CHURCH WITH A LITTLE TREASURE



**Angel of Arca di San Domenico
in the Basilica of San Domenico, Bologna, Italy**

Fronting the large Piazza Domenico in Bologna is the imposing church of the saint who founded the preaching order of monks, the Dominicans. They were never quite the same humane and nature-loving order as the Franciscans and the church of their founder is imposingly large, a bit forbidding.

Inside there is the smell of incense and the wide open nave of a preaching church. Off this great space to right and left open chapels, each with its own enormous Baroque altar piece. They are rather too grand, dark and over-competent for modern taste and nobody was looking at them.

By contrast there was a stir in the right-hand transept. There were iron gates which you can enter after tinkling some coins in a box for 'offerings'. Inside people were wrapt, walking round and round a sculpted altar- the 'arca' of St. Dominic - where his remains are kept in a silver casket. You can see it through a window at the back. But this was not what was causing the stir. The arca is covered with marble sculpture, the earliest by Nicola Pisano, the 'Giotto' of sculpture. But not even that was the interest.

Higher up there are free-standing figures of saints and angels, and three of them were made by the young Michelangelo; but which? People were trying to distinguish them. The figures are small, about two feet high and apparently similar. But when you look closely the work of the boy genius stands out. There is an angel and two saints, Procolo and Petronio, the patron saint of the town. It was a privilege for a youngster to be asked to make this last. And, when you look closely you are rewarded by seeing already the special against the more ordinary, though all are good.

In Michelangelo's the clothing is more substantial and responds to the body's movement. There is additional tension and observation in the limbs. Above all there is something special in the faces, an intensity, a wide out-going look and a lively expression of eagerness to embrace God's world - the first signs of that thrusting power which would distinguish the mature work of this outstanding, and Christian, sculptor.

Peter Osborne

'Belonging to church'

Last year the Bishop of Manchester was awarded a doctorate for his research into those who say they belong to the Church of England. As part of his study he identified four different dimensions of 'belonging' with most people seeing themselves as one of these.

Do one or more of these describe your 'belonging to church'?

If you are an **Activity** person you make a commitment to do things regularly – go to church, join a committee, attend study groups, join planned giving schemes, help with cleaning or flower arranging, for example.

If you are an **Event** person you are more comfortable with one-off occasions such as Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Carol Services, Midnight Communion, Christenings and Weddings.

People belongers identify with church through relationships, so even some who rarely come to church will say that the vicar or churchwarden knows them well. They may attend services if invited by a friend or neighbour.

The final dimension is one of **Place**. The church building often gives the village or community its identity, those who rarely venture into a church can be extremely disturbed if it seems that the building may be closed. Equally the church where people married, had their children christened, or held the funeral for a loved one will be a special place of 'belonging' for them.

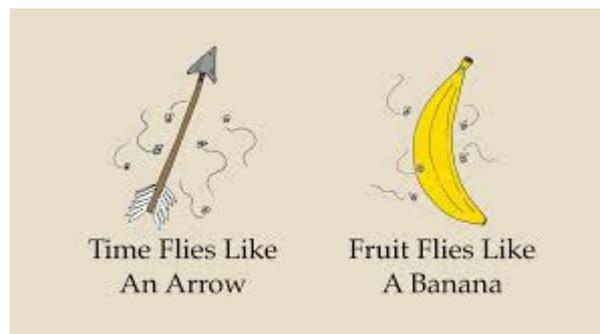
Whilst the 'Active' people are the backbone of any church, the backbone isn't the whole body. A preference for events, people, or place above activity is in no way proof of a weak faith, no more than a preference for one style of worship is. If other ways of belonging can be shallow, so can regular churchgoing. All 'belongers' are just that and we should welcome them warmly, for whichever dimension motivates it, engagement with God can be profound and can radically change our way of seeing life.

Ann Dawson

Puns for educated minds

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.



