

PARISH CALENDAR 2011

May		Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners	
1st	Easter I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean Mrs E. Wrigley		
5th	Thursday	7.00 pm	Garden Club	Chairman's Walk	Meet at Downham Bridge Supper at Greendale	
8th	Easter II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D Wilkins	J & K Lomax	Mrs E. Parker Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00am	Matins Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr B Lewis		
9th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	Life and Times of Colin Wiseman	
12th	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
15th	Easter III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church		Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00am	Joint Holy Communion Bishop Nicholas	Chatburn Christ Church		
17th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Whalley Deanery Visitation	St Mary Clitheroe		
19th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	<i>Making Silhouette Pictures</i>	
21st	Saturday	3.00 pm	Entertainment	Village Hall	<i>A Thousand Cranes</i> <i>The Paper Washi Wish</i>	
22nd	Easter IV	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Miss R. Newton		Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs J. Oldfield
		11.00am	Matins & Induction of Sidesmen and women Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs P. Mc Fall		
24th	Tuesday	6.30pm	Cookery Club	Village Hall	<i>Michael Heathcote</i>	
29th	Easter V	10.00 to 4.30 pm	W.I. Arts, Crafts and Hobbies Exhibition	Village Hall	<i>Admission 50 p Coffee in morning</i> <i>Cream Teas Afternoon</i>	
		8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church	Mrs G Cragg	Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mr B. Lewis		
June						
2nd	Thursday	6.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Canal Trip, Foulridge—Supper	
5th	Sunday after Ascension	8.30am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs J. Wright-Phillips
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
11th	Saturday	7.30 pm	Centenary Concert	Church	A Cappella Singers	

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019

OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 440173 Miss Rachel Newton—429730 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman and Bookings Secretary Mr Shaun Roney—441667

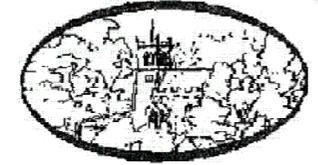
Hon. Secretary The Hon Mrs Ralph Assheton—440173



This month including the Annual Report of The Church for 2010
and Church Yard Information Leaflet
www.downhamvillage.org.uk

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2011 Issue 5 May

www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

A NN Widdecombe recently presented an excellent television programme entitled “The Future of Christianity”. One contributor - an atheist - made the astonishing claim that the Christian faith had been disproved. Now, I do not sneer at atheists, many of whom have real concern for human suffering and, often, respect for the church. To claim, however, that Christianity has been disproved is absurd, ludicrous and plain ignorant. Would someone please reveal the identity of this person who has demonstrated that Christ never rose from the dead.

The Christian faith stands or falls on its conviction that Easter is the turning point of history: the day when Jesus Christ was raised to new life by the power of God. That cannot be half true or just a comforting thought. It is either true or false. If false, then all churches might as well be demolished since they are promoting a lie. If true, as we believe it is, then the gospel demands everyone’s response, for it rests on a rock-solid foundation and has brought hope, peace and joy to countless men and women down the years.

I once knew a man who sang in the choir of his village church. He had attended the Easter services on many occasions but one particular Easter Day he suddenly said to himself, “It’s true; Jesus Christ really is risen”. He had passed from a second-hand faith to one that was alive and real to him: a first-hand experience. The great need now, as it always has been, is to move beyond that vague English notion that “there’s got to be something somewhere” to a resounding personal conviction that Jesus Christ, who was crucified, is alive for evermore.

Years ago, a non-believing journalist, Frank Morrison, tried to write a book to disprove the resurrection. He planned to examine the inconsistencies of detail, as there are in some of the accounts of the resurrection, and show how the whole Christian belief was a charade. It did not work out that way. The more he examined the New Testament, the more convinced he became, and in the end he gave his book the title, “Who moved the stone?” It explained how he had become convinced that God really had raised his Son Jesus Christ from the grave.

Easter continues. I wish you continuing Easter joy and a deepening faith that the life-changing gospel of the resurrection is the most glorious truth in the world.

Rodney N. Nicholson

LOVLIEST of trees the cherry now, Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands around the woodland ride, Wearing white for Eastertide.

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	MARCH	2011
COMMUNICANTS	29	118
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	87	519
VISITORS	60	180
DONATIONS	985	1,335
HOUSE BOXES	-	43
TOTALS	1,132	2,077

WELCOME to your new home

To **Paul Sutton and Yvonne James** who have moved in at 2, Greendale View.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

3rd April, **Imogen Jasmine**, daughter of Brandon and Yvonne **Allison** of Wiswell.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS—VILLAGE HALL LOGO COMPETITION

THE VILLAGE Hall Management Committee is commissioning a Logo for the Village Hall, for use on stationery and notices etc. This will be by open competition to all residents of the Parish.

