

PARISH CALENDAR—2013						
April			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
4th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Antiquarian Gardens</i>	
7th	Easter I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>ChristChurch Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs B Lewis
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
		12.noon	Annual Parochial Meetings	Church		
11th	Thursday	10.00	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
14th	Easter II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P. McFall		Mrs A. Holden Mrs T. Stell
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Alan Reid	Mr B. Lewis		
		3.00 pm	<i>Entertainment for Children</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>		
15th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Members Night</i>	
18th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	<b>Chatburn</b> Methodist Chapel	<i>Tai Chi for Arthritis</i>	
21st	Easter III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Mr & Mrs N. Lund	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
22nd	Monday	6.30 pm	Village Hall Mangmnt Cttee	Village Hall	<i>Annual General Meeting</i>	
28th	Easter IV	11.00am	Songs of Praise Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill		Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs A, Richardson
<b>May</b>						
2nd	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Carnivorous Plants</i>	
5th	Easter V	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>ChristChurch Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
<p align="center"><b>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE</b> – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019</p> <p align="center"><b>OUR CHURCH WARDENS</b></p> <p align="center">The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250</p> <p align="center"><b>VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Chairman and Bookings Secretary</b> Mr Shaun Roney—441667</p> <p align="center"><b>Hon Secretary</b> The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210</p>						
		www.downhamvillage.org.uk				

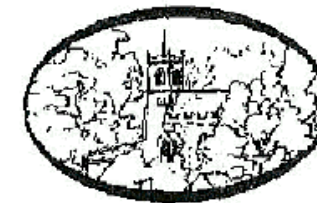


The April Newsletter has been very kindly sponsored  
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## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

### DOWNHAM & TWISTON



# newsletter

2013 Issue 4 April

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



CHURCH of England bishops, including the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, clashed with the government recently over welfare spending. They agreed with a report from The Children's Society which warned that limiting financial support to families to a 1% increase per year (when inflation is currently 2.7%) could push 200,000 more children into poverty. The changes coming in from April 1<sup>st</sup> do not only affect unemployed people. The Children's Society calculates that, for example, a single parent with two children, working on an average wage as a nurse, would lose £424 a year by 2015. A couple with three children and one earner, on an average Army corporal's wage, would lose £552 a year,

The main complaint, however, is that 60% of the savings will come from the poorest third of households, whereas only 3% will come from the richest third.

The Archbishop stressed that he was not picking a fight with the government, whose Work and Pensions' Minister, Mr Iain Duncan Smith was, he believed, acting with the best possible motives. He felt, however, that the way the burden was being shared was wrong.

Church leaders have often disagreed with the government of the day. On Good Friday Jesus was executed by an unholy alliance of both the political and religious establishment who found his message too uncomfortable. All this talk of an alternative kingdom was not what they wanted to hear.

Today's situation is very different. Government leaders in this country either belong to the Christian movement or have been influenced by it. No government is *trying* to act unjustly. Yet because sin and self-interest affect not just individuals but also groups and alliances of people, decisions can be made which do not treat everyone fairly. People like me are not being treated fairly because we should be required to pay more!

God calls his Church to live out the prayer, "Thy kingdom come". Sometimes the Church can enjoy popularity in doing this, but at other times the demands of justice and concern for the poor and exploited will set the Church and government on a collision course. People doing their best to find work sometimes feel looked down on when they visit the Job Centre to sign on. Homeless families, not to mention asylum seekers, get used to humiliation. On Good Friday Jesus endured pain, mockery and seeming failure. To walk Jesus's way involves seeing God's image in everyone, as he did.

*Rodney N. Assheton*

### Prayer for Good Friday

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	February	2013
COMMUNICANTS	60	114
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	96	450
VISITORS	45	71
DONATIONS	220	450
HOUSE BOXES	-	-
TOTALS	361	971

### OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

**Karen Walker** of Greendale who is undergoing treatment.

**Bob Swarbrick** who is making progress.

**Betty Mercer** who is now home again

**June Rumfitt** who is home after a spell in hospital.

**Eric Musson**, Clitheroe Bellringer who helps out here at St Leonards and who is not well.

### GARDENS OPEN AT DOWNHAM HALL—2013

ROSEMERE CANCER FOUNDATION is the charity alongside the Downham Village Hall to benefit from this annual event. Please save the dates 27th and 28th July, between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. Anyone wishing to donate prizes or help with arrangements on either or both dates please let Olivia know on 441210. Further details and the programme will appear in future Newsletters.

