

PARISH CALENDAR 2010

December			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Wednesday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Talk—Twiston Manor</i>	
2nd	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Greendale	<i>Christmas Dinner</i>	
3rd	Friday	7.00 pm	Christmas Story Machine	Village Hall	<i>Family Christmas Show</i>	
5th	Advent I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church	NO	Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs J. Oldfield
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P. McFall		
9th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall	<i>Christmas Party</i>	
		7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall		
12th	Advent II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	FLOWERS	<i>Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs J. Phillips</i>
		10.50 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
19th	Advent III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church	IN ADVENT	Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
		7.00 pm	Carols at Twiston	Lower Smithyfold		
23rd	Thursday	2.00 pm	Decorate Church		<i>All Welcome</i>	
24th	Friday Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Christingle and Nativity Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill	<i>Choir and friends</i>	
		6.00 pm	Carols Round Downham			
25th	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P. McFall		
26th	Sunday after Christ- mas	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Miss R. Newton	Mrs P. McFall Mrs M. Roskell	
		11.00 am	Joint Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins		
January, 2011						
2nd	Epiiphany	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church		Mrs G. Cragg Mrs K. Brown
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		

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



www.downhamvillage.org.uk



PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2010 Issue 12 December

www.downhamvillage.org.uk



From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



CALL me humourless, but I get tired of the old jokes about Lancashire/Yorkshire rivalry. You know the kind of thing. Someone asks if they need a pass to travel across the county boundary, or a speaker says, “Here ’s me, a Yorkshireman, lecturing you Lancastrians.” Yorkshire folk are allegedly mean, yet church giving is higher in Yorkshire than Lancashire.

I was talking about this to Anne Hardacre who made a similar point, with which I wholly agree, that the old saying about Northerners being friendly, but Southerners unfriendly, is a myth. There are friendly and unfriendly people in any part of the country. Most people are friendly if approached in the right way.

London is said to be unfriendly but my experience is quite different. I remember being helped twenty years ago when we were struggling with two toddlers on an Underground escalator, and I remember more recently people ’s helpfulness in giving directions. We once took a bus out of Brixton in search of “the best fish and chip shop in London”. A friend had told us that that was how the restaurant advertised itself. Unashamedly I sought the help of fellow passengers (one of whom had actually been at college with the fish shop owner) in three buses, as a result of which we got our fish and chips, which indeed were excellent.

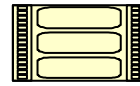
There aren ’t different kinds of people – easterners, westerners, black people, white people – for we all share one common humanity. As flesh and blood we all have human needs, which makes nonsense of the silly myths which are perpetuated. Some extreme left wing people despise those whom they see as rich and advantaged, just as some extreme right wing people see themselves as superior to those who have lacked their good fortune.

As we prepare for Christmas, we think of the wonder of God’ s becoming a human being through his Son Jesus Christ, through whom he joined himself with humanity in all its beauty, glory, sinfulness and pain. But first comes Advent when we rejoice that Christ will one day return to bring in the new heaven and new earth. We can rejoice, yes, but we also need the reminder that he comes as Judge, who may ask searching questions about our priorities, including our love for God now. Christ came as Saviour and there is no greater folly than to ignore his glorious salvation.

With warmest Advent greetings.

Robert N. ...

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which the Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to life immortal ; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost , now and ever. Amen



Giddy Kippers

THE recent brief return of film cameras to Downham was thanks to Sky TV, who had commissioned Victoria Wood to make a 10 minute film for this Christmas. Although perhaps better known as a comedienne, Victoria has this time written and directed this poignant tale of a young girl spending her first Christmas without her mother.

Exterior scenes were filmed in the village and at Springs Farm, with internal ones being at Knowlmere Manor near Newton. RCA

Chapel Brow

AS foretold last month, work is well under way to improve the roadside wall leading up to the village hall. The hedge has been drastically cut back to allow work on the wall below. Once repairs are complete the hedge will be replanted a little further into the field. RCA

30mph speed limit

Lancashire County Council have proposed that Downham village should have 30mph signs. Their initial plan is for signs at Rimington road end, Downham village hall, the quiet road sign at Chestnuts, and Twiston Lane (near The Lidgett). Bearing in mind the strong feelings about speeding through the village I have indicated that the community would be happy. If you know differently let Ralph or Di Braithwaite know ASAP.