A Voucher prize has been anonymously donated. The rules are these:

- Entries are invited from participants of all ages.
- Each entry should be on a single sheet of paper - without the artist's identity on the front side.
- Entries may be full colour or black and white.
- Name and address should be written on the reverse (lightly so that it does not show through).
- Entries should be delivered to the Hon Secretary of the VPMC, at Lidget House, Downham in a sealed envelope marked "LOGO COMP".
- The judge will be shown only the front side of the entries until the judging is complete.
- Closing Date—Tuesday, 31st May, 2011. Judging will take place that week.
- The Winner will be notified immediately and the result will be announced in the July Newsletter.

An exhibition of all entries will be arranged on a suitable occasion.

Entrants should remember that Logos, generally, should be simple rather than complex, be immediately and uniquely recognisable without too much trouble.

THIS MONTH THE NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN SPONSORED
by Adams and Co, Accountants, York Street, Clitheroe

St. Leonard's Centenary Art Competition

One of the events to mark the centenary of the refurbishment of St Leonard's Church will be an art competition. There will be prizes!

Entries will be displayed at the Village Hall on the day of the Flower Show (30th July). Winning work will be displayed in Church at the special Centenary Service on 30th October.

The competition is open to all resident children and to the pre school children

Four Age groups:

Preschool 7 and under
12 and under 18 and under

Entries can be in any medium & should have one of the following titles:

100

Alleluia!

A Century of Worship

Seen at St Leonard's

Please bring entries to Church between 5 & 6 pm on Thursday 28th July

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

June 11th sees the first of our celebratory events in the centenary year of the re-building of the Parish Church, a concert by A Cappella singers at 7.30 pm.

Full details in the enclosed flyer

Link with a Manchester Parish

EARLIER in the year a clergyman by the name of Chich Hewitt contacted me to suggest that as his parish, Holy Rood, Swinton, Manchester was holding its centenary in 2011, it might be good to be linked to another parish, such as ours, which is having a similar celebration. We are celebrating 100 years of the present St Leonard's church – the original church is much older than that. Their church was built in the 1870s but the parish became independent in 1911.

I met Chich in March when he was spending two days at Whalley Abbey in the company of other clergy from his area. He had a couple of spare hours in his programme so I drove him to St Leonard's where, fortuitously, we happened to meet Lady Clitheroe. Chich, who is similar in age to myself (so quite young really!), is a warm-hearted, likeable and experienced priest. He copes well with very poor vision, which makes him unable to drive. His wife is a GP, and the couple have two adult daughters.

The PCC was happy about pursuing this link which may include an exchange of preachers and visits by small groups to one another's parishes.

VILLAGE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

**A Thousand Cranes
The Paper Washi Wish
at
Downham Village Hall**

SATURDAY, 21 May 2011 3:00pm

Inspired by Kamishibai (traditional and much-loved Japanese paper theatre) and Washi (Japanese paper making) this vibrant, physical theatre piece blends words, pictures, imagination, heaps of paper and a hands-on paper making experience to create a birthday story for Rabbit in the Moon.

The two performers arrive with a small "theatre" on the back of their bicycle which contains a story illustrated by drawings and quite a few surprises.

Suitable for ages 3+

www.athousandcranes.org.uk

Tickets: £6 Adults / £3.50 Children
£16 Family
from Angie 440146 and
Barbara 440925.

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Village Hall took place on Monday, 28th March, at 6.30 pm. The committee was joined by four other parishioners. The meeting received the Annual Review (printed in the March Issue of the Parish Newsletter); the Chairman highlighted the refurbishment project, in particular the work carried out by volunteers.

The Committee Officers—Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer were re-elected unopposed and unanimously. Remaining committee members were also re-elected. Two new members were unanimously elected to serve, Mrs Clare Ashworth (Twiston) and Mrs Frances Eldrige (Downham). The meeting expressed thanks to the Hon Officers, all of whom have worked hard in 2010 on grants and the refurbishment.

Hedge Laying

THIS year over 2000 yards of hedge laying has been undertaken around the estate, in addition to the savage pruning on Church Brow!

The hedge laying competition held at the beginning of March was a great success, with 26 entrants for the main competition classes, as well as a couple of beginners learning the ropes.

Chestnuts flooding – The saga continues

PERHAPS the end is in sight? A recent meeting with LCC and Northern Electric seems to have born fruit. The electric cable that presently partly blocks the road drain will be dug up and relaid under it. Sadly this will entail the road at Chestnuts being formally closed for a few days, though access will be maintained via Lower Hall lane and car park. It is hoped that work will take place in June.

