

THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale

January-February 2021



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

OUR CHURCH STAFF

During the Interregnum, when we are without a vicar, our services will be led by the following clergy and lay ministers.

Revd Canon Norman and Dr Ann Dawson Tel: 015242 62936

Sister Judith OCMM and Sister Sue OCMM Tel: 03330 119563

Peter Osborne Tel: 015242 61029

Mary Winter Tel: 015242 21784

Other services will be led by members of our various congregations.

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

<http://eastlonsdalebenefice.wordpress.com>

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NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Variety in Worship during Lock down

The second lockdown before Christmas, was perhaps more understandable than the first which was full of unknowns. This time churches could stay open for private worship but in lockdown there were to be no Services. The choices for locked-down Sundays were to stay at home for yet another day, or to attend a virtual Service. Word was passed round of Eucharist shared by Sr Sue and Sr Judith at St Joseph's House of Prayer in Tunstall by video on U tube. Alternatively, churches in the upper part of the Benefice used zoom, and 'by invitation' extended to whoever might like to join it, in my case by someone as elderly as myself. We needed to 'be there', all at the same time of 11am. They were each very helpful choices. I don't think Revd Mark thought of me personally when he said from the pulpit "God will change you" but I heard it.

Melling's turn celebrated Christ the King. The cameras and internet just about combined, nobody fussed, and they were sorted by 11.05am. We sang the first hymn with accompaniment (unheard to others because we were 'muted'): 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven' in our own homes and with each other. The effect was to sing not so much lustily as in the acoustic of the church, but reverently. The readings, pre-arranged, were read easily and quietly, and the texts were in front of us to follow on-screen. There was a very good Service leaflet, as Melling usually has, and we moved through it seamlessly with various people participating, all by zoom from their living rooms or kitchens. I don't know how many attended, unseen on my smallish screen. I knew some of them. A young woman with a small child called Gwen encouraged the short child-interest part, then enlarged for adults: 'Christ the King' - how we viewed Him and how He views us, alongside the parable of the sheep and the goats. She - Jennifer - was well-prepared and calm and this appeared to be her first time in such a role. Is she a teacher? Will she do this often, I wondered?

From Leck on Advent Sunday, came the invitation to attend again. This time, Tom and Clare Kay-Shuttleworth (who have led Alpha groups in Leck) were leading. We followed much the same format as Melling, with the congregation participating each from their own homes. I think the thing that struck me later was that we were fairly close to our cameras. Whilst zooming we face ourselves and our friends. Eyes can be up - or down. There is a connection but I don't think we were self-conscious. Again the elements of the C of E worship were all there.

The themes at Leck were of light and of salt, also applicable to children and adults. Tom spoke of sharing the light of Advent, and we made Christingles. Chris had items he had brought to show us and expand upon. I remember particularly the salt, which can add savour and taste (we lose this temporarily in Covid19) and yet can also over-season, damaging our arteries and, too, be scratchy. What a curious and important ingredient to take care of. One of the congregations read prayers, two very relevant ones by bishops and one from her herself followed by a minute of silence for our own prayer.

So, the plan for Services up and down the Benefice can help draw out possibilities we hadn't thought of in this time of restriction. And, if we wish to do so, we may visit other churches at a time when we are aware of fewer weekly Services because of the scarcer number of Ministers.

Sara Mason

Holy Trinity, Wray

Greetings from Holy Trinity Church. We hope you are well.

We are pleased to report that we held a Remembrance Service in the street this year because we could not enter the church. This was well attended with at least 40 people and the collection amounted to £160 for the British Legion.

We still have our box for the homeless in winter. This is behind the outer door while the inner door is closed. Thank you to everyone who helps.

Most of our news is about the run up to January here in church. On the morning of Christmas Day Revd Frank Parr is taking Holy Communion for us at Holy Trinity at 9.30 am. As we go to press in mid-December, Mary is planning her Instant Nativity for Christmas Eve. The plan is for the children to arrive already dressed for their parts in the Christmas story and pop up each time their character is mentioned. This could end with carols sung outside in the churchyard according to the rules. This sounds a great idea and we are hoping this is how it will go. We will let you know how this event happened at a later date.

