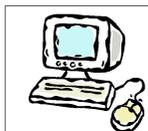


PARISH CALENDAR 2011						
January		Event		Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd	Epiiphany	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs G. Cragg Mrs K. Brown
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P. McFall		
9th	Epiphany I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs C McGrath Mrs E Wrigley
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
10th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Twiston Mill II</i>	
16th	Epiphany II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church		Lady Clitheroe Mrs C Ashworth
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
20th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	<i>SUE RYDER 'The history of Lady Ryder' by Emma Siddle</i>	
23rd	Epiphany III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr J. Whitsey		Mrs S Marlow Mrs J Aspinall
		11.00 am	Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill		
30th	Epiphany IV	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Miss R. Newton	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A Chadwick
		11.00 am	Matins—The Assheton Sermon Revd Alan Reid The Bishop of Burnley	Mrs D. Wilkins		
February						
6th	Epiphany V	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church		Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
		7.00 pm	Candlelight Supper	Community Church		

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	



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PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2011 Issue 1 January

www.downhamvillage.org.uk



From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



PHOTOS of Prince William and Kate Middleton show the couple in a more relaxed and intimate poise than was the case a generation ago. They represent today's more informal style in which people see no need to put on "airs and graces" but are more willing to be seen as they really are.

In a similar way we are happy to use Christian names today whereas at one time, even in church, we sometimes spoke of "Mr and Mrs Brown" rather "Alan and Susan". It really was rather silly and did not say much for our openness to one another if we could not use the names we were baptized with. I have heard it said, "Use first names and all respect goes", which is plainly nonsense. If the quality of someone's life does not earn respect, then calling them by their title will hardly make much difference. By contrast I think of the Manor House nursing home and similar establishments which adopt totally a first name policy but where the staff give of their best, thoroughly respecting their leaders.

God dealt intimately with us when he gave his Son at Bethlehem and surrendered him in Jerusalem. Far from building a wall of protection around himself he gave his one and only Son to be born in a place of appalling risk. We are fond of saying, "Take care", but that isn't what God did. His passionate love affair with his world was so strong that he did not hold back his very self but was prepared, in Jesus Christ, to be hot and tired, to be misunderstood and laughed at, to the subject of lies and ultimately to be crucified. He invites us to call him, "Abba (Daddy), Father".

It is right, to a degree, not to let the cameras in on the royal family for if everything lies open to view, then a proper sense of mystique goes out of the window. God, however, did let the cameras in on himself when he, the creator of everything, lay there in baby's clothes in an animals' feeding place. Born naked, like all of us, he suffered the humiliation of being stripped of his clothes when he, the judge if all, stood trial before a kangaroo court.

Should we let others see our true feelings? Because of Jesus Christ we can say that we have a God who did exactly that.

Robert N. ...

AND I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

M. Louise Haskins—1908

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES

	NOVEMBER	2010
COMMUNICANTS	49	572
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	178	2,084
VISITORS	45	950
DONATIONS	250	6,452
HOUSE BOXES	-	273
TOTALS	473	9,759

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

The Family of the late Barbara Taylor

ALTAR FLOWERS for 2011

The flower list for the coming year is now displayed at the back of church. If any parishioner would like to contribute and arrange the altar flowers for a particular anniversary, or indeed, for no particular reason other than to make an important contribution to life here, please enter details on the list.

Our regular flower coordinators are Jean Whitsey, and Molly Roskell and they are willing to organise flowers for anyone who wishes to sponsor but not arrange the flowers. Jean is on 01200 441527.



LETTER to the EDITOR

Every time I drive along Twiston Lane without getting stuck in the snow I think "Thank you so much Carole & Gary!" All Twistoners really appreciate your efforts.

Grit

Diana Wilkins.

Bishop challenges Coalition's Big Society



I REMAIN to be convinced about the Big Society, and that it will genuinely translate a slogan into beneficial social policy," the Bishop of Blackburn told the General Synod in London. The Big Society "will be tested on the ground, and that testing has to take place inevitably against the background of the recent Comparative Spending Review.