Some items that need more discussion include the exact siting of signs, their method of mounting, the desire to avoid "repeater signs" through the village. There is a possibility that it may be possible to extend the zone towards Chatburn, and/or down the West Lane RCA

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES

	OCTOBER	2010
COMMUNICANTS	53	523
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	341	1,906
VISITORS	76	905
DONATIONS	180	6,202
HOUSE BOXES	41	273
TOTALS	638	9,286

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

Olive Awbery who has returned from hospital and is making progress.
Tom McLean who is about to start a course of treatment.
Janet Swarbrick who is part way through of a long course treatment.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

Sunday 21st November, 2010

Annabel May Hopcraft, daughter of Grace (nee Thornber) and Jamie Hopcraft, now of Clitheroe, who were married at St Leonards in August 2009.



The Children's Society

Whalley Deanery Fund Raising Committee

Candlelight Supper

The Kings Centre

Millthorne Avenue off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE

on

Sunday 6th February, 2011

7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

BRING A BOTTLE OF WINE

(and your glasses)

Soft Drinks available

Vegetarian Option available

Selection of Salads

Delicious Puddings

Entertainment by

Octameron

Why not come along and enjoy the evening

Support the Society

by making a donation at the Supper

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Village Entertainment Group

Present

Professor Bumm's

CHRISTMAS STORY MACHINE

A FAMILY SHOW

of BBC Slammer Fame

that promises to delight, entertain and give you a real flavour of Christmas.

Friday December 3rd @ 7.00 pm,

tickets £3.50 Child, £6 Adult & £16 family available on

01200 440146 and 01200 440925.

Wishing William and Kate well

Rodney Nicholson

WE share the general happiness at the forthcoming marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton. The princes William and Harry come across as fine young men who are close to their father, Prince Charles, bringing credit to both him and their late mother, Princess Diana. In an excellent Thought for the Day broadcast the morning after their engagement was announced, the Bishop of Liverpool looked forward to the distant horizon when they would take the throne as king and queen.

One might hope for that horizon to be not too distant. William is already older than the Queen was at her coronation. If the Queen lives as long as her mother and only relinquishes the throne at death, Prince Charles would be in his late 70s when he becomes king, by which time William would have passed 40. If Charles then lives to his 90s, William will be in his 50s. This may not make him old but it certainly deprives us of a young king and queen. If the rules ordain that this is how it must be, then the rules need changing. In a different context, but still a relevant one, Jesus said that rules are for man's well-being, not the other way round. Similarly church regulations must be there for the benefit of the gospel, not for their own sake, so that outdated rules need looking at.

GREAT MUSIC IN A SUPERB SETTING

Chatburn Christ Church has arranged a series of four musical events from December through to September 2011. The range is Choral, Jazz, Brass and Lancashire Style. Tickets are £7 or £20 for a seat at all four concerts and will be available at Roy Porter Butchers Shop in Chatburn.

The events are in aid of the fund to replace the organ at Christ Church.

WE wish our neighbours good luck in this fund-raising endeavour,



Chatburn Christ Church
Friday 10th December
at
7.30 pm

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS
&
FAVOURITE SEASONAL SONGS**

**Clitheroe
Grand Choir**

**Tickets £7 from Roy Porter
Butcher's Shop
Includes mince pies**

**Start Christmas
in style**

LETTERS to the EDITOR

I read in total disbelief the article "cut price fame". How can the canon overlook the corruption of Tony Blair taking us into illegal and unjust wars, that we will never win. Thousands of soldiers and civilians have been killed and injured in these wars, but I noticed no expression of sorrow or sympathy was expressed for these victims. I have always been of the opinion that religion and politics do not mix and looking back in History many wars started were over religious differences. Blair and George Bush continued this trend and the only reason seemed to be for their own self-gratification. I feel that any family with members involved in these wars would be hurt and disappointed that the Canon expressed sorrow for Blair but failed to acknowledge the sacrifice these people are making. Carol Palmer

From Canon Nicholson

MY sadness for all who suffer through war was meant to be expressed in my Viewpoint letter about Remembrance Sunday, but I apologise if I failed to make that clear. I would be distressed if seen as uncaring towards dead or injured British soldiers, for that is certainly not the case

The piece about Tony Blair was not entering into the controversy of the Iraq war but trying to make two different points. One was that it is fair and generous to acknowledge the achievements of the former prime minister in helping the cause of peace in both Northern Ireland and the Balkans. The other point was that we all occupy the stage of history for only a short time, so that our real goal must lie in finding our eternal security in God himself. But I am grateful to Carol Palmer for writing, and hope that others might follow her example so that this Newsletter may contain a healthy exchange of views. Rodney Nicholson

Jean opposed narrow conservatism

TWO of us from St Leonard's attended the service of thanksgiving at Whalley for the life of Jean Hudson (74) who died after suffering for some weeks from bowel cancer. Our connection with Jean came through The Children's Society, of which she was the local treasurer, but the moving tributes from the Revd Trevor Vaughan, formerly vicar of Sabden and Pendleton, and from Jean's son, David, brought out aspects of her life which were new to me. I did not know, for example, the heights which she had achieved as an educationalist or her deep knowledge of children's literature.