We are having a Christmas tree in church this year beautifully decorated by Frances Hartnup as usual and the doors will be open from Thursday 24th December to Monday 28th December for anyone to come in and see it.

As people will see in The Bell, we have a full schedule of services for the coming months (except 31st of January). This is subject of course, to the church being open. We hope that this will be the start of regular services throughout the year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Ann Anderson

Funerals

Mr James Lewis Mr John Wright

St Peter's, Leck

It is good to be back, writing in The Bell, and we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and an even happier and healthier New Year.

Life has been very difficult for many people during 2020 and let us hope that things start to return to some form of normality as soon as possible. In the last edition of The Bell we all talked about isolation, lockdown, shielding and loss and, with Christmas nearly upon us and the hope of being with friends and family, we look forward to the churches being open and the chance of being together again. We particularly look forward to Christmas day and celebrating the Nativity even though it looks as if we shall be unable to sing.

However, we have tried not to lose touch and the streamed services which we have all put together each Sunday, since the lockdown, have been greatly welcomed and enjoyed by many. Nothing, though, compares with being able to worship in church and we are so glad and grateful that we are able to do this again.

The task of finding a new vicar will be occupying all our minds and Leck wants to play a full part in helping everyone involved and also to help, in any way that it can, throughout the interregnum

Joan Withers

St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

Lockdown 2 saw all our Churches closed again from the 5th November but with thanks to technology and younger members of our congregations we have been able to have zoom services. We have enjoyed readings, prayers, reflections and talks from many interesting and varied people, at one service in particular we felt as though we were all in Leck Churchyard, thank you Tom. We held a socially distanced Act of Remembrance at Tunstall, in the Churchyard at the War Memorial, the collection taken went to the Royal British Legion.

Before Christmas we held a traditional carol singing hour in the Churchyard which was twinkling with sparkly lights and flickering candles all over, a magical scene, over 70 people gathered, social distanced and in family bubbles but with so much space everyone could sing and enjoy the real meaning of Christmas. Sally sang a beautiful solo of 'In the Bleak mid Winter' from the top of the tower with her halo glinting against the sky. Everyone enjoyed being in a safe space but feeling that the traditional Christmas was back with us. We also raised a substantial amount for LDHAS, for which I am so grateful. Thank you to everyone especially Karen, Sally and Nick who helped to set it up. We are doing the same on Christmas Eve, a candle lit Crib Service in the Churchyard for the children.

I hope you have all kept safe over Christmas and we look forward to a brighter and positive 2021. Happy New Year to everyone.

Sue Hunter

Tatham Fells

On 24th November John Wilson and I joined a webinar organised by Faith4change, the topic of the webinar was Eco church: North West - a pilgrimage to net zero. There were some interesting speakers and examples of how urban and rural churches are working to be an Eco church. The aim is to create shared pathways towards an embedded culture of caring for the environment. There will be another webinar in January. On 6th December we were able to have an Advent service led by Peter. The congregation enjoyed listening to the advent hymns. A Christmas communion service will be held on Christmas morning. The school children made some wonderful videos for the 12 Days of Christmas; sharing the Christmas story with the community via the link on the school website. Although we have been unable to go into school for Open the Book assemblies, three members of our team joined the children via Google Meet to read some of the Christmas stories. Despite a couple of technical hitches this worked quite well and hopefully our online meeting skills are improving all the time. A reverse Advent calendar was organised by the Friends of TFS and all the gifts donated were given to the Pop up Pantry in Bentham.

Helen Wilkinson

St James the less Church, Lower Tatham

2020 has been a difficult and strange year for everyone including our Churches. Services having to be cancelled and when possible to be held Tier 3 rules were in place. However, we were allowed to open the Church doors again and held a Christmas Advent Service and a Christmas Communion. We now look forward to the New Year when we hope further restrictions are to be lifted and we can resume our Sunday Service every three weeks.

We were dismayed to find that heavy rains in October caused the boiler room to flood for the third time in five years. This came as a shock as we have recently extended the roof over the boiler steps to stop the rainwater running off the roof and were confident that this would prevent any future flooding. However, we had not envisaged that a single massive downpour would cause the drain outside the church to back up and send water via the drain leading

from the boiler room. It was certainly a catastrophic event, blowing two holes in the car park as well as filling the boiler room to a depth of two feet. This soaked over 2 tonnes of wood pellets and damaged the boiler once again. Fortunately, this time we were insured for the damage but we are having to spend several thousand pounds on digging a new much larger drain to prevent any future blockages and backing up. In the meantime, the boiler has been repaired and the wood pellets replaced and work on the drains is in progress.