The Bishop cited scrapped housing restoration schemes in East Lancashire, and feared job losses amid 'savage reductions' in Lancashire's council services among review casualties. The Big Society cannot merely be used by government as a passport to abdication. Government cannot simply offload responsibilities for some of the most basic needs of society - housing, jobs and culture among them - and hope the private and voluntary sectors will fund the casualties. He added, "We've had the Benefit Scrounger headlines; now we need good news for the most vulnerable. We've had the excuses for the bankers' bonus culture; now we need initiatives to reduce widening inequalities. Otherwise the Big Society will remain just another advertising gimmick, detached from the realities of our communities and the priorities of faith, hope and charity that the Christian community is called upon to enact, and to require of its partners in social justice.

Christmas and new houses

Rodney Nicholson

THE BUILDING of new homes continues to be a controversial issue in the Ribble Valley, as in many other places, and various planning issues need looking at. When, however, we look at Mary and Joseph, and along with them the many homeless families today, the over-riding aim must be to provide affordable homes for people. It shows the disparity between the haves and the have-nots when some can complain about their view being spoiled, whereas others have no home from which to enjoy a view at all.

The sale of council houses pioneered by Margaret Thatcher, had a good side to it, in that many homes became better cared for. The down-side is that local authorities have a very low housing stock and so are unable to place families desperately needing a home. A good policy, however, is that rather than having a council house for life, occupants might be required to downsize to a smaller property when their children leave home, so that others with a greater need might move into their house.

The Children's Society

Whalley Deanery Fund Raising Committee

Candlelight Supper

The Kings Centre

Millthorne Avenue off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE

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

Giddy Kippers

Little Crackers - Sky TV

VICTORIA Wood's 10 minute film, Giddy Kippers, made at Downham and Knowlmere is part of the short series, Little Crackers, made for Christmas.

The Downham film went out on Sunday, 19th December at 9.00pm. Unfortunately this information was not to hand for the December Newsletter.

However, there appears to be a repeat on Sky 2 in the small hours between Christmas day and Boxing Morning, at 00.50 a.m. Set the recorder!

Big freeze's salutary warning

Rodney Nicholson

WE do not know whether climate change means harsher winters, or whether this year and last have been exceptions. The cold spell does, however, remind us of our fragility. If the temperature dropped by another 10, let alone 20 degrees, we would have severe problems. If it continued to fall or, in summer, to rise life would become unsupportable. We need a comparatively narrow range of temperature changes for life to be supportable at all.

This has three results. One, we need to know our dependence on the God who created us and keeps us going. Two, we should be aware of how suddenly our own lives can end. We may make plans for the future but suddenly they can be thrown into disarray. Hence we should say from the depths of our heart, "Our times are in your hand". Third, we must take seriously the protection of our fragile planet. Other political issues pale into insignificance beside this one, yet how widely did it figure in the last General Election?

It is sad if holidaymakers are stranded at the airports but the cold weather calls us to make bigger adjustments than simply to clear the runways.

Dog waste bin

AS PROMISED earlier in the year, a dog waste bin has been put in by RVBC on Hare Green. It is close, but hopefully not too close to the benches next to Pendle Road. Residents and visitors are strongly encouraged to use this convenient service.

Gritting

MANY thanks to Councillors Scott and Atkinson for getting Twiston Lane included on the regular gritting route. Together with LCC's road drain improvements below Red Syke, access to Twiston has been much improved during the recent cold snap.

LCC recently circulated a summary of what gritting they do and why. Much of it, while interesting, does not need repeating here. A few facts are perhaps helpful, especially if one's blood pressure is rising at "council inefficiency". Gritting cannot take place in the rain as the salt washes away. The 49 regular gritters cannot be everywhere at once. Rush hour snowfall after rain is hard to cope with. Early grit is washed away, later gritting is held up by traffic. Snow is harder to forecast and deal with than ice. Salt will not melt snow, so it must be cleared first.

Tree felling - Church Brow

SADLY THE recent hedging work opposite the Village Hall brought attention to the state of one of the magnificent Beech trees there. Despite extensive, and expensive, tree surgery a number of years ago, one of the Beeches is no longer safe and will be felled. Thankfully the view from across the village will not change much as one huge tree remains. The silver lining to this cloud is that the "teenaged" trees next door, and the soon to be replanted hedge will grow that much quicker and better once the shade has gone.

Lower Hall flooding

THIS perennial issue drags on. The problem is due to an electric cable that is obstructing the culvert under the road. LCC are pressing the company responsible, but it all takes time...

