

St James the Less Church

Lower Tatham



**Spring Newsletter
2023**

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter

We hope this Newsletter finds you all well and looking forward to better weather. The snowdrops were beautiful this year especially and the lovely crocus circle in the Churchyard increases each year. A lot has happened since our last Newsletter, as you will read in some interesting articles written by members of the Parish.

Don't forget we welcome any news items that you wish us to include in the next Newsletter. Contact details are at the back of this issue.

Message from Reverend Jane Lee

In the church calendar we are now in the season of Lent – a time of preparation for the great festival of Easter which will begin on Sunday 9th April, Easter day.

Traditionally during Lent people give up things like chocolate, alcohol, sweets, watching TV or social media but this year I am encouraging the congregations of all the churches in the Benefice of East Lonsdale to take things up. There are two things I am encouraging us all to do. The first is to read through the Gospel of Luke

using the free Diocesan Lent resource That you may know the Truth. This is a really good way to dig deep into the Scriptures helping our Christian faith to grow. You can pick a copy up from church or download it from Blackburn Diocese website <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/seasonal-resources>.

The other thing is to Pledge to Pray every day during Lent for the vision of the Benefice of East Lonsdale which is: - to grow as individual Christians in our faith, to grow as churches by inviting and attracting more people, families and young people, to grow God's kingdom in our communities by the work of our churches and our lives having a positive impact on those outside the church in both practical and spiritual ways. As well as praying for the benefice there is also the opportunity to pray for specific issues relating to each of the six churches in the benefice. For St James the Less we are praying for the finances to enable the repair of the roof, that the graveyard extension will be achieved and also for church wardens.

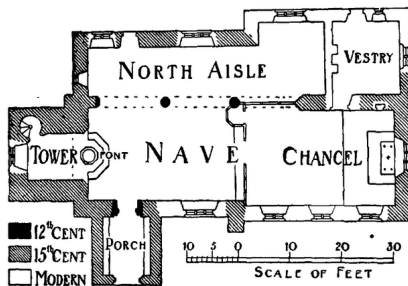
Just think what amazing things can be achieved not just in the parish of Lower Tatham but across the whole of the benefice if we all commit to do these two things over Lent.

God bless
Jane

Interesting facts about our Church

The old church before the 1880s

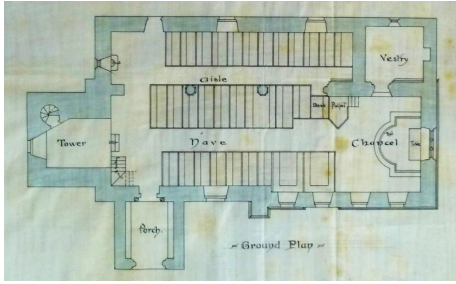
Tatham church as we see it today was renovated in the late 1880s but there has been a church on the site for possibly a millennium. It may originally have been a chapel dedicated to St Wilfred. In the early 1200s a chaplain called Benedict is mentioned in connection with grants of land in the parish to Cockersands Abbey. Much of the old fabric remains. The archway above the entrance and the columns between the nave and north aisle are early Norman. Sometime in the 15th century the church was rebuilt in the Gothic style, with pointed arches. Most of the exterior walls date to this period, as does the original tower and east window (but not the glass). The sedilia and piscina in the sanctuary were restored in the 1880s. A plaque in the tower records that it was built in 1722 but it is likely that it repaired and raised then. An old steep roof line visible on its exterior east wall suggests that the nave may have been thatched.



Plan of Tatham Church

from *Victoria County History of Lancashire*, vol. 8 (1914). 'Modern' refers to the renovation of 1887)

An interior plan of the church as it was in the 1880s drawn up by the Lancaster architects Paley and Austin prior to renovation shows that box pews were installed in the nave and what is now part of the chancel which was then much smaller. There was a reading desk in front of the pulpit which may well have been a three storey structure. The font was not where it is today but set into the wall on north aisle. There was no organ; that was only installed after 1888 (now removed). Any music in the church would have been provided by local musicians; a flute owned by John Foxcroft of Millhouses is displayed on the north wall. The west gallery was taken down as part of the renovation. Access had been by stairs visible on the plan just inside the church porch.



Plan of the church 1886 prior to renovation by Lancaster architects Paley and Austin, 1886
(Faculty papers: Borthwick Institute, York)

By the 1880s the church was in a poor condition. The Foster family of Hornby Castle and Black Dyke Mills, Queensbury, undertook a restoration. That, however, is another story . . .

Michael Winstanley,
Tatham History Society / Friends of
St James the Less

The Friends of St James Less Church

Members of the Friends held business meetings in November, January and March.

The next event to be hosted by the Friends will be a concert by the Lancaster Singers which will be held at the Church on 20th May 2023 starting at 7:00 p.m. Further details

and ticket availability will follow over the next few weeks.

Members of the Friends have assisted the PCC with the annual Spring Clean on 4th March and will help with the catering at Wray Scarecrow Festival and the bric-a-brac stall at the Fair.

The draws for the 100 Club have continued to take place monthly. Winners are contacted directly by the administrator, Sue Wood, and can now choose to receive their prize by bank transfer or cheque. All three prizes in the February draw were won by subscribers from Wennington. The Trustees and members of the Friends are so grateful to you for your continued support. There are various projects in the pipeline and being discussed with the PCC for improvements to the church so all your contributions will be put to good use.