Together with the other churches in the Benefice, the PCC are hard at work with the process of finding a new Vicar since Mark Cannon's leaving to pastures new. We of course wish Mark well and hope he is settling into his new posting. We have submitted a profile of the Church and our activities including our Vision and Mission for the future as well as what we would like in a new Vicar! It is a long process, but we hope to find a new Vicar soon and will keep you up to date with the progress.

In the meantime, we would like to thank Norman and Ann Dawson, Mary Winters, Peter Osborne and Sister Sue for all the time they have generously given over the years to ensure that we can hold services and also enabling us to plan services in the future.

Linda Kirkby

Our Vacancy

After ten years with us in Lancashire Mark our East Lonsdale Vicar for 10 years has moved back to his homeland in Yorkshire taking up a position as Rector of Addingham near Ilkley. At the beginning of October we wished him God speed with all our thanks, and best wishes to him and Heidi for their new ministry. Almost immediately we began to engage with the Diocese of Blackburn's process for filling the vacancy.

To this end each of our six churches has nominated two representatives to a joint committee whose job is to produce documents describing and advertising our benefice and its attractions, discussing the type of vicar we want to have and can afford, and to liaise with the Diocesan authorities over interviews and an appointment. Several meetings have already taken place, largely using Zoom! Working through all this is likely to take us well into 2021 and in the meantime we have what is commonly called an interregnum in which the work of each church falls more than ever on the members of each church council. A combination of the vacancy and the effects of the pandemic is making the support of our congregations doubly valued.

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2021

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

JANUARY

Sunday 3rd, Feast of the Epiphany

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 9.30am | Holy Communion | Tatham Fells | Norman and Ann |
| 11.00am | Morning Worship | Tunstall | Peter |
| 2.30pm | Evening Prayer (BCP) | Wray | Congregation |

Sunday 10th First Sunday of Epiphany

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------|
| 9.30am | Holy Communion | Wray | Mabel/Frank Parr |
| 11.00am | Holy Communion | Melling | Sister OCMM |
| 11.00am | Morning Worship | Tatham | Mary |

Sunday 17th Second Sunday of Epiphany

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|------|----------------|
| 09.30 am | Holy Communion | Wray | Norman and Ann |
| 11.00 am | Morning Worship | Leck | Peter |

Sunday 24th Third Sunday of Epiphany

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 11.00am | Holy Communion | Tunstall | Sister OCMM |
| 2.15pm | Evening Prayer (BCP) | Tatham Fells | Peter |
| 4.00pm | "Messy Church" | Wray | Congregation |

Sunday 31st Fourth Sunday of Epiphany - Candlemas

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|----------------|
| 9.30am | Morning Worship | Melling | Peter |
| 11.00am | Holy Communion | Tatham | Norman and Ann |

FEBRUARY

Sunday 7th Second Sunday before Lent

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|------|-------------|
| 9.30am | Morning Worship | Wray | Mary |
| 11.00am | Holy Communion | Leck | Sister OCMM |

Sunday 14th Sunday next before Lent

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 9.30am | Holy Communion | Tatham Fells | Norman and Ann |
| 11.00am | Morning Worship | Tunstall | Peter |
| 2.30pm | Evening Prayer (BCP) | Wray | Congregation |

Sunday 21st First Sunday of Lent

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------|
| 9.30am | Holy Communion | Wray | Mabel/Frank Parr |
| 11.00am | Morning Worship | Tatham | Norman and Ann |
| 11.00am | Holy Communion | Melling | Sister OCMM |

Sunday 28th Second Sunday of Lent

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|------|----------------|
| 9.30am | Holy Communion | Wray | Norman and Ann |
| 11.00am | Morning Worship | Leck | Peter |