### BROOKSIDE CULVERT AND DRAINS

LCC Highways department has inspected the collapsing roof to the brook at Brookside and were shocked to find that it is stone vaulted! (This had apparently not been noticed decades ago when the road was originally "adopted"). Having never recorded it as a bridge it has never been inspected by them and should not have had motorised traffic over it.

Now of course money is tight, so they are not able to rebuild it immediately! The solution that has been arrived at is that repairs will be done when money allows. In the mean time the garish orange plastic barriers will be replaced in the next couple of months with some relatively discrete, but solid, black painted, steel bollards. These will still allow access for residents' cars to enter and exit the car park, but stop anyone driving over the weakened structure.

It is hoped that "Dockyard" bollards will be used. These are shorter than the more standard town centre ones, but should be less of an obstacle should the brook ever flood again carrying debris before it. Residents beware! The bollards will be stronger than your bumper!

### SPECTATOR IS BACK!

**A**FTER an absence of, Golly, ten years our Features Editor has persuaded Spectator to contribute an occasional column. From late 1990s to 2002 Spectator gave us wry comments on current events, both local and international, stretching the range of the barbed pen as far as Burnley on one occasion. So, Welcome back, Spectator:

MY mother-in-law has been known to complain that whenever we go out anywhere by car or bus, I always have my head down texting. This is not because I want to avoid talking to her or because, like Marlene Dietrich "I vont to be alone", it's because whenever I leave the village, my mobile phone bleeps non-stop with messages and voice mails that I have been unable to receive because there is no signal in our lovely village. Well, actually, to be fair..... there is one room in our house, where..... if you place your mobile on a slant..... resting against a certain pane of glass.....on a clear day..... if the weather is fine..... and there is an 'R' in the month ....Oh, OK, so I am exaggerating, a bit, but we REALLY can only get a signal by one window and it is very frustrating sometimes. Hence the need to reply to all my messages before I get back home, sorry Mum, when I am back to hovering by the one window again!!!

Most people nowadays have mobile contracts. Mine is £10 a month for unlimited texts and a good amount of talk time, most of which is wasted as I don't get chance to use it. On the other hand, we pay a fortune to BT for line rental and packages that we would not need if our mobiles worked. The aforementioned Mother has, in the past, paid quarterly bills of around £50 when calls during that quarter have amounted to less than a fiver so she and lots of other residents would be much better off if the powers that be could push Downham a tiny step forward into the 21st century and negotiate a well hidden and discreet mast or whatever it is which would allow us to use our mobiles.....yeah. lol txt bac :)

some contribution to reducing the country's deficit. Some say, "I've worked all my life and should enjoy the benefits." That's fine but there is a place for gratitude for having had a lifetime's employment - unless the work has been badly paid, exhausting or dangerous. We complain about paying income tax but fail to be grateful for having earned the money on which we are taxed

Human nature looks after its interests. We are naturally protective and concerned for ourselves. At Good Friday and Easter we see a Saviour who set his interests on one side. He died out of love for others. St Paul urges to look to one another's interests, and not just to our own. This offers a powerful, though uncomfortable message to our world, maybe it's the only real hope for the future.

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### The sacredness of Pendle Hill

**P**ENDLE Hill features in a TV series on Britain's most sacred places, following the five summer's mission of Christian travel writer, Nick Mayhew Smith. Topping his list of "holy places", Nick said of Pendle, "It is a founding place of the Quaker movement, a place where George Fox climbed up and received a vision of souls waiting to be gathered into his new movement. Welsh poet Ifor ap Glyn, presents the series which includes interviews with prominent churchmen. RN

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### Did you go to Downham Youth Group?