Should you require further information regarding the Friends, please contact the Secretary, Margaret Whatmough, at friendsofstjamesthelesschurch@gmail.com or on 07796 661891.

Stitch and Chatter

Stitch and Chatter are in the process of planning a joint project based on the area in which we live. New members are always welcome to join this very friendly group which meets once a month on a Friday morning from 10 to 12. Do come and join us for a cup of tea and conversation if you are interested in our activities.



An example of last year's project to make Christmas decorations for the Church

Please contact Mel Winstanley on 015124 21277 or email melandmike73@gmail.com for future dates.

Melling Primary School

The children of Melling St Wilfrid CE Primary are delighted to have a new reflection area taking shape in their school grounds. A well established but very overgrown willow area has been cut back and restructured into a shelter. The area has been laid with wood chipping and provides the perfect retreat from the busy playground area. Log seating is also being provided with the school's christian values etched into them and a wooden sign will direct children to the reflection area. All the work has been possible thanks to a donation from St James the Less Church and the children are looking forward to using it. The school grounds are also open for community use after school and at the weekends and holidays, so please feel free to bring children, grandchildren or just come yourself to our play and reflection areas- you are always welcome. Thank you to our community at St James the Less for the kind donation.

Fiona Ip, Headteacher



The Reflection Area at Melling School

Wenning Voices

During the autumn of 2022 the choir worked hard to prepare for its seasonal open evening in December. With a varied repertoire of carols and Christmas songs (including some insights into the choir's warm up routines) the choir shared its sense of fun and enjoyment with a large and appreciative audience whose joyous singing made the evening all the more worthwhile. After an hour or so of singing the mulled wine, fizz and mince pies on offer made for a very sociable evening.

With our return to singing practice in the New Year, Lucy introduced a number of new pieces. These include an uplifting piece by Verdi (yes, it's in Italian!) together with some lighter songs to be sung in parts, in rounds and in unison. In addition to the new music, we have been pleased to welcome some new members who have settled in quickly.

Although the weather inflicted a number of wet, windy and cold evenings in the early months of the year, Wenning Voices made the most of its Thursday evenings in St James the Less to embrace its new music.

As many members of Wenning Voices have found to their delight, ***it is never too late to start singing***. Our sessions are informal, spiced with humour and a collective sense of fun and

achievement. During the opening Warm Up sessions members begin to relax and enjoy the rich rewards of singing together.

Wenning Voices meets every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the ancient and inspiring church of St James the Less. With the signs of Spring and new life all around come and join us. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Mike Garstang

Recent Events

The Church was beautifully decorated for Christmas by a wonderful team of volunteers from the Friends, Wenning Voices, Stitch and Chatter, Upholstery group and the PCC. We don't think the Church has ever had so much greenery. It was amazing! It was enjoyed by many visitors to the Church on the Open Evening of Wenning Voices and the Christmas Eve Crib Service.

We celebrated Plough Sunday on the 8th January with a lovely service followed by bacon butties as usual which always goes down a treat. Also posies of flowers were handed out at our Mother's Day Service.



One of the lovely Christmas decorations

Church Services

Sunday 26th March at 11.15am
– Passion Sunday Holy Communion
on the 5th Sunday of Lent

Thursday 6th April at 7.00pm
– Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Sunday 9th April at 11.15am
– Easter Day Service

Sunday 23rd April at 11.15am
– Holy Communion

Sunday 14th May at 11.15am
– Morning Service

Sunday 28th May at 11.15am
– Whit Sunday Holy Communion

Future Events

Saturday 8th April at 10am –
Decorating the Church for Easter. All
are welcome to come along. Coffee
provided.

Sunday 23rd April, all day– We are
providing catering at Wray Institute
for the Wray Scarecrow Fair visitors.
This raises funds for the Church and
helpers are needed on the day to
serve/clear tables and man our stall.
Home-made soup, cakes and
traybakes are also required. Please
contact Linda Kirkby with your kind
offers of help
lindakirkby3@gmail.com.

Monday 1st May, all day – We have a
Church Stall on the field at Wray Fair
selling bric a brac and filled jars of
anything for the JamJar Bola. All
contributions welcome in the week
before, please contact Linda Kirkby,
lindakirkby3@gmail.com

Saturday 20th May at 7pm - Lancaster
Singers concert hosted by the Friends
of St James the Less



Can you recognise where this was taken from? Please send in your photos for us to put in the Newsletter. We are always looking for new pictures.

We need new volunteers to take a turn in serving teas/coffees after the services, helping with the cleaning rota for the Church and flower arranging for the services. There are rotas for these at the back of the Church if you are able to help.

If you have any contributions for the next Newsletter – anything from recipes, announcement, news or anecdotes please email to Helen Bramley and Sue Marsden at tathamchurchnews@gmail.com.

Contact details

Vicar

Reverend Jane Lee
Jane.lee1271@gmail.com

Church Contacts

Phyllis Holt
Tel 015242 21443

Linda Kirkby
lindakirkby3@gmail.com

Secretary to the PCC

Margaret Wilson
margaretw@btinternet.com

Friends

Margaret Whatmough
Tel: 07796 661891
friendsofstjamesthellesschurch@gmail.com

Church Website

www.lowertathamchurch.co.uk

The church website is a good source of information about the Church and is updated regularly