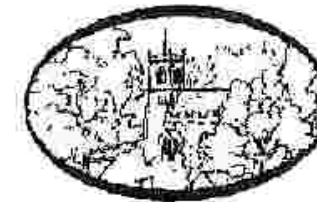


Parish Calendar 2013						
August			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
3rd	Saturday	Entries 10.00 am to 12.00 noon Public 2.15	Garden Club	Village Hall	Annual Show	
4th	Trinity X	8.30 am	No Service		Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		11.00am	Holy Communion Revd Peter Shepherd	Mrs B. Lewis		
8th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
11th	Trinity XI	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs C. McGrath Mrs J. Smith
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
15th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Visit to Holden Clough Nursery with refreshments at the Cafe	
18th	Trinity XII	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Mrs K Hall	Lady Clitheroe Mrs C. Ashworth
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mr T. McLean		
25th	Trinity XIII	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	Mrs D Braithwaite	Mrs S. Marlow Mrs E. Parker
		11.00 am	Morning Worship Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis		
September						
1st	Trinity XIV	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P. McFall		
3rd	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Pre School		
<p align="center">OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019 OUR CHURCH WARDENS The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250 VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Chairman and Bookings Secretary Mr Shaun Roney—441667 Hon Secretary The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210</p>						
		www.downhamvillage.org.uk				

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2013 Issue 8 August

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



O Clarke (26), a confident and perhaps young businesswoman was annoyed when she noticed that the checkout operator at her local London Sainsbury's was not ringing through her purchases. "Is there a problem?" she asked. She was told that it was against company policy to serve customers who were on their mobiles. Clarke, who had been chatting to her brother, replied that she was unaware of that rule, to which the checkout woman answered, "You learn something every day".

When Clarke complained to Sainsbury's she was told that there was no such rule and received an apology and a £10 voucher. Still annoyed she went to the press, but here lay her misjudgement. The vast majority of those who commented on the story agreed that it was not the assistant who had done wrong, but her.

In my view, Jo Clarke was a rude young woman. Mobile phones are a wonderful invention, a life saver and all that. But some people walk around as though their phone were part of their body. It is intensely ill-mannered to be chatting over the phone in the company of others who have no part in that conversation. The Sainsbury assistant refused to be treated as "a thing" - of less importance than Clarke's beloved telephone.

It is human beings who are made in the image of God, not mobile phones. We are made for relationship with others. That does not mean that a customer is required to make conversation with a checkout operator, but the person at the till should be treated with friendliness and consideration. Chatting on the phone shuts that person out and treats her or him just as some object of little importance.

In fact, the phone gives the user some importance. "I am being rung up, so clearly I am someone rather special". We may be talking to a friend, but if the phone rings it must be answered. Should we, however, make the person at the other end of the line more important than the person in the room? I was at a conference in London some years ago where one vicar in the group was repeatedly having to leave the room to attend to his mobile phone. What an important and busy young clergymen he must have been! But, then, we love to be needed and imagine that the world can't do without us.

Rodney N. Assheton

Jesus said which, now, of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among thieves? And he said, he that shewed mercy on him. Then, said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. *The Gospel according to St Luke 17:11*

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	June	2013
COMMUNICANTS	59	372
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	225	1,350
VISITORS	117	346
DONATIONS	2,215	5,562
HOUSE BOXES	-	116
TOTALS	2,557	7,374

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Bob Swarbrick who is making progress.

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

FAREWELL

Angela and David Richardson who are leaving Brookside Downham. Good luck in your new home.

ENGAGEMENT

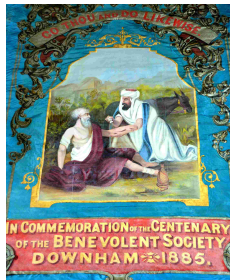
Col Philip Naylor OBE and Mrs Naylor of Downham are pleased to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Amy Louise to Daniel Frizzell, eldest son of Richard Frizzell and Beverley Williams of Warwickshire.

CPRE BIRTHDAY PICNIC

THE CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Lancashire branch held an 80th birthday picnic in the field below the Village Hall at the beginning of July. The glorious weather ensured that a good time was had by all, even if the walk after lunch was more like a trek across the Sahara than the usual muddy ramble that had been planned for!

DOWNHAM BANNER - saving a bit of Lancashire

THE Downham Banner Group is pleased to announce the launch of the banner's own website www.downhambanner.com. which describes the project in some detail and will be used to update readers on progress with the application for a Heritage Lottery grant to enable the conservation of the banner to be undertaken. Part of the overall plan is an annual sermon about the Good Samaritan—the main subject of the banner panel and text, *Go, and do thou likewise*. This takes place on the thirteenth Sunday after Trinity, this year on 25th August at 11.00 am.



