

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life:

February and March 2018



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:

Revd Mark Cannon (Vicar) Tel: 015242 21030

Revd Canon Norman and Dr Ann Dawson Tel: 015242 62936

Sister Sue OCMM (Revd Canon Dr Sue Williams) Tel: 03330 119 563

Peter Osborne Tel: 015242 61029

Mary Winter Tel: 015242 21784

YOUTH WORKER Lauren Platt Tel: 07875 311 938

For further details please go to the Benefice website

'Benefice of East Lonsdale'

<http://eastlonsdalebenefice.wordpress.com>

CHURCH CONTACTS

WRAY HOLY TRINITY	Judith Wrigley Ann Anderson	Tel: 015242 21120 Tel: 015242 21173
TATHAM ST JAMES THE LESS	Phyllis Holt	Tel: 015242 21443
TATHAM FELLS GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH	Carole Butcher John Wilson	Tel: 015242 63095 Tel: 03330 062 270
TUNSTALL ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	Sue Hunter	Tel: 015242 72540
MELLING ST WILFRID	JAC Beeson	Tel: 015242 21638
LECK ST PETER	Joan Withers	Tel: 01539 724201

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**Copy date for the April and May 2018 edition
Saturday 10th March**

DIARY OF A LUNE VALLEY VICAR by Mark Cannon

Christmas Eve At 11.00pm I arrive at Melling. The 'Car Park' has had its lawful occupants – a flock of ewes – evicted; no room for them at the inn tonight. Thinking to do the rest of the bumper congregation a good Christian turn, I unlatch the gate, peg it back, and drive in. I am not (according to any of my passengers) a good driver but even I know something is up when the car moves as much sideways as forwards before coming to a wheel-spinning stop in a mudbath.

The congregation is as sympathetic as usual and the sheeps' owner expresses the opinion that he shut the gate as he couldn't imagine why anyone in their right senses would even attempt to park there. I thought I'd be in for a true Christmas night vigil a-keeping watch o'er a flock by night, but generous and muscular assistance is offered and I'm back by 1.30am.

One of those days after Christmas when no one can remember what day it is I'm in Edinburgh where many fir trees are discarded by the bins. Clearly Christmas only lasts until Boxing Day up here. I go for a haircut and select the barber by price. If it's in double figures I walk away. The Turkish barber is cheap, and offers an additional and necessary service of setting fire to your ears as well. I follow a young student who is so intertwined with his girlfriend that I expect her to be still entangled with him in the chair. After the deed is done, the barber asks for £9, and whispers in my ear ... 'Unless Sir qualifies for the pensioners' discount?' Well, I thought I was closer to the students than the grave but once again my perspective of myself is far from how I am seen by others.

I had thought I was doing a favour on Christmas Eve and ended up causing more work. I thought I was still young and may now have to stop wearing skinny jeans and calling people 'bro'.

And I may have to pay more attention to God. He has a communication problem and it is with us. He has a good word and, in Jesus, a good product but we think that we don't need to listen, or that we don't need Him. 'Not me, Lord' we say, 'not me. Surely He means someone else.' ... and if He ever asked, we could give him a pretty list. But it *is* me he is talking to and it *is* me who needs to listen just because I can so easily fool myself that I am OK and don't need His Word.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

St John the Baptist, Tunstall

Happy New Year to you all; when I look back over a very busy Christmas period there were some very special memories.

Mark led a 'Christingle Themed' 'Messy Church' which was particularly enjoyed by the children and gave us the true meaning. Thank you to the team who decorated and cleaned the Church for Christmas, it looked stunning under the careful direction of Jean Dalkin.

The Carol Service in the Village Hall, was led beautifully by Mark. Thank you to everyone who helped with mince pies, sausage rolls and drinks. This helped us raise £200 which went to LDHAS, for which we were very grateful.

Christmas Eve was well attended with over 100 in the congregation. We were joined by 3 Virgin Marys, 3 Baby Jesus' and a reindeer. Christmas Day was also a busy but special service.

We had two christenings in December; Henry John Stephenson and Harry Oliver Jones, both were conducted by Mark. We send congratulations and blessings to Henry and Harry and all their families.