Forestry works

WEATHER permitting, work should start in the New Year to fell the Larch trees in Quarry Meadow wood (across the road, and two fields from the Village Hall). The trees were planted soon after WW2 and are nearing the end of their lives. The bigger trunks will be sold locally, while the smaller and twisted ones are destined to become wood chips for boiler fuel, after a few months drying in stacks.

ASSHETON SERMON 30th JANUARY, 2011



IN HIS WILL Sir Ralph Assheton of Downham, who died on 30th January, 1680 gave £4 a year towards, as his will states: "gratifying two able ministers, other than the present incumbents, of Whalley and Downham, onely for the better occasioning of a fuller congregation of people being willing, for the most part, to heare strangers rather than their own (though perhaps better) each of them to preach a sermon on two several days, at Downham on the day of the month it shall please God to call me from this transitory life, upon one of these texts: Job 19: 25-27 or Colossians 2: 3-4". The texts are Job "I know that my redeemer liveth" and Colossians "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."



This year, the 329th since Sir Ralph's death, the sermon will be preached on the 30th, the precise anniversary, in a Matins service conducted by Revd Alan Reid. The preacher will be the Bishop of Burnley, the Right Revd John Goddard.

Barbara Taylor 1928—2010

BARBARA worshipped at St Leonard's for many years and is fondly remembered by members of the congregation in particular for her beautifully modulated readings of the prayers at Matins once a month for several years prior to her illness. At her funeral on 20th December tributes were paid by Grand-daughter Anne Chadwick, who also read an appreciation from Barbara's Post Office colleague, Alan Todd, from Southport. Roger Dugdale talked of her talented involvement in Plays and Musicals in the area..

Anne has written: Barbara came to Clitheroe aged 9 from Liverpool, although she was born in Salford, and lived at 109, Chatburn Road with her parents, she attended Pendle Primary School where she met Madeleine Turner, her life long friend, and Norman Lund. She then went to CRGS intending to become a journalist. During the summer holidays she worked as a casual in the Post Office, delivering the odd telegraph by bicycle with her friend, and liked working there so much she went home and told her parents she wanted to stay there. She held many posts from telephonist through to Postmaster, and travelled the world training other countries to run their Post Offices as efficiently as ours and had many friends all over the world.

She was deeply involved in theatre and produced musicals such as Gigi, Fiddler on the Roof, South Pacific and White Horse Inn in Clitheroe, Blackburn, Southport and further afield, as well as our highly acclaimed Downham Productions! And spent some time working for BBC radio, she had been asked by the BBC to do a 'This Is Your Life' but didn't feel her life had been special enough. She had a diploma from the London Academy for her dramatic arts which led her to become an adjudicator for exams in drama. Barbara was also on the board of governors at CRGS with another of her school friends, Barbara Bingham, who said Barbara's dedication and enthusiasm meant her help and ideas were always well received.

Barbara married my Grandfather, Ken Taylor in 1971 and gained two step children, Diana and Colin, as well as step grandchildren Terry and Mark, before I was born in 1972, sadly she was widowed in early 1973, but still remained very much part of the family. I spent as much time with Barbara when I was growing up as her busy schedule allowed, and as her illness developed Ian, the Boys and I spent more and more time with her taking her where ever we went and almost living with her between 2000 and 2006 when we had to take the difficult decision to move her to Riverside House at Sawley where she was always very happy and smiley all the time, even when she was in hospital for her last few days.

Everybody that knew Barbara held her in very high regard, and always spoke well of her. We will miss her very much.

THE PARISH CHURCH

ADVENT CAROLS

FIVE representatives of our congregation attended the very beautiful service in candle-lit Blackburn Cathedral on 30th November. The service marked the beginning of the Christian year and of the 400th anniversary year of the completion of the King James Version of the Bible.

CAROLS AT TWISTON

TWENTY-NINE Twiston residents "new" & "old" who were invited to share a glass of mulled wine & a mince pie at Lower Smithy Fold Barn, on Sunday, 19th December at 7.00 pm, were joined by the Choir who arrived through the deep mid-winter snow to lead us all in carol singing. The collection raised £80 for the choir's charity. Thanks to Steve and Diana for a very pleasant evening.