Downham youth group will be re-opening its doors for one night only to celebrate **Derrick Smith's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday 8th June 2013**  
**More Details next month**



WHALLEY DEANERY FUND RAISING COMMITTEE  
Chairman - Canon Rodney Nicholson

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am to 12 noon

## COFFEE MORNING



### BROWSHOLME HALL

COWARK CLITHEROE BB7 3DE

By Kind Permission of Mr and Mrs R. Parker  
In aid of the society

COFFEE AND CAKE, RAFFLE, CAKE STALL  
**ADMISSION £3**

Enquiries Mrs Philippa McFall, 01200 441484



Support Martin James MBE to  
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3 June 2013

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Email: [northwest@soldierscharity.org](mailto:northwest@soldierscharity.org)  
Text TOPM75 to 70070  
and send a £2 donation.  
To donate go to  
[www.justgiving.com/Martin-James5](http://www.justgiving.com/Martin-James5)

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

### THE PARISH CHURCH

**T**WO short meetings will take place at 12 noon after the morning service on Sunday, 7th April. The first is the Vestry Meeting, at which the Church Wardens are elected for the ensuing year.

The Second is the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, at which the annual report and accounts of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year 2012 are received, discussed and questions answered. Elections of the PCC and Sidesmen and women also take place at this meeting. All parishioners are entitled to attend and those on the electoral roll to vote.

This is the AGM of your parish church.

### VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**T**HE Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will take place at 6.30 pm on Monday, 22nd April in the Village Hall. All residents of Downham and Twiston are entitled and welcome to attend. The Committee and Officers will be elected and the Annual Report of activities and accomplishments in the year 2012 will be discussed.

Please support your village hall.

### EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR NEW BISHOP

**Rodney Nicholson**



WE look forward to welcoming Julian Henderson as the ninth Bishop of Blackburn, together with his wife Heather. Archdeacon Julian, as he currently is, trained for the ministry at my old theological college, Ridley Hall, Cambridge, indicating that his roots lie in the evangelical tradition, although he is appreciative of other spiritual traditions. Looking at the website of the Surrey parish of which he was formerly vicar, shows a lively church with plenty of emphasis on young people's ministry.

Bishop-elect Julian declared his support for the poor by choosing to meet the press at St Barnabas', Blackburn, a church which runs a food bank in a parish which has plenty of deprivation. As a departure from recent practice in Blackburn diocese, the new Bishop Julian will ordain women priests and will work towards making it possible to consecrate women bishops.

### AND WELCOME TO THE NEW POPE TOO



**T**HE selection of Francis I, as the new Pope chooses to be known, is a welcome choice. Although he is more conservative in some areas than many would like, the new leader of the Roman Catholic comes across as man of grace, humility and courage. And the appointment of an Argentinean was imaginative. Vatican officials reportedly offered Pope Francis an elaborate gold pectoral cross to wear before stepping onto the balcony, but he told them he would prefer to keep the very simple cross which he had worn as a bishop.

The new pontiff is known for his frugal lifestyle and his championing the poor. As Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he lived in a modest flat near the cathedral where he cooked his own food rather than using servants. Instead of being chauffeur driven, he used the underground and local buses, and when flying to Rome always flew economy class.

### The rich elderly? Rodney Nicholson

**H**AVE no qualms about declaring how rich I am. To have more than enough to eat, a warm home (even though not my own), access to free health care, and much more, puts me among the world's richest people. I think many of us should be totally up-front about this and admit, in a supposed time of austerity, that we are comfortably off.

As I have written before, many of those of my generation have been particularly blessed: no national service, free university education, regular employment, affordable housing and retirement with a pension at 60 or 65. Some have retired in their 50s. Those born before 1940 or after 1960 may not have all these benefits, whilst those who entered the world in the last 30 years, will have to work well past 67 with uncertainty about their pension.

This being so, one questions the wisdom of David Cameron in promising to make no cuts to pensioners' benefits. Some pensioners are much better off than the families whose welfare payments he is, in reality, reducing. £3 million, for example, goes on winter fuel payments to pensioners who live abroad. It's a paltry sum by comparison with the £200 billion welfare budget, but it illustrates how a lot of money goes to those who do not need it. For that matter, residents of homes for the elderly receive their winter fuel allowance, even though they are not paying a fuel bill.

In fact, more than half of the welfare budget goes to older people. Many, who only have their state pension, need extra support. It's important that older people should not be cold in their homes because they cannot afford proper heating. Others, however, who are better off in old age than when they were working, could make

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

**Mothering Sunday**

REVD. Anne Hardacre welcomed everyone and conducted the Mothering Sunday Service at Downham Parish Church at 11.00 am on 10th March . Hymns and choruses about Mums were sung, and the organist was Mr. Robert Tattersall. Rev. Hardacre's talk was about all the jobs mums have to juggle with and how we all could help in some way, how ever small.