We also had the burial of ashes of Granvill and Madeline Percival who are now at rest together. RIP.

We are already into the New Year and the bulbs are coming up quickly in the Churchyard, thank you to the strong team of men who helped to make some of the gravestones safe.

As a result of the Church Survey, many people want more use of the Church so I have put together a programme for the next 6 months. Please come along if you want to try something new or just enjoy some company and a cup of tea and cake. This will include the Lent Lunch on Monday 12th March at 12 noon, in the Village Hall, which will be followed by dominoes, cards and chess; come and make an afternoon of it. On 5th and 6th May the Church will be open all weekend for a Craft, Art and Flower display. If you would like to contribute, please get in touch with me. My details appear on page 2 or on my mobile (07714 765 345) **Sue Hunter**

St James the Less, Tatham

I don't imagine January is everyone's favourite month! Today is cold, grey, damp and foggy but I think it has stayed lighter a bit longer this evening and there are many other positives.

Looking back the highlight of Christmas here, as always, was the Carol and Crib Service on Christmas Eve at which some 130 friends and families enjoyed Norman and Ann's usual happy celebration. The Wenning Singers added greatly to the atmosphere and a very generous retiring collection allowed us to donate £300 to each of two local causes, the Hospice and Lancaster Homeless Action; thank you. Looking ahead now, as an antidote to my gloomy start, there is much to which to look forward; starting with Plough Sunday on Sunday 14th January with Mike Winstanley's fascinating research into the history of this old rural tradition, Bacon Butties, not to mention Mark's leadership. A great future programme has been put together by The Friends and details of this appear on page 11 under 'Events and Information. May 2018 be a happy and prosperous year for us all. **John Holt**

St Peter's, Leck

A happy and healthy 2018 to everyone! It was a quiet Christmas at Leck as there was no service on Christmas Day but we had a well attended and enjoyable Carol Service on the 17th December when, after our hearty singing, everyone tucked into sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine; a big Thank You to everyone who contributed in any way to making the evening so enjoyable.

We also had another splendid Carol Service during the following week when St Peter's School pupils put on their usual array of talents including a soloist for the first verse of Once in Royal. I must also thank them for the lovely festive window display.

The response to our church survey was encouraging. The results showed that people liked to attend the main church festivals such as Christmas and Easter but also welcomed the recent and less formal services, such as 'Messy Church'. They would like more social and community events such as concerts and society meetings and would like to include more children in church, social and possibly sporting activities. Our thanks go to all those who filled in the survey and at the time of writing we hope that as many of them as possible will attend the meeting arranged for 12 noon on Sunday 21 January in the church. This was a public meeting for all those who wish to have a say in the future plans for the church. We hope to present preliminary plans for a proposed loo at the meeting as well as discussing other suggestions made. **Ann Shuttleworth/Joan Withers**

Holy Trinity, Wray

December is always a very busy month for us. It began with the joint Carol Service held in our church with our friends from Wray Methodist Chapel. This was well attended with everyone enjoying singing Carols and listening to readings. Mary

Winter's Christmas Choir also sang two pieces during the service. This is always an excellent start to the Christmas season. Our Carols by Candlelight led by Mary was a very enjoyable evening of music, singing and readings. Mary's Choir again entertained and the Carols were accompanied by our friends the Longton singers. This was followed by an excellent Jacob's Join and we again marvelled at the variety of goods people brought; thank you to everyone.

The Instant Nativity on Christmas Eve was a huge success and we even had a donkey this year! The following day on Christmas morning the Communion Service was well attended. On the first Sunday of the New Year we held our popular congregation led Evening Prayer. Jean Argles led the service and there was a good attendance as usual.

On the 21st January it was our 'Messy Church' and 'Christingle' with Mark and Mary. There was plenty to do for all ages and the usual bacon butties were served. We will be holding a Lent Lunch in our church on Thursday 22nd March from 12 noon to 2pm. Everyone is welcome, please come and join us. At the PCC meeting it was decided that we will open our church daily from 25th March for anyone to look around. It will be open each morning and afternoon. Anyone is welcome just to walk in and spend some time there.