THE CHURCH THAT IS A LIVING RUIN

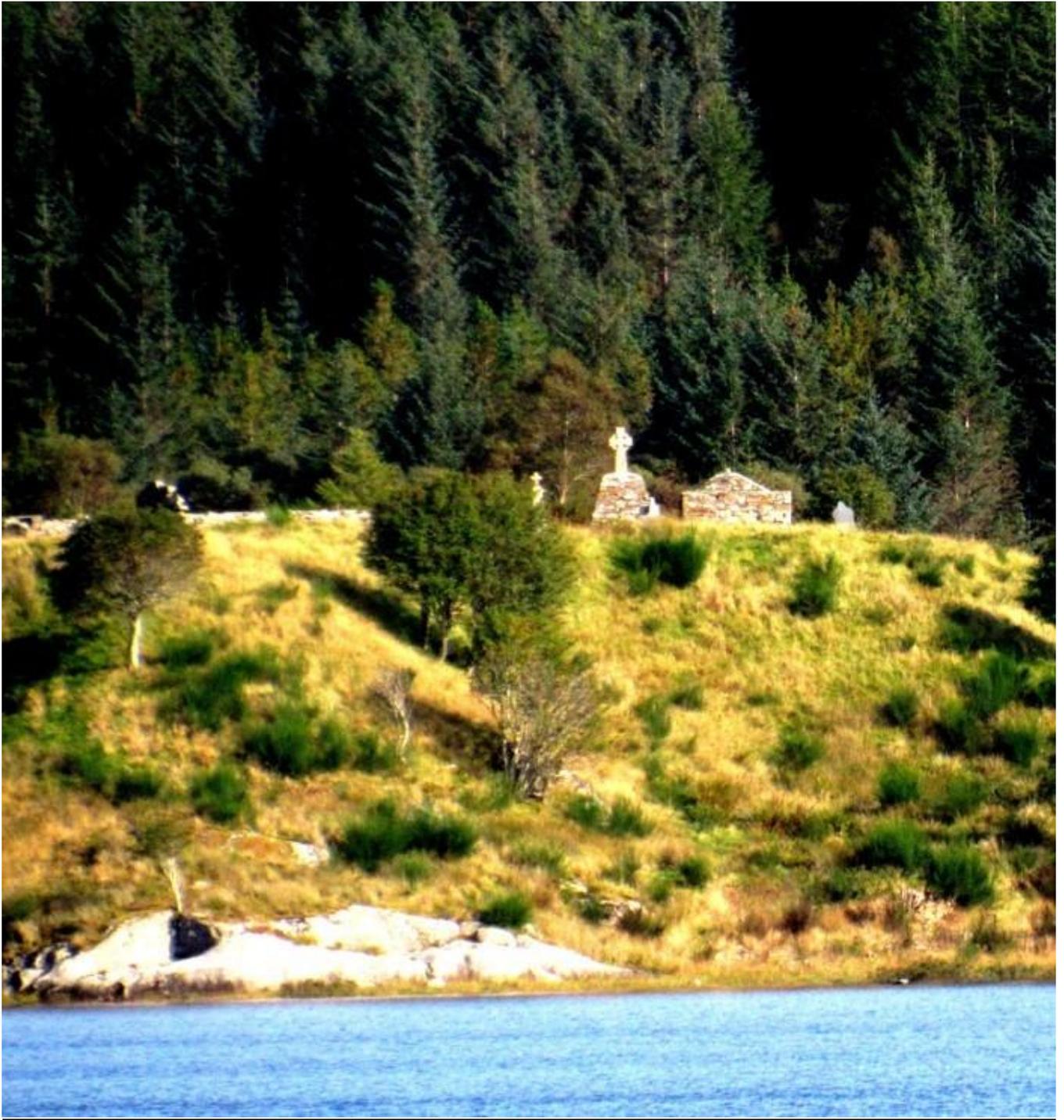
If you take the magnificent rail journey from Fort William to Mallaig you can stop off at Glenfynnan to visit the Bonnie Prince Charlie Monument. Down the lovely glen beyond, named after the saint, runs Loch Shiel. Long, narrow and curved like a sickle, it was by this loch that the Prince came to the meeting of his clans and the raising of his standard. For this he embarked on a boat at the remote farm of Dalilea. And so did we. But our destination was for something in history that was far older and more significant than "The 45".