Small posies of daffodils and greenery were given to all ladies in the congregation and all enjoyed coffee and biscuits after the service.

Our next Family Service will be on 26th May. at 11.00. DB

**Songs of Praise**

THE 11am service on April 28th will be a Songs of Praise, led by the Revd Anne Hardacre. If you would like a favourite hymn to be sung, please let Kirsteen Walmsley know, or ring Anne herself on 429341. If you wish to say why you particularly like that hymn, please free to say so.

Note there will be no 8.30 am Service on 28th April. RN

**Easter Saturday**

WHICH Saturday is Easter Saturday? The popular but incorrect answer is the day after Good Friday. That day is Easter Eve (like Christmas Eve). Easter begins on the Sunday, Easter Day, so that Easter Saturday is the following Saturday - this year April 6th. It follows on from Easter Monday, Tuesday etc. RN

**ANNAL CROSS ROADSIDE WALLING**

WORK has been carrying on for the last couple of years to repair the dry stone walls in and around Great Coppy, on the Pendle side of the Downham to Barley Road, near the Annal Cross junction.

The Bainbridge brothers have been steadily working there way along the roadside, and around the ancient sheep fold (in the field near the bridge). At last the work is nearly complete, so wall top wiring can be put up to help preserve this historic wall for future generations.

As well as the wallers, thanks are due to Ian Denby, the Downham Estate, The Downham Trust, and DEFRA through their Countryside Stewardship Scheme RCA



**VILLAGE HALL**

**HISTORY GROUP**

**A MEMBERS' Night is planned for 7.30 pm at the Village Hall on Monday, 15th April, when we will review projects in hand and plan a programme for work and speaker topics for the coming year.**

**GARDEN CLUB**

THE AGM on Thursday, 7th March took place in swift time and members re-elected the officers, Shaun Roney, Chairman, Carole Ashworth, Hon Secretary, and June Rumpfitt Hon Treasurer, together with committee members Daphne Porter, Pam Titterington and Molly Roskell. The Hon Secretary introduced the programme for the year, copy enclosed, including the schedule for the Annual Show in August, which includes three age groups in seven new classes for Children.



Anne and Gordon Sharpe then made a welcome return visit and showed three films. One, a journey of scenery and rural life in the West Riding of Yorkshire, one of their Arctic adventure and one short film of wild flowers. They also answered questions about their travels, filming and plans for the future.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 4th April, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, when the speaker will be Tim Smith and the Presentation "Antiquarian Gardens". CA

**SPOT-ON THEATRE RETURNS TO DOWNHAM**

**THE SAGA OF NOGGIN THE NOG**

Will be presented on Sunday afternoon 14th April at 3.00 pm

At the Village Hall

A show for Children 3 years and up

Admission £6 Adults and £3 for children

Enquires—Barbara 429291

PRESIDENT Julie Parker welcomed 28 members and 9 guests who had braved the cold winds to attend Downham WI's 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Party on 21st March.



How do you dress for a 'Lancashire night' - with shawls and pinnies, flat caps and witches hats, there was even a very special black pudding, complete with a dollop of mustard.

A hotpot supper was served by Tim from Waddington, this was followed by a light-hearted lesson in Lanky Twang, before thoroughly enjoying Christine Thistlethwaite's dialect poems.

Congratulations were given to Eileen and Philippa, recognising their 50 year membership of the WI for which they had already received certificates at the Annual Council meeting.

Marion, Rosemary and Pam delivered lovely birthday cup cakes with their own little container.

A Lancashire theme quiz followed, then 'by gum' it was time for home.

Members are reminded that the April meeting *Tai Chi for Arthritis* will take place in Chatburn Methodist Chapel meeting room on Thursday, 18th at 7.30 pm. AK

**COFFEE CLUB**



Apologies for having to cancel the March Coffee Club, we hope that all our messages got through and that no one turned up on the doorstep on Thursday, 14th.

The next meeting will be **April 11<sup>th</sup>**, and we look forward to seeing you then.

OAwB