Ann Anderson/Judith Wrigley

St Wilfrid's, Melling

December, as ever, went with something of a flurry with a Village Carol Service held with St Wilfrid's School, Wennington Hall School Carol Service, Christingle and a Midnight Mass for Christmas Day. These services were attended by nearly 500 people, which goes to show that despite the financial difficulties we experience, the heartbeat of our Church is sound. 2017 was certainly difficult for us but we have emerged with our contribution to our Parish Share fully paid, electrical circuitry updated, bulbs replaced, leaks fixed in heating and a renewed spring in our step. I would like to say a big thank you to all who supported St Wilfrid's during 2017, donors, volunteers and not forgetting our clergy team. Our thanks also go to the Bishop and the Diocesan Board of Finance who have agreed to write off our historic debt; 2018 promises to be another hectic year but as we did it last year, so too can we do it again, and more, this year.

Our agenda this year is to develop the liturgy 'light' Singing Sundays services and continue the concert programme, whilst ensuring formal services continue on a fortnightly basis. Attention will be given to the west door and reluctantly, we will have to evict the jackdaws who have colonised the bell platform. There will be a number of fund raising events but there will be more about those in the next issue; Happy New Year to one and all.

JAC Beeson

Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells

The children and families from Tatham Fells School joined our congregation on Sunday 3rd December for their annual Christmas presentation. This year it was given by KS1 who performed 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' to a delighted congregation. Our thanks go to the staff and children for making the start of the Festive Season so special, Refreshments were served by The Friends in the Old School afterwards. Church was full for our Traditional Carol Service on December 17th, where we had readers from the various organisations in the parish and where mince pies, shortbread and mulled wine were served afterwards. Christmas Eve midnight communion was quieter and then we welcomed people from the whole Benefice to our New Year Service on December 29th during which we symbolically left with God our burdens from 2017 and faced 2018 with renewed hope.

Carole Butcher

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2018

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th	Feast of the Presentation	Candlemas	
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Christingle Service	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Holy Communion	Leck	Sue
2.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Wray	Congregation

Sunday 11th	Sunday Next before Lent		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Sue
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion	Tunstall	Mark
2.15pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Peter

Wednesday 14th	Ash Wednesday		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
6.00pm	Holy Communion at St Joseph's House	Tunstall	Sue

Sunday 18th	First Sunday of Lent		
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Holy Communion	Tatham Fells	Sue
11.00am	Holy Communion	Melling	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	Leck	Congregation

Sunday 25th	Second Sunday of Lent		
9.30am	Morning Service	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
10.00am	Family Service	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Holy Communion	Tatham	Sue
11.00am	Morning Service	Tunstall	Mark

MARCH

Sunday 4th	Third Sunday of Lent		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion	Leck	Sue
2.15pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
2.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Wray	Congregation

Sunday 11th	Mothering Sunday		
9.30am	Mothering Sunday service with Melling School	Melling	Mark
10.00am	Messy Church for Mothering Sunday	Wray	Mary
11.00am	Mothering Sunday service with Tatham Fells School	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Mothering Sunday service	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday	Tunstall	Sue

Sunday 18th	Fifth Sunday of Lent		
	Passion Sunday		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Morning Service	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Holy Communion	Melling	Sue
11.00am	Morning Service	Leck	Mark
Sunday 25th	Palm Sunday		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Sue
9.30am	Morning Service	Tatham Fells	Peter
11.00am	Holy Communion	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Morning Service	Tunstall	Norman and Ann

ST JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF PRAYER, CHURCH LANE, TUNSTALL

Daily Service Times in the Bethany Chapel

The sisters keep Monday as their rest day

Tuesday - Saturday

7.00am Lauds followed by
Community intercessions
and silent prayer

7.30am Prime

8.00am Eucharist

12.45pm Sext

5.00pm Vespers

Sunday

7.00am Lauds

7.30am Prime

12.45pm Sext

5.00pm Vespers

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, Tunstall

Henry John Stephenson

Harry Oliver Jones

Funeral, Wray

Barrie Lindsay

Burial of Ashes, Tunstall

Granvill and Madeline Percival

Burial of Ashes, Wray

Margaret Wring

VISITING CHURCHES LEEDS MINSTER, ST PETER-AT-LEEDS



My granddaughter, Louisa, and her nursery class from 'Twinkles Nursery' just across the road gave a presentation of the Christmas Story here in early December and sang under the Christmas tree to a delighted audience. I had chance to have a good look around this beautiful building after the performance.