Rosie's Corner

NOT WRITTEN BY KATHLEEN NICHOLSON!

THIS hot weather is no good for dogs. I divide the day between trying to find a cool spot and, when I've found one, sleeping in it. VicR keeps reminding us that in the bible rain, not a heatwave, is a sign of God's blessing. "That's all right," says McK, "but we didn't seem particularly blessed last summer when there was hardly a fine day. There were no apples on the trees round here, because the insects got their wings so waterlogged that they could not fly and cross-pollinate."

I hope it wasn't too hot for Anne and Derek in the Convention marquee at Keswick. I don't envy those two Guide dogs, Fiddle and Arwyn if this week has been as hot for them. Geraint and Sue, a Christian blind couple from Warrington, take them to Keswick every year. Getting there by train and bus, and then finding their way around Keswick, can't be easy but they seem to manage it.

Last night RJ and his girlfriend Kirsty took me to the Edisford hotel in the cool of the late evening where I shared a drop - literally a drop - of their beer in the pub garden. The garden is enclosed so I am allowed off the lead there. VicR was a bit disappointed when he came in from a post-baptism visit. He fancied a cool walk but, seeing he couldn't take me, went off by himself for 45 minutes. I hope he had a lead on.

The following night he popped over to Chatburn to socialise with school parents at the end of term barbecue. "Not bothered about going but it's all part of my job," he said, but then he came back saying what a good atmosphere there was on such a lovely evening. You never know where you have him, do you?

What a do we had a month ago. McK thought it would be good to visit VicR's mother's empty house one last time because there might be one or two useful tools to bring over. Of course, we had to go there and then, at VicR's bidding. I don't know why he wanted tools - it isn't as though he'll do any work with them. Anyway, I had to share my space in the car coming back with a bureau (for the YMCA), a lawnmower and a selection of garden tools. Talk about strange bedfellows! "Oh well," said VicR, "we sometimes have to make room for those we don't particularly like. I had to cope with an Irishman one Saturday evening last summer who reckoned he had no money to feed himself and his family who were in the car outside". I suppose hospitality is good, so long as it isn't taken too far.

Key McK = my carer, Kathleen; VicR = Vicar Rodney; RJ = their son, Richard

www.



OUR Village Website www.downhamvillage.org.uk has been going since 2010 when it was created to join up with the original Downham Village Hall website. Information about the village, events, businesses and the village hall and the parish church may all be accessed from the one domain.

Statistics of themselves don't tell very much but they may be interesting to some readers. In the month June 29th to July 29th 2013 778 people visited the website in a total of 983 "hits", so 205 were described by Google analytics as returning visitors and 75% as new.

3,501 of our web pages were visited. The Average number of pages viewed per visit was 3.51. With a bounce rate of 50% - that's the number of people who look at one page and go no further - nearly 500 people in one month are looking at more than one page.....

LIFE IS BETTER THAN WE THINK!

Rodney Nicholson

PEOPLE tend to have a gloomier view of life than is the case According to surveys, 51% think that violent crime is rising, when in fact it has fallen steadily since 2006. 29% think we spend more on Jobseekers' Allowance than on pensions, whereas we spend 15 times more on pensions.

Those responding to the surveys believed that, on average, £24 is lost to every £100 to benefit fraud - the real figure is 70p in every £100. People think 15% of girls under 16 get pregnant every year (the true figure is 0.6%). The public reckons that 43% of the population (entitled to vote) voted in the last general election, when actually it was 65%.

Confusion also exists over the make-up of the British population: 31% are thought to be immigrants (rather than the true 13%) and 24% to be Muslims, when the figure is 5% in England and Wales.

Source: The Week magazine

SPECTATOR

JON and I count our blessings every day for the wonderful neighbours we've had since coming to live in Downham, especially, since the Whitsey families health and ability to do even the simplest of things has taken a nose dive in recent times! So it provoked lots of memories when looking for inspiration through all the August back copies of Spectator in the Parish Magazine, I found a tribute to Walter Robinson in August 1999 My first experience of a lovely neighbour .I thought i'd share some of it with you

"Downham will never be the same again".The end of an era.Walter is still greatly missed by many I'm sure and not least by me. He was a lovely neighbour, loved to pass the time of day but not one to gossip. He teased me about my Yorkshire birthplace, yet from the moment I came to live here, he made me feel like i'd come home. Walter finished almost every conversation with a shouted "good lass" as he shuffled away. His gin and tonics which were strictly medicinal, were legendary, at least in my family!