Footpath Roundels

EAGLE-eyed walkers may spot some of the 50 new markers attached to existing arrows on selected footpaths around the parish. The round disks are designed to show how far a series of destinations are in the direction that the arrows point. Each disk shows one place (marked by a nick out of the outer edge) and one or more nicks which you add up to find the approximate distance. Comments from users to Ralph Assheton would be very helpful. This trial has been made possible by a grant from the RVBC "Healthy Valley Village Amenities Improvement Fund." RCA

STAGE TWO DOWNHAM

Spring Play 2011

In the first week of April Stage Two Downham completed the trilogy of Alan Ayckbourn plays 'The Norman Conquests' with their production 'Living Together'. The cast assumed their roles once again to portray the ups and downs of a dysfunctional family spending an uneasy weekend together.

Bob Cleeve certainly enjoyed his time as philandering Norman, managing to upset all three of the female characters including sharp-tongued wife, Ruth, played by Liz Wrigley. Her sister, long suffering Annie, ably portrayed by Lesley Haworth, didn't get her weekend away although Annie's patience with long time fiancé, Tom the nice-but-dim vet, was stretched to the limit. Steve Cooke played the 'Tom' character again with great empathy. Pat Bowker was very credible as Sarah, irritable wife of the good-natured Reg, convincingly portrayed once again by Brian Haworth.

The play was well directed by Eddie Bootle with good audiences each night, Friday a sell-out. Other Stage Two helpers worked hard to create an attractive set and provided teas and raffle front of house.

FIFTY YEARS

Lord and Lady Clitheroe celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on Monday, 2nd May, just three days after Prince William and Catherine Middleton, our sometime future king and queen, tie the knot. We wish William and Catherine as much happiness and mutual joy as, quite self-evidently, Ralph and Juliet Clitheroe have and will continue to have, we pray, for many years to come. Congratulations and love and best wishes from the whole Parish.

SIXTY YEARS

AT THE end of March Diana Braithwaite completed sixty years as a member of the St Leonard's choir. Dedicated service indeed, congratulations Di. Here she tells us the story of her involvement with our parish church.

We, my parents Ken and Edna Taylor, my brother Colin and I arrived in Downham in March 1951 to live at Hemlock Cottage. At that time you could only live in Downham if you worked for the estate and my Mum came to be secretary to the first Lord Clitheroe, as he became in 1955.

My Dad was the Prudential Insurance Agent for this area, which he had worked for before the war, in Birkenhead, and later here as Mum and I had been evacuated to Bolton-By-Bowland after being bombed out.

The church organist at the time, Mrs. Betty Todd, invited me into the choir and Dad became a Warden with both he and my brother becoming bell ringers. I learned all I know about music and singing from Mrs. Todd and enjoyed singing introits, vespers and anthems. We sang anthems at special services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas. We sang a new carol or anthem for all the nine lessons in the carol service.

Choir practice night was Wednesday and we went through the Psalms and Hymns for the next Sunday, as well as "The Messiah" "The Crucifixion" and "Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat."

Mr. Thomas was the Vicar, followed by Mr. Allan who married Geoff and I in 1960 (and many others of course). After that Canon Whitsey and then Mr. Eric Chard, who followed him, became a very good friend and is very much missed.

Adele has succeeded Mrs. Todd, and, with numbers dwindling both in choir and congregation, we stick to the traditional and well known music. I still enjoy my faith and expressing it in my singing after 60 years - long may I continue, to keep up the tradition.

Christian Aid Week FROM May 15 – 21 we take part in Christian Aid Week. Please give generously in the red envelope delivered through your door. A 5-year-old girl in Edinburgh raised £150 for Christian Aid through watching the Pakistan floods appeal. A Scottish shepherd and his teacher friend are cycling the entire coast of Scotland to raise money for the charity. Also from Scotland, a priest is walking the 350 miles from his home to Walsingham to raise funds both for this own church and Christian Aid.

Meanwhile an artist in Pershore donated his entire life's work to Christian Aid, raising £3,600 by auction. A church school in Exmouth raised £289 from cake baking for a project in the poverty-stricken African country of Burkino Faso. Welsh language TV presenter, the effervescent Russell Jones is visiting Kenya and Tanzania in the company of Branwen Niclas of Christian Aid.

The money has never been more needed, if for no other reason than that climate change hits the poorest people the hardest. A longer dry season, for example, means one crop rather than two in Tanzania, spelling disaster for people already on the poverty line. When you give, please don't forget to gift-aid your donation. RN

ROUND AND ABOUT

THE PARISH CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETINGS

THE Annual Church meetings were held on Sunday, 10th April after morning service.

At the Vestry Meeting the serving Church Wardens were returned unopposed to their posts with the thanks of the parish.

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners PCC members were returned, unopposed with the addition of Mrs Elizabeth Wrigley. Two Deanery Synod representatives were elected, Miss Rachel Newton and Mrs Diana Wilkins.

The Annual Report of the activities of the Parish Church was presented by Canon Nicholson, with his thanks to the many people who bring their specialist interest to the contribution which they make to the continuation of the church in Downham.