Fr Trevor also referred to her impatience with the narrow conservatism which she sometimes found in the Church. Jean was a free thinker who vigorously believed that people should be free to question and not be required to swallow ideas to which they could not honestly subscribe. I could not list specific examples of these except that of the ordination of women to the priesthood - a cause which Jean had strongly supported. Jean had a passion for social justice and a love of adventure, and her deep Christian faith sustained her not least during her final illness. She will be greatly missed.

RN

THE PARISH CHURCH

St Leonard 's Day

A dedicated team had a jolly morning in church on the 7th November, including a Jacob's Join Elevenses. Childrens' toys were sorted out in the tower, old music scores disposed of, and many candles discovered! Remembrance crosses were placed on our war graves, in advance of Remembrance Sunday. RCA

CAROLS AT TWISTON

TWISTON residents "new" & "old" are invited to share a glass of mulled wine & a mince pie at Lower Smithy Fold Barn, on Sunday, 19th December at 7.00 pm, where the Choir will be leading us in carol singing. There will be a collection. For further information ring 445250 DW

Christingle and Nativity Tableau

WANTED..... ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, KINGS etc.

to join in our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve, All ages welcome. If you want to be part of our Nativity Tableau and for further information, please contact Barbara on 440925 or Angie on 440146, thank you. BL



GARDEN CLUB

THE CLUB'S November meeting was cancelled at fairly short notice because of problems arising from the atrocious weather at the time.



Our Christmas Dinner will a Greendale this year on Thursday, 2nd December. Come at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Last minute enquiries to Carol on 440112. CA

VILLAGE HALL

Village Entertainment Group (VEG)

THERE was a good attendance for the performance of 'THE STORE-ROOM' by travelling theatre 'THE KOSH' which was presented at Downham Village Hall on October 23rd at 8 pm, by Spot On.

The one woman show was a potent cocktail of glamour, murder and intrigue and the audience, which consisted of quite a few teenagers, were very enthusiastic in their appreciation of Sian Williams 's outstanding performance. BL

Coming Next

Our next show, which is aimed at families of all ages, is called 'CHRISTMAS STORY MACHINE' and promises to delight, entertain and give you a real flavour of Christmas. It's on Friday 3rd December at 7 pm, Tickets available on 01200 440146 and 01200 440925. BL



COFFEE CLUB

PLEASE come along on Thursday, 9th to the Village Hall and enjoy a bit of festive spirit. There will be the usual refreshments, plus a few seasonal extras. The bring and buy stall will also have a Christmas theme and any contributions will be much appreciated. Could you let June or Edith have any items before the 9th if possible, Thank you and looking forward to seeing you all. BL



DOWNHAM & TWISTON HISTORY GROUP



FOR our November meeting we looked at the family history of the Smithies and Lonsdale families. Both families have a long history in the parish - the earliest Smithies record in Downham is 1606 and it is likely that there were Smithies around from the late 16th century until Florence died in 2009.

At the next meeting on WEDNESDAY 1st December at 7.30 pm Judith Nixon of Manor House, Twiston, will talk to us about the history of her house. EW

WI



YOUR personality is evident in your hand-writing - as Sylvia Wheatley, a qualified graphologist, explained that your handwriting reveals whether you are intelligent, moody, self-centred, stubborn, outgoing or shy. Just by the slant and size or spacing of your writing, many traits can be discerned.

The writing of various famous people was shown to us and their personalities described, including Gordon Brown (stress was evident!), David Cameron (not always what one might have expected!), Nick Clegg (wants to be in charge!), The Prince of Wales (bees in bonnet!) and Princess Diana (more intelligent than the media would have had us believe!). A sample of handwriting can be studied by a prospective employer, or even spouse (!), and the character of the individual can be discovered.

President Julie Parker asked any members available to gather at the Village Hall car park at 10 am on Tuesday 30th November in order to weed the ground around the daffodil bulbs.

Names were taken for the WI Christmas Party which will be held on Thursday 9th December, for members and their invited guests, which will be in the form of a Jacob's Join supper with entertainment provided by Anne and Gordon Sharp, alongside a short play directed by Joyce Plumbridge JN

CANON RODNEY NICHOLSON, REVDs ALAN REID & ANNE HARDACRE THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, CHOIR AND CONGREGATION OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS