THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale

April and May 2020

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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For further details please go to the Benefice website
‘Benefice of East Lonsdale’
http://eastlonsdalebenefice.wordpress.com

CHURCH CONTACTS

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**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**
Sue Hunter Tel: 015242 72540

**MELLING**
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JAC Beeson Tel: 015242 21638

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**ST PETER**
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This issue has been sponsored by

The Church of St. John the Baptist Tunstall Trust

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Copy date for the June and July edition
14th May 2020
Diary of a Lune Valley Vicar

Sunday: Church full of young families, aunties etc ready for a Christening. Coronavirus? Pah! I suggest to the mum that the church guidelines indicate that the vicar shouldn’t hold the baby (not sure whether to protect the infant or the priest), but, anyway, we do it traditionally. No one sings the hymns, apart from the mother who has a lovely voice, which rises above the general groaning.

Monday: Didn’t think that yesterday would be the end of unbroken worship for the past 1000 years, but spend the evening on gmail asking wardens if they think we should close the churches. Most are for closure, but one makes a good case for continuing to be open for all. He points out that in a big church our usual congregation could easily distance themselves from others by several yards and still have room, and the Vicar could just stay up in the pulpit (without taking this as a licence to preach on and on..) . However, the majority feeling is that we ought to shut the shop. We may also have to cancel church meetings, so it’s not all bad news.

Tuesday: So this is it, and even though we have been anticipating this, it is a shock to find that our churches will now all be shut …no Mothering Sunday. At the same time, all the milk, bread, beans, and oil have vanished from the shop. Plenty of chocolate left, but, even though the Archbishops have closed more churches than Stalin, Lent is still in full force.

Wednesday: More emails, Whatsapps and calls. How can we continue to be a church when we can’t have our central Sunday focus, when we can’t get together? We are still working this out, and how we now thank all the social media that help us communicate today. Perhaps I can live-stream from an empty chapel on Sunday? That’s possible, but the singing won’t be up to much, so perhaps the BBC will do it better.

I am vaguely worried by this closure, if the suspension (far easier to impose than to lift) carries on for months, will church ever be the same again?

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Most of the forthcoming events and special services given in these reports have had to be postponed or cancelled because of the Coronavirus outbreak. As the reports arrived before the recent restrictions came into place such events show what might have been.

Holy Trinity, Wray

We begin on 5th April which is Palm Sunday and it is our Evening Service led by members of the congregation at 2.30 pm. This continues to be a popular service.
On 10th April which is Good Friday, Mary will hold her workshop for primary children from 10 am to 1.15 pm in Wray Institute. Everyone welcome. Our Good Friday Service will be held at 12 noon in church.

Then on 12th April it is Easter Day and Holy Communion will be celebrated at 9.30 am. We are also now approaching one of the busiest times in our year here at Holy Trinity. April and May bring Wray Scarecrow week with all that it entails. Beginning on Saturday 25th April there will be an exhibition in church which will be about people, places and things that give a picture of peoples’ lives 75 years ago and how World War 2 affected them.
We have a small amount of material already but we ask if anyone could please lend us papers e.g. ration books, ID cards etc for display and also items such as gas masks and everyday home items would be appreciated. We are happy to collect items from you please contact David Kenyon (21668) or John Ryle (21639). The exhibition will run until the following Saturday.

On Sunday, 26th, Mary will hold a ‘Songs of Praise’ in church at 2.30 pm. We do encourage visitors to the village to join us in singing favourite hymns. On Wednesday, 29th this year it is our refreshment day in the Institute, so it will be all ‘hands on deck’ as usual.

Happy Easter everyone.

Ann Anderson/Judith Wrigley

St Peter’s, Leck

We here in Leck have been very lucky not to be affected by the recent floods, which can’t be said for some parts of our Benefice. We must praise our Clergy for managing to cover the whole Benefice despite the adverse weather conditions.

On Sunday 16th February Sister Sue led us in a lovely Baptism Service for Rory Michael Macrae Kerber. It was wonderful to see his Family, Friends and the Congregation welcoming Rory into the Church’s Family. We were saddened to learn that they have had to make a move down South, we wish them every blessing for their future.

We had intended to host another Quiz Evening in May but in the present circumstances have decided to postpone the idea for now. We pray that everyone stays virus free and our regular Services can continue at this difficult time.

Joan Withers

St James the Less. Tatham

I read in a recent newspaper article that village social life was declining due to new building turning villages into small towns and internet shopping killing the local shops so that people intermingled less. Tatham is bucking the trend and the church continues to be a centre of parish life. Sadly, the coronavirus threat has caused the planned tea party to be postponed, we all hope and pray that life will not be disrupted for many months ahead. It is also sad to report that the 9.00am communion has been discontinued due to very small attendance and that by an ageing congregation. The annual church meetings will be held on 6th April: we would welcome interest and support.

The following weekend the church will be its normal beautiful self for Easter. Wray Fair week in early May will be especially busy, in addition to catering on the first Sunday, the 3rd, we look forward to the visit of the Lancaster Singers on Saturday, 9th May. All the above social events will of course be dependent on the virus situation.

John Holt
St John the Baptist Church – Tunstall

The weather has made quite an impact on our Church and graveyard, taking down branches and resulting in 2 services having to be cancelled as Church Lane was completely flooded. Thank you to our graveyard fairies who have tidied up the debris. Work on the Bronte room is now completed and with enormous thanks to Andy Crossley who has made the most incredible staircase, it will soon be accessible. The opening will be on the 8th May and the room open to the public all weekend with Bronte displays, WW11 displays for VE day, readings and refreshments available, the programme will be out soon. Our loyal team of Bell ringers are practicing furiously in preparation for the 8th May and are putting in extra sessions at Kirkby Lonsdale and Settle too, thanks to Gillian Partington and Nigel Goodship for this. At 10am on Good Friday Sister Sue will take us through the moving story of the Stations of the Cross and Easter Sunday is at Leck. Our April craft session will be on the 20th April at 2pm and the next one on the 18th May. Thank you all for turning out to services in this dreadful wet and cold weather.

Sue Hunter

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lowgill

The calendar year started as usual with Epiphany, Candlemas, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, Lent, Passiontide then Easter. We had inspirational leadership throughout with room for thought each Sunday Service.

Between Candlemas and Shrove Tuesday, we had truly terrible wet weather. We had held oranges and candles in church, as symbols of the world. At end of Mark’s Pancake Service, followed by feasting, we played pass the parcel and there was an orange at the last unwrap, a huge Spanish one with a wonky axis: like a misshapen world. Over those weeks we have realised the ups and downs of weather patterns which are disastrously affecting our world, God’s world, unless we work out what we can do to help matters (eg. build a boat like Noah’s ark?) or, most importantly, trust in God who ‘has no hands but ours.’

Sarah Mason

And from the Registers

St. James the Less, Lower Tatham
Baptism 9th February William John Huston

St. Peter’s, Leck
Baptism Rory Michael Macrae Kerber
CORONAVIRUS

Please note that all church services and meetings have been suspended by the Archbishops until further notice.

We will try to get news of the resumption of Sunday worship to you as soon as the situation changes.

This is for all of us an unprecedented situation, and we are doing our best to provide a proper response. Churches will be open for weddings and funerals, but the advice is to keep these gatherings limited to immediate family and close friends.

We are following these instructions and so have not listed our services this month. In the meantime, all church staff are looking at ways of continuing to offer our ministry in each of the six villages. Please note that the churches which have been usually open will still be open for prayer, and quiet reflection. All our churches are involved in our local communities’ efforts to help those in need.

Please go to our website for details of resources to help us all at this time - eastlonsdalebenefice.wordpress.com.

We will be responding to your calls and emails, and we look forward very much to the time when we can re-open.

With sincere apologies

Mark Cannon - Vicar
VISITING CHURCHES

SAINT MAELRUBHA, APPLECROSS

Travelling further north up the Scottish west coast, you can turn up the challenging pass over to Applecross. (I wish you not the gale full of haar that was our lot!) Arriving down to the settlement, you see the church across to your right. It may not look special, but it is; very special. In the history of the Scottish church it is second in importance only to Iona. It is the Church of Saint Maelrubha, who receives far less attention than Saint Columba, not least, perhaps, because of his difficult name. We know he was born on 3rd January 642, and born of the same royal ancestry as Columba. Having entered a monastery in his native Bangor, Northern Ireland, he sailed to Alba (Scotland) in 671.

Having called first at Iona, he voyaged on to Applecross where he settled for life as the centre of his mission. From there he made many missionary journeys across the northern glens, converting many people on the way. The fruits of his efforts are attested by the many widespread churches that are named for him, from Ashaig on Skye to the island on Loch Maree and beyond. He died at Ferintosh, whence his body was carried home by four stalwart Applecross men.

His church is built just north of the Applecross river and marshes. Remains from his, or very early, time include a high cross, bearded with lichen, and Celtic carvings now in the neighbouring heritage centre. His church has been replaced by more recent buildings, now set up as a centre for weddings. The bare interior is dominated by a gigantic white pulpit, from which emanated no doubt thunderous sermons over the centuries. A mound is indicated as the site of Maelrubha’s grave- a poor visible sign of the tremendous missionary achievement of this little-known saint.
Children’s Activities in Wray Church.

I would like to give you a run-down of the activities available for your children in Wray Church. In all cases, these activities are open to all children, whether or not they attend Wray Church.

Below is a list of dates. **Please note that due to the Coronavirus situation you should check whether an event is actually happening before sending your children.**

**April**

**Every Tuesday from 8.50 am in Wray Church: Joyful Noise**
All parents and carers are most welcome to come along to this weekly drop in.
Coffee, chat, crafts and a warm welcome. New-borns to pre-schoolers welcome!

**Dates for Youth Group (all from 7-8 pm in Wray Church):**

April 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13 (at Mary’s house)

**And why not join our….**

**Philosophy and Ethics Discussion Group**
Every alternate Monday evening
For ages 14 and up.
We are looking for new members, so do get in touch if you like arguing (!) and exploring ideas
And the cake is always excellent!

Please contact Mary Winter (015242-21784) for more information about any of these groups.
Unfortunately, again due to the Coronavirus situation we do not have an Events page to publish but you may find the following of interest;

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We are on New Road, Barbon, Kirkby Lonsdale Cumbria LA6 2LL
Tel: 015242 76224 Email: info@churchmousecheeses.com

And finally..

I would like mention the Church of St. John the Baptist Tunstall Trust who have very kindly sponsored this edition. As a registered charity they have over the years provided financial support for the maintenance of the church building and have undertaken various works of improvement including the building of the car park and created the children’s area.

If you would like to support this valuable work, you can become a member of the “200 Club” (£10 per quarter), do please call Nick Gillibrand on 015242 71231.
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harrietmacarthur@gmail.com

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