The present building was erected in 1841 to express the grace and compassion of God at a time when the surrounding area was a huddled mass of squalid housing and money was scarce. At the heart of this church the loving prayers of devoted people sustained the life of a growing city and the dedication of accomplished musicians reflected both the majesty and the mystery of God. Today the surrounding area is being reborn with the imaginative restoration of decayed buildings and new initiatives to attract the ever-growing number of visitors.

The Leeds Cross

The famous Leeds Cross is one of the earliest objects from the city's past. Parts of it, some of them damaged, were found in the walls of the medieval tower when the former building was demolished in 1838. Although not recognised for what it is, these fragments, together with others from at least another six crosses, were fortunately rescued by the architect, Robert Chantrell. Most of the cross was there, and he had new stones carved where pieces were missing, some more accurate than others, and rebuilt the cross in his garden in Headingley. When he retired and left Leeds the cross went with him, and only returned in church some years later.

The Leeds crosses, all dating from the 8th to 10th centuries, would have marked the graves of prominent people living and worshipping in the area. Carved crosses were a new fashion introduced by the Saxons and continued by the descendants of the Vikings; the style or decoration changed over time. The Leeds Cross dates from the 10th century and is of a style known as Anglo-Scandinavian. The wheel head of the top belongs to another cross. The carving includes vine scroll and interface as well as figures. One of the bottom panels tells the then well known story of the pagan hero, Weland the Smith, who having offended his king, escaped in a flying machine, possibly used here as a parallel for Christian stories and beliefs.

Mosaics

The very fine colourful mosaics behind the altar replaced the original 1838 design for the chancel and represent the twelve Apostles with St Paul and St Barnabas. They are by Salviati who is well known for his efforts to reproduce the range of colour and intensity of gold that he saw in the medieval mosaics in his home town of Venice – the cradle of medieval, and later, glass making in Europe. Each saint has different facial features and carries his symbol, for example St Peter has his keys and St James the Great his cockle shell.

Carole Butcher

**Women's World Day of Prayer Service
'All God's Creation is very good!'
2.00pm on Friday March 2nd**

at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells

Our interdenominational service this year is at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells, beginning at 2.00pm on Friday March 2nd and followed by refreshments in the Old School. All are welcome – men, women and children.

The service has been prepared by the women of Suriname, a country on the north eastern coast of South America. Suriname is part of the Guianas, meaning 'land of many waters'.

Over 90% of Suriname's land area is covered by tropical rain forest with great rivers and many rapids. A further 15% is coastal and less than 2 metres above sea level. It is a country of great biodiversity, rich with flowers and animals, and provides enough food for all its inhabitants.

In this service the women of Suriname urge us all to cherish God's gift of creation and to commit ourselves to caring for our world responsibly, so that we may pass it on, unspoiled, to future generations.

The same service has been translated into over 60 languages and 1,000 dialects and will be celebrated in 170 countries and islands.

Here in the British Isles some 6,000 services will be taking place – do join us at ours.

Ann Dawson

**Friends of St James the Less, Low Tatham
World War One Exhibition: Saturday 17th March 1.00pm until 4.30pm**

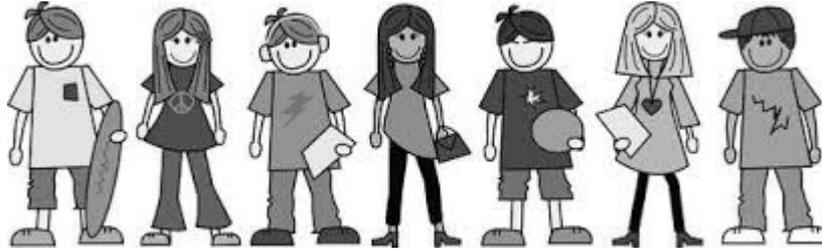
An exhibition will be held in St James the Less Church, Tatham on Saturday 17th March devoted to the memories of the First World War and in particular in involvement of local people. The event is being staged jointly by the Tatham History Society and the Friends of St James the Less.