Our aim was to visit the Green Isle, also called Saint Finan's Isle, at the narrows of the loch, and it was a thrill to step out of the boat onto holy ground, for it was here that the saint had settled and had established the base for his mission.

Finan, like his friend, and probably kinsman, Saint Columba had come over by sea from Ireland. First he went to visit Columba on Iona. It seems that they had settled a plan for the conversion of Scotland between them: Columba to the Picts further east and Finan to the people of the west coast. Thus Finan continued northwards to this island in Loch Shiel. He built his beehive hut, probably with followers, but nothing is left of it except the pit. For nearly one and a half thousand years this has been a holy place for locals, a place where they worshipped in the tiny church and a place where they were buried. There are monumental medieval crosses and grave slabs with relief sculptures of skeletons, denoting the end of the middle ages. And there are more recent graves of people who prefer to be buried there. Even a war grave.

Finan's church has disappeared, probably buried in the accretions of later ages as the church was progressively rebuilt. Now there is just a ruin, but the Spirit is there, not only in the stones and indeed the whole island but in the community. This shows in the effort of the faithful to tend the place, clearing shrubs and trees to maintain the greenness of the Green Isle from which the Western coast of Scotland was converted to Christ.

David Osborne



Activities for children and young people at Wray Church



We will be re-starting activities for children and teenagers as soon as the Covid situation allows. Keep your eyes on social media and the church noticeboard!

In the meantime, an activity to keep you occupied!

How to make a Salt Lantern

Put 2tsp of salt into a jam jar

Add 2tsp of water

Stand in a warm place

As the liquid evaporates move the crystals forming around the inside of the jar - leave to dry

Place a tea light into the jar

With string or raffia tie a sprig of greenery around the top of the jar with a bow to finish



MC Quiz (Mark Cannon Quiz) - A fun Quiz for the northern (T, M, & L) and southern (W,T, & T/F) parts of the Benefice while we have no vicar.)

Questions will be set by a quizmaster from each group, alternating – a northern quizmaster and a southern quizmaster. Answers: no more than 20 words. In case of a close tie, the decision rests with the quizmaster for the best answer.

Eg for January/February from the south, March/April from the north

5 quiz questions: (suitable for 8-80+ years old) will be compiled by the secret quizmasters.

ROUND ONE:

1. What are the Ides of March and who spoke of them
2. Who was Sister Dorcas (*not* the weird one)?
3. Who was Jehu?
4. Who wrote a song called 'The Sloth' in what year?
5. Who wrote the Little Red Hen?

Answers by email, subject 'Quiz' to saramason@btinternet.com. The first e mail received with 5 good answers wins. In case of a close tie, the decision rests with the quizmaster for the best answer. Each round winner will be announced in the next edition of the Bell and the winner will win a prize – of a chocolate bar – to be presented when we have a vicar. The prize winner could have a total of several chocolate bars by then! Please give approximate age, the 'top end' can be 'over 30'.

And did you know?....

A **Christingle** is a symbolic object used in the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services of many Christian denominations. **Christingle**, from a word of German origin, Christindl, meaning 'Little Christ Child' is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as "Light of the World". It started with a lighted candle with a red ribbon round it. Now it is usually an orange (the world), with a red ribbon round it (the blood of Christ), a candle (Jesus the Light of the World) and skewered sweets (the fruits of the earth and the four seasons).

The Children's Society was founded in the late nineteenth century by Edward Rudolf, a Sunday School teacher and civil servant in South London. He put forward a plan for the establishment of Church of England homes as an alternative to the large workhouses and orphanages common at that time. The charity's direct practice now focuses on vulnerable children and young people aged 10 -18, including children who have been sexually exploited, children in care and young refugees. As well as supporting change at an individual level through its direct programmes of work, The Children's Society aims to effect systemic change to make a positive shift in public attitudes towards children and young people.

At the start of Advent, Leck made Christingles. By custom, Tatham Fells has made them at **Candlemas**, the end of the season of Epiphany. Both, with other parishes of the Benefice have customarily collected money for the Children's Society. You can find out more or send a donation online to the childrenssociety.org.uk (preceded by www.)

This is all for the time-being: we will hear more about them next year.

Rebecca Litherland, Sara Mason and Wikipedia

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