The Annual Accounts of the Church were presented by the Honorary Treasurer Mr Jon Whitsey, with a cautionary note about the excess of expenditure over income of £470 in the year 2010.

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION and INDUCTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

THIS SERVICE will be at St Mary's Clitheroe on Tuesday, 17th May at 7.30 PCC members are also invited to attend.

INDUCTION OF SIDESMEN & WOMEN

OUR OWN induction for all sidesmen and women will take place during the morning service of 22nd May.

A GOOD EASTER

THE EXCELLENT weather may have helped, but we had a good-sized congregation on Easter morning who sang the Easter hymns with good heart and listened to the Revd Alan Reid's wise and encouraging words. Numbers were also good at Chatburn, where the congregation was enhanced by two three-week old lambs who were well behaved in their box, just bleating a few times in agreement during the sermon.

A choir drawn from all three churches sang at the united Good Friday service at St Paul's, which drew a packed congregation of 200 people. The Archdeacon preached a powerful sermon after which there was a procession behind the cross to the Castle gates for a short act of worship. RN

MARATHON

Well done Kirsten and Paul Walmsley on completing the London Marathon and clocking up £1,000, at the latest count, for Asthma UK

UNITED SERVICES

ON SUNDAY May 15th we join in the united service at Chatburn at 11am when we welcome the Bishop Nicholas, to a special Holy Communion (Eucharist). There will be no service at St Leonard's or at St Paul's, that day.

The following united service (for Chatburn and Downham) will be at St Leonard's on Pentecost Sunday (or Whitsun), June 12th when we have a Pentecost Praise. RN

COFFEE CLUB

EVEN though our numbers were somewhat depleted due to holidays, hospital appointments etc., the Bring and Buy Stall was very brisk with the sale of books, eggs, plants and other interesting contributions. There is always such a lot of news to exchange (we do not call it gossip!) and it was, as usual, a very cheerful morning.

Next month, on Thursday, 12th May, Barbara and Carole will kindly 'run the show' again whilst we are on holiday and they look forward to seeing you. OAwb



GARDEN CLUB

ON Thursday, 14th April, members were treated to an artistic experience in a presentation by Barbara Taylor and her niece Nicola, on *Flowers for Easter*.

Following both the religious and bank-holiday aspects of the Festival they demonstrated arrangements traditional and modern, talked about materials and changes to the floristry trade over the years and gave tips about their art.

Five very beautiful vases resulted and were the main raffle prizes for the evening.

Members enjoyed refreshments and were asked to sign up for the next meeting, Chairman's Walk on 5th May, with Supper at Greendale and Canal Trip, on 2nd June. Any members not present and wishing to take part in these two meetings please let Carole know (441112). CA



COOKERY CLUB

AT Roy Porter's shop in Chatburn, on 4th April, about thirty members were welcomed by Roy, Daphne and staff and given four demonstrations, in rotating groups for a unique behind the scenes view of life at the shop. We were shown Bacon Curing; Carcass management including, joint and chop preparation and storage; Sausage Making; and some insights into the secrets of the famous Pies.

Members were treated to brews and a sausage and bacon supper before leaving in some wonderment as to the huge variety of knowledge, skill and tasks that go on behind the shop-front.

The next meeting is at the Village Hall at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 24th May, a return visit and presentation by Michael Heathcote of the Duke of York, at Grindleton.



DOWNHAM & TWISTON

HISTORY GROUP

AS a fledgling group we now have enough funding to have speakers from time to time. In March Kevin Illingworth was our first visiting speaker, taking us through many pictures of vernacular buildings about which he has a huge knowledge. Many of the buildings were in Bowland and some Downham pictures told us about features of the local cottages.

Kevin visited Downham twice in the week before his talk and took photographs of some of the older houses in the village, as well as looking inside a few of the oldest cottages by kind permission of the occupiers.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 9th May at 7.30pm**; the talk will be the 'Life and Times of Colin Wiseman'. Colin was a resident of Chatburn for much of his life, born at Manor House, Twiston and lived for a time at Rimington. Please join us - no need to book, just turn up. EW.

W.I. Arts, Crafts and Hobbies exhibition



AT a packed April Meeting, President Julie Parker reminded members to gather together their exhibits ready for this forthcoming event which will be held in Downham Village Hall on Sunday, 29th May from 10 am to 4.30 pm. Entrance fee is 50p, and accompanied children are free. Refreshments will be available, coffee and home made biscuits in the morning, tea and cream scones in the afternoon. Various stalls will display the many crafts made by Downham members. There will also be a cake stall, a book stall and a Tombola. Anne and Gordon Sharp will be showing their film of local folk and villages, entitled "The Way we Were". Downham W.I. looks forward to welcoming everyone to this event.

Next meeting 19th May - a Members' Night—making silhouette pictures.