During the day talks will be given by Stephen Roberts, Mike Winstanley and John Wilson recalling a number of battles in which local people were involved and describing the background of some of those listed on the Rolls of Honour in St James the Less Church and The Good Shepherd Church.

Why not come along and bring your own memorabilia and tell us about your ancestors who may have had an involvement in World War1?

Admission is free and light refreshments (including Trench Cake) will be available. Further information can be obtained from Colin Burford (015242 21890) and Mike Winstanley (015242 21277).

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WRAY CHURCH



Joyful Noise at 9.00am

February

Tuesday February 6th at 9.00am in Wray Church. We are hoping to have Joyful Noise every Tuesday as soon as we can organise it. Watch the Church notice board for announcements.

March

Tuesday March 6th at 9.00am in Wray Church. We are hoping to have Joyful Noise every Tuesday as soon as we can organise it. Watch the Church notice board for announcements.

After School Club until 4.45pm

February

Friday February 23rd in Wray Church until 4.45pm. Please either accompany your children or arrange for another parent to be in charge of them.

March

Friday March 16th in Wray Church until 4.45pm. Please either accompany your children or arrange for another parent to be in charge of them.

Good Friday Workshop: March 30th EVERYONE WELCOME

Dear Parents

Once again we are inviting you to encourage your child/ren to participate in Wray's Good Friday Workshop. Those of you whose children have taken part in the past will know how popular this event is. The day will include various hands-on activities and performance of a story in church.

ALL local school-age children are welcome. You DO NOT have to be a member of any church or chapel. Children may bring a friend; just let us know ahead of time. Activities are chiefly aimed at primary-aged children, but I am always delighted to hear from older siblings or friends who would like to come along as helpers. A few adult helpers will also be needed; do let me know if you would be interested.

The day will take place on Friday March 30th from 10.00am until c. 1.00pm. We will need to know numbers by Sunday March 26th. A registration form will be available through your child's school closer to the date. Please ring Mary on 21784 with any questions. Hope to see you there.

Mary Winter

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

LENT LUNCHES

Lent lunches this year will be held (as usual) on Thursdays from 12 noon to 1.30pm on the following dates:

February	15	Riggs Farm, Tatham (Olive and Brian Beard)
	22	Hawthorns, Lowgill (Liesel Fox)
March	1	St James the Less Church, Low Tatham (Congregation)
	8	Brackenbottom Barn, Lowgill (Margaret Baker)
	15	Laith House, Tatham Green (Althea/Martin Gillibrand)
	22	Holy Trinity Church, Wray (Wardens/Congregation)

ALL WELCOME Do please join us for soup/cheese/fellowship.
Proceeds to charities.

Contact: Liesel Fox on 015242 62486
Perhaps you might like to host a lunch next year?

ANNUAL LENT LUNCH AT TUNSTALL

Our Lent Lunch will be on Monday 12th March at 12 noon in the village hall followed by dominoes, cards and chess.

Contact: Sue Hunter on 015242 72540

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE LESS, TATHAM PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Sunday 25th February Levens Choir 2.30pm - 4.00pm in church. Light refreshments served afterwards. Tickets £10 from Sue Wood 015242 21170 or Rita Murphy 07962 710078.

Sunday 17th March World War 1 Exhibition 1.00pm onwards in church.

Sunday 22nd April 2pm - 4.00pm Turner 'Hornby Castle from Tatham Church' by Rhian Addison.

Saturday 14th July Jazz and Fizz at Station Farm, Wennington. Further details later.

www.lowertathamchurch.co.uk

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2018

**GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH
TATHAM FELLS
FRIDAY MARCH 2ND AT 2PM**

'All God's creation is very good'
Prepared by the women of Suriname
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The Old School

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