

Welcome to this Newsletter

We hope that this Newsletter finds you all well through these difficult times. We were unable to produce Spring and Summer Newsletters due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

There is little to report on since the Winter Newsletter as we have been unable to hold any services or events during lockdown and we still have many restrictions. However, there is always some news to share.

As there were no services for 3 months and now only **every three weeks** the collections are few and far between. Therefore, the impact on church finances has been considerable. It has been suggested that our parishioners who attend services might like to make their contribution via a monthly standing order. If you are happy to do this, the form will be available in church or can be posted/delivered to you.

We would like to reassure everyone that if you wish to attend a service all the precautions recommended by the Government are being implemented. The seating is socially distanced, masks must be worn, there is a contact tracing book to sign on entry, and sadly no singing.

We know most of you are already aware of the sad loss of John Holt. He has been an important figure in the church and community and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Phyllis and family. A Memorial Service was held on 19th July in the churchyard.

During Lockdown

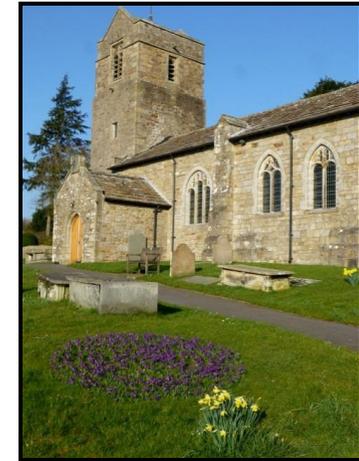
We have extended the church roof over the cellar steps to stop the flooding which has had a disastrous impact several times by damaging the boiler. The use of oak in a beautiful design, with stone roof tiles to match the existing roof has created an excellent addition to the church. We are grateful to the Friends for their generous contribution towards this project.



The new roof over the cellar steps

The Churchyard has been enhanced by the planting of a circle of crocuses last year. As can be seen from the photo. Many thanks to the planting team. It gave many weeks of colour.

AGM – We plan to hold our Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM) on Monday 19th October at 7pm at the Church. This is open to all parishioners and you are very welcome to attend.



The crocus circle

The Friends report

At the Friends' AGM Colin Burford resigned as Chairman and Trustee. Paul Whatmough was elected as Chairman and Rita Murphy and Mel Winstanley were elected as Trustees.

Due to the Covid restrictions all events have been cancelled. However, the Lancaster Singers have been provisionally booked for May 2021 and the Leyland Brass Band for October 2021.

The 100 Club has continued to provide a much needed income during these difficult times and in May we donated £500 following appeals from the Morecambe Food Bank. From its inception to the end of August 2020 the 100 Club has raised £34,148 and paid out £11,922 in prize money, leaving £22,225 available to be put to good use in the church. We now have 113 members and the draws continue to be made around the 15th of each month. We would like to thank all our members for your continued support and making all this possible

Recent 100 Club Winners:

August - 1st No. 92 £114, 2nd No 31 £57
and 3rd No. 114 £28.50.

July - 1st No. 20 £114 2nd No.96 £57
and 3rd No.1 £28.50

June - 1st No. 79, 2nd No. 89 £57
and 3rd No.53 £28.50

Looking ahead

Wenning Voices will resume as soon as the current restrictions have been lifted - in particular the singing aspect! We hope that Movies in the Pews and Stitch and Chatter will resume one day when it is safe to do so.

The annual Jumble Sale at Hornby Institute planned for the 19th September has had to be cancelled.

We are sorry to hear that our Vicar, Rev Mark Cannon, is moving on to pastures new over the border in Yorkshire! He will be greatly missed and has provided great leadership of the Benefice of all six churches for ten years.

Mark's last service at Lower Tatham is on Sunday 20th September at 11am.

His sermons and jokes are legendary. We wish Mark and his family well as they move on.

Mark has asked us to inform everyone that there is a Benefice Group which offers funding, advice on housing, food and abuse

These are challenging and difficult times but an opportunity for our community to help each other. If you need help, please get in touch.

Services

Here is the Service schedule for the next few months.

20th September – Holy Communion 11am

11th October – Harvest Festival 11am

1st November – Holy Communion 11am

8th November – Remembrance Service 10.30am

22nd November – Morning Worship 11am

13th December – Holy Communion 11am

27th December – Christmas Communion 11am

Sadly there will be no Crib Service at our Church on Christmas Eve

Contact details

The Vicar - Rev. Mark Cannon

Tel: 015242 21030 (until Oct)

email: markhcannon1@gmail.com

The Church Contact - Phyllis Holt

Tel: 015242 21443

The Secretary to the Friends -

Margaret Whatmough

Tel: 07796 661891

friendsofstjamesthelesschurch@gmail.com

Church website

www.lowertathamchurch.co.uk

This has a “**Contact Us**” page, which you are most welcome to use, should you have any queries.

St James the Less Church

Lower Tatham

Autumn Newsletter 2020