Children's corner

The Parable of the lost sheep

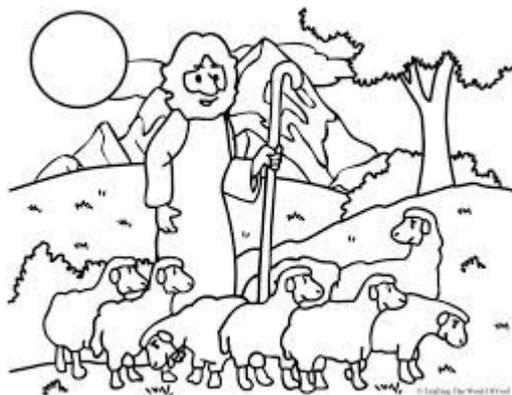


Jesus often taught his disciples things about God by telling them stories about things that happen every day. These stories are called parables.

In the parable of the lost sheep there was a man who had a hundred sheep. Every morning he took them from the fold (a safe place where they stayed at night) on a hillside and led them to new, fresh pastures. Later in the day he would take them to a quiet stream or if there was no stream nearby he would draw water from a well for them to drink. At night the good shepherd took them up the hill again to the fold. Every day the sheep and lambs followed the shepherd wherever he took them. He called them by name and they came to him. Every night he would count them to make sure they were all there.

One night one little lamb was missing. Somehow it had strayed away and became lost. If the shepherd left it and did not go and look for the little lamb it would surely be killed by some wild animals like wolves. The shepherd did not want to leave it so he left the other sheep safely in the fold and went to find it. He went searching until he found the lost one (Matthew 18: 12-13). When he found the little lamb it was tired, hungry and cold. The good shepherd put it on his shoulder and carried it back to the fold. He did not scold it but he rejoiced and was very happy that he had found it.

In this parable the shepherd was Jesus (John 10: 11). The 'sheep' are men, women and children. Jesus was showing the disciples that God and Jesus really care for us and they want us to be one of their lambs or sheep.



EVENTS AND INFORMATION

CLEARBECK OPEN GARDENS

Bronwen and Peter Osborne
will be opening their lovely gardens
under the National Garden Scheme
on the following dates

Sundays 21st June and 28th June

11am - 5pm

Refreshments - Tatham Fells Church
and Save the Children Fund

GARDEN SERVICE

at 6pm on Sunday 28th June

All welcome

The garden is on Mewith Lane and is
signed from Wray and Low Bentham

We are holding a plant stall

THE FRIENDS OF LOWER TATHAM CHURCH

invite you to explore

THE HIDDEN GARDENS OF WENNINGTON

AND LOWER TATHAM

On Sunday July 5th 1pm - 5pm

Tickets, map and refreshments
on The Green in Wennington
homemade cakes and scones

Teas, coffees and soft drinks

Admission: £4

Children free

ST JAMES THE LESS LOW TATHAM

FAMILY COMMUNION AND PICNIC

Sunday 26th July at 11.00am

A lovely start to the summer

Please come and join us.

JOYFUL NOISE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB IN WRAY CHURCH

June

Joyful Noise Thursday 4th at 2pm

After School Club Friday 12th straight
after school until 4.45pm

July

Joyful Noise Thursday 9th at 2pm

(picnic at the Tea Rooms)

After School Club Friday 17th straight
after school until 4.45pm

(at Mary's if fine, in church if wet)

HANNAH'S SUMMER FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF EXODUS HOUSE ORPHANAGE

SUNDAY JULY 5TH

1.30PM - 5.30PM

AT HIND LEA, MILLHOUSES

OPEN GARDEN

Home made refreshments

Children's activities

Various stalls

Live music

throughout the afternoon

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH, LECK JAZZ BARBECUE

on Saturday 27th June

in the garden of

Janet and David Nuttall

The Old Vicarage

Given by

THE LUNE VALLEY JAZZ BAND

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details from Janet 015242 72556

or Sally 07767 821 756

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