**Christingle & Nativity Tableau
WANTED ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, KINGS**

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 - 440925 or Angie - 440146, BL

SHOE BOX JOY

128 shoe boxes were received from the parishes of Low Moor, Chatburn and Downham. Last year a total of around 1.2 million boxes were sent from the UK to disadvantaged children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Samaritan's Purse, who organise the shoe boxes, have many projects in these countries. For example, in a remote part of Liberia the charity built fish ponds to be maintained by the women so that they would have their own supply. In a similar project villages started an animal husbandry business, rearing their own sheep.

The shoe boxes show the children that they are remembered and loved: a sign that others care about them.

GARDEN CLUB

THE CLUB Christmas Dinner at Greendale on Thursday, 2nd December at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. was attended by 35 members. The company, really good menu and very pleasant surroundings enhanced by the colourful seasonal decorations made for a great night out. Nothing had been forgotten by the organiser including amusing table-bling in the form of gold trumpets colourful crackers and other delights.



The club is indeed fortunate to have the enthusiasm and energy of Carol Ashworth who does all the hard work in bringing the event to last minute perfection.

Guests made a generous collection for Ribble Valley Crossroads care which the committee made up to a round one hundred pounds. The evening ended with an every-ticket-a-winner raffle. Feeling highly satisfied we hibernate till early spring. TM

THE COOKERY CLUB

A VERY full Village Hall kitchen (32 members) enjoyed a demonstration by Stephanie Moon, who is consultant chef to her former employers at the prestigious Harrogate hotel Ridding Park and teacher at Leeds college.



Stephanie brought three student-helpers and gave an enthusiastic teach-in about five different "Textures of Pork". First she demonstrated five starters, and by magic they appeared; one of each for everyone. She then moved into the pork demonstration which culminated in a beautifully served plate of five very different examples of the meat, belly, roast-leg, dogs-in-blankets, bacon and a meatball.

A special meringue pudding finished off the demonstration and meal which was thoroughly enjoyed by all members including Stephanie's Grandmother, Betty Mercer.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE CLUB

THANKS to the generosity of Ralph and Olivia, we were able to hold this month's meeting at the Lydget as the Village Hall car park was unsafe. Twenty four members attended and were offered a welcome glass of sherry, courtesy of Dave and Olive. June and Edith ran a Christmas bring and buy stall, which proved a great success, thank you to everyone who contributed. Carol and myself (suitably attired in festive hats) provided refreshments and everyone agreed it had been a very enjoyable morning.

There won't be a coffee club in January but Olive and Dave will be back at the helm in February.

I've really enjoyed helping out this year and appreciate all your support and special thanks to Carol, June and Edith I couldn't have done it without you. BL

DOWNHAM & TWISTON HISTORY GROUP



DUE to bad weather we had to cancel the December meeting when we were looking forward to hearing about the history of Manor House, Twiston. We will arrange a date in spring to revisit this topic.

The January meeting will include a second instalment of the history of Twiston Mill. Weather permitting, we may have a visit from someone whose ancestors feature in the earliest parish records. The date for your diary is Monday 10th January 2011. EW



WI

OWING to the snowy weather conditions the W.I. Christmas Party was postponed until further notice. It was thought that the icy state of the Village Hall car park would be treacherous for the ladies carrying trays and dishes of food into the party, to say nothing of the expected guests.



After the thaw, ten members made a visit to The Grand for Ladies' Night where they enjoyed a meal and watched a film. It is hoped that we will be able to continue these visits into the future.

Also a trip to Clitheroe Light Opera Society's production of "Oklahoma" is planned for February. The January meeting will be on the 20th at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. The speaker is Emma Siddle on SUE RYDER 'The history of Lady Ryder'. JN

VILLAGE HALL

**Village Entertainment Group (VEG)
Christmas Story Machine,
Friday 3rd December**

THANK YOU everyone for turning up on a cold snowy night, there was a good audience attendance of over 70!

Professor Bumm and Doctor Whee were excellent at adlibbing and improvising. They interacted extremely well with the audience. The young people and children appeared to find them hilarious.

Next year's Spring events are:-
Friday 25th March 2011: Odyssey, based on Homer's Greek classic but more fun! Ideal for young teenagers and adults

Saturday 1st May 2011: Washy Wish, inspired by Kamishibai (traditional Japanese paper theatre) vibrant physical theatre that includes a hands on paper making experience. Theatre for little ones aged 3 to 5 years. AG