What a character, a plain speaking man who once asked my sister if she was an all-in wrestler when she visited in her black cycling shorts and a vest type t shirt. Her mouth dropped open and i couldn't stop laughing because that's exactly what she did look like. Walter had a lot of sayings, my favourite being " a right's right and a wrong's nobody's right" He told me that if in this life you can do someone a good turn, you will always

be repaid, sometimes when you least expect it and often when you need it most, I would have liked to have known his wife Frances and I was pleased that he thought we would have got on. I know he missed her a lot at times , but he seemed mainly content with life until his good friend Len's Craggs death and when his beloved grandson Mark died, it positively overwhelmed him.

I have been thinking about mortality recently as poor mum has lost quite a lot of friends, many of them she has known most of her life. very sad..I used to be frightened of dying and leaving loved ones behind, but having to face up to more and more loved ones who will be there i'm sure to meet me on "the other side" i am not so fearful and if i live to a good age, there could be more loved ones who have passed than there are here..I may even prefer to go than stay. I like to imagine that's how Walter felt.

FLOOD PREVENTION

PLEASE remember that historically Downham has suffered its worst floods and threats of flooding in August. It makes sense to check your gutters and drains, especially after such a long dry spell. We are almost bound to get our usual portion of rain, and the year has been desert-like to date! All the low lying properties in the village have been provided with flood boards, but please remember to check that they still fit. If you are going away ensure that your neighbours can get at them.

Sadly the County Council no longer provides sand bags, so those with particular concerns need to plan ahead

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Diana Braithwaite

THE singing group who meet at Chatburn Methodist Church on alternate Monday evenings, met at Downham Parish Church on Monday evening to "Make A Joyful Noise."

By no means a choir they are people who enjoy singing hymns, both old and new, and have tea and biscuits. Mr Roy Porter is the organiser and Mr Geoffrey Hitchen the organist.

At St .Leonards about 30 hymns were sung by the group, who were joined by parishioners, and a good time was had by all. If anyone feels they would like to "Make Joyful Noise" please feel free to join us at Chatburn Methodist Church on Monday 29th July you will be very welcome.

AMAZING BUT COSTLY FORGIVENESS

Rodney Nicholson

LAST Christmas Eve, Sheffield organist Alan Greaves (68) was savagely murdered by two thugs (both 22) while on his way to midnight communion at St Saviour's - the church whose vicar, Simon Bessant, incidentally, was made a canon with me in 2006. The step-brothers broke almost every bone in his face with a pickaxe handle, leaving him to die four days later.

After their conviction last week, his widow Maureen (63), a committed Christian who raises money for the Church Army, surprised many people by her offer of forgiveness. "Alan," she said, "was a man who was driven by love and compassion and he would not want any of us to hold on to feelings of hate and unforgiveness. So in honour of Alan and in honour of the God we both love, my prayer is that this story doesn't end today.

"My prayer is that Jonathan Bowling and Ashley Foster will come to understand and experience the love and kindness of the God who made him in his own image and that God's great mercy will inspire them to true repentance."

This was too much for "Mary of Aylesbury" who commented in the Daily Mail Online: "Sorry but no way would I feel like this woman, knowing my husband was murdered. I would want this scum put away for life as he can't unfortunately swing."

Mary of Aylesbury misses the point. No one is asking her to forgive, because forgiveness comes from the heart, rather being something you are told to do. But perhaps she has never discovered the love and forgiveness of God for herself, as Maureen Greaves has done, so that the latter's words are a foreign language to her. Maureen knows that simply calling the two men scum and wishing they were dead will not bring her release and healing. Others, many of them Christians, faced by a similar tragedy, have declared that the path of anger and hatred ultimately get you nowhere.

Mrs Greaves did not hide her grief, or her satisfaction that Bowling was sentenced to a minimum of 25 years and Foster, for manslaughter, 9 years. The culprits made this motiveless attack after heavy drinking - on Christmas Eve, of all days. They were depraved young men, but what had made them like that? Bowling's father was a convicted wife-beater. As in all these cases, they were steeped in violence from childhood.

They were caught on CCTV camera. I wonder if David Davis MP who resigned from the Conservative party in June 2008 partly over the increased use of CCTV, would rather the cameras had not been there.

THE PARISH CHURCH

**THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
Record collection**

THE IN-store collection for The Children's Society at Booths' two weeks ago raised a record £767 over the two days. Volunteers from Whalley Deanery churches worked hard, staffing the stall from 8.00am to 7.00 pm for the Friday and Saturday, but the effort paid off. RN



CLITHEROE FOOD BANK

DON'T forget you may make a contribution to the food bank by leaving a gift in the box in church.

CALLING ALL SPEAK(E)s

THE Speak/e/s Family Association is a group from the United States--and scattered from California to New England Their common ancestor, Thomas Speake, emigrated to the Colony of Maryland around 1660. It is known that he was a Catholic And came from Downham.

Don't forget any Lancashire Speakes are most welcome to join their American cousins for a short visit to Downham, starting at St Leonard's at 9.00 am on Tuesday 10th September.

DOWNHAM PARISH MEETING

THE Annual Parish meeting will take place in the Downham Pre School at **7pm on Tuesday 3rd September**. As ever, all Downham residents are welcome to attend. For those who have not attended before, the Meeting is the third tier of Local Government. It is a suitable forum for raising issues dealt with by Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council. In the past discussion has covered such topics as traffic problems, litter, street lighting and flooding. The meeting is usually short and sweet, so no one need worry that they will be wasting an evening, or falling asleep with boredom! RCA

GARDEN CLUB



THIRTY members made the short trip to Waddow Lodge at Waddington for a tour of the gardens of Peter Foley formerly of Holden Clough Nursery

Peter explained the development of the garden including some recently built raised beds for vegetable cultivation. Beautiful trees, including some large Japanese maples, form the framework of the garden which contains magnificent herbaceous borders roses and alpine collections.

Members enjoyed home-made biscuits and tea at the conclusion of their tour and Peter was available to answer queries about the garden and its plantings.

Don't forget the annual show which is on Saturday 3rd August at the Village Hall. Spare copies of the schedule and entry forms, including those for children's classes are available on the table in church.

Exhibits are to be in place by twelve noon, the hall opens at 10.00 am for this purpose and the Show is open from 2.15 to 4.0 pm.

COFFEE CLUB



Unfortunately I didn't get to coffee club until almost 11 o'clock, due to a prior engagement. However,

the rest of the team had, as usual, looked after everyone very well. The bring and buy did brisk trade and most of the cakes disappeared very quickly. We had some young visitors too, including Carole's two beautiful great granddaughters who came with their Mum Sarah. It's lovely to see new faces and we would like to invite anyone who hasn't been before, from either Downham or Twiston, to pop in and join us for a cuppa, slice of cake and a warm welcome. We meet on the second Thursday every month from 10.00 am and our next date is August 8th. We hope you can make it. BL



HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting will be in September full details in the next Newsletter.

DOWNHAM HALL GARDENS OPEN

ROSEMERE Cancer Foundation was the charity supported side by side with the Village Hall at the gardens opening this year. About 700 visitors came during the two afternoons and they enjoyed a stroll round the gardens to the background music of Clitheroe Town Band on Saturday and Barnoldswick Brass Band on Sunday. The weather was glorious on Saturday and very kind on Sunday, the rain keeping off until about one minute to four and then only a few spots so that clearing up was done in the dry. As well as the regular stalls and teas Rosemere Volunteers brought a

variety of new attractions including a bouncy castle and Punch and Judy and information about their work. Teas this year was choice of drinks with scone, strawberry jam and cream. Ice cream sales went very well. Raffle prizes were much appreciated and a draw was made each afternoon as was the result of how many sweets in the jar. There will be more information about the exact takings and share of profits in our next newsletter. In the meantime thanks to all who helped and who came and spent some money on a, once more, delightful typically English Summer afternoon out.

WHEN Downham WI held their July meeting they were treated to not one but three speakers, all very different but fascinating in their own way. Edith Isaacs of Rimington WI had been to the WI AGM at Cardiff as delegate for the region and came to give her report. She reminded members of the resolution which was passed, that they should all attempt to support local shops and traders wherever possible to prevent the further decline of the High Street. Having said how much she enjoyed the guest speakers William Shawcross, Gryff Rhys-Jones and John Humphreys she ended with a message from the incoming President Janice Langley, that the WI is of its time" with many new Institutes being set up particularly by younger members.



Edith was followed by the main speaker for the evening Gordon Bartley, well known professional photographer who took the assembled company on a trip to Whitby with a slide show entitled Fish, Chips, Little Ships and North Sea spray. His brilliant interpretation of light and its effects made this a fascinating trip round the beautiful North East coast as well as recommending his favourite "chippies".

Tom McLean then came to the projector to show members slides of the project www.downhambanner.com a silk banner kept in church and which did not see the light very often. It is a memorial banner to celebrate the centenary of the Downham Benevolent Society in 1885. He explained that it was so big it could not be housed in the church or the village hall so the PCC had offered it to Lancashire Museum, Preston. However due to shortage of staff and funds they could not undertake the restoration of the banner but would be happy to take it when this work was done. A steering committee has plans in hand to apply for grant funding.

Afterwards, during supper, arrangements were finalised for the 15th August meeting which is an outing to Holden Clough Nursery. FG

