

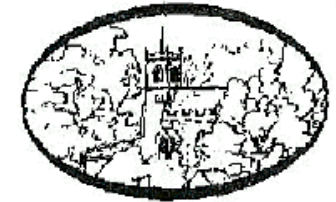


Parish Calendar 2014						
August			Event	Sidesmen/	Altar	Church
2nd	Saturday	2.15 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Annual Show	
3rd	Trinity VII	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
4th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Waddington Methodist Church		
		10.00 pm	Service and Vigil	Church	To Mark the sacrifice of WWI	
10th	Trinity VIII	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins		Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis		
14th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
16th	Saturday	12.30 pm	Village Picnic	Downham Hall		
17th	Trinity IX	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Miss R. Hall	Mrs A Holden Mrs T. Stell
		11.00 am	Holy Communion	Mr B. Lewis		
18th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Pack Horse History in the NW</i>	
			Joyful Noise	St Michael and St John Church Clitheroe		
21st	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Assheton Arms	Quiz Night	
24th	Trinity X	11.00 am	Matins Revd Alfred Graham	Mrs P. McFall	Mrs A Chadwick	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
31st	Trinity XI	8.30 am	Holy Communion	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs F Eldridge
		11.00 am	Songs of Praise	Mrs A. Greenhill		
<b>September</b>						
1st	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise			
4th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Beautiful British Gardens</i>	
7th	Trinity XII	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
<p><b>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE</b> – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019</p> <p><b>OUR CHURCH WARDENS</b>  The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484  Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250</p> <p><b>VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>  <b>Chairman and Bookings Secretary</b> Mr Shaun Roney—441667  <b>Hon Secretary</b> The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210</p>						
		 <a href="http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk">www.downhamvillage.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.downhambanner.com">www.downham banner.com</a> 				
<p>This month the Newsletter has been kindly sponsored by  <b>Bowland Bioenergy Ltd</b>, suppliers of wood chip and pellets for boiler fuel.  and <b>The Downham Women's Institute</b></p> <p>The PCC and Editor are grateful for the sponsorship  of local organisations and businesses.</p>						

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



# newsletter

2014 Issue 8 August

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



MEMBER of one of my other churches told me a lovely story of what happened to her and her husband during their recent visit to Canada. Whilst enjoying a meal in a restaurant, they noticed a young man and his son come in and take a table at the far end of the room. They later saw the couple finish their meal and leave. As they themselves prepared to leave, they asked for their bill. "It's all right," said the waitress, "there's nothing to pay". They replied that there must be a bill because they had just had a full meal. "No," answered the waitress, "you really don't owe anything – the man and his son paid for you. It's good-will month, you know."

I was reading some time ago about a similar incident in a London restaurant, where an Italian waitress was telling a customer about her wish to revisit her country but saying that she couldn't afford to go yet. After he had gone, she learnt that he had left £500 for her to visit Italy.

In a world of much pain, many examples of human kindness and generosity can be told. Anjum Anwar, a Muslim member of staff at Blackburn Cathedral, has done a great deal through the Exchange programme, set up with Canon Chris Chivers, who preached the Assheton Sermon six years ago. This programme particularly fosters good relations between the Muslim community and Christians, together with others in Blackburn. Last year she brought two former enemies together, an Israeli and a Palestinian, both of whom had had a family member killed by the other side, to speak at a public meeting of their love for each other.

St John's Gospel speaks of Jesus Christ as the true light that enlightens everyone. We may dwell on how much that light is darkened in some people, not least when we hear of hunters tearing the horns out of rhinos. Yet stories of goodness and hope from all over the world provide much needed encouragement.

If we are given something – including a Christmas card or gift – we often want to make a gift in return. But sometimes it is right just to receive gratefully. Similarly, God offers us forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We can only graciously receive it, but that receiving must be done, and in receiving it we may find that our life is turned around.

*Canon Rodney Nicholson*

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.  
*Proverbs Chapter 1 Verse 7.*

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	June	2014
COMMUNICANTS	57	323
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	260	1,432
VISITORS	69	321
DONATIONS	4,435	7,152
HOUSE BOXES	-	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,764</b>	<b>8,928</b>

### OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

**David Busby**, late of the Assheton Arms, who has had an accident and is awaiting surgery.

**Kath Brown** who has shingles.

### FAREWELL

**John Walker** who has left Greendale Restaurant, Chatburn Road, good luck in your new home John.

### WELCOME

News from up the lane; Jamie and Helen **Cope** of Manor Barn, Twiston, have been blessed with a little boy, Henry Spencer Cope, born 26th June 2014, a brother for four year old Eleanor.

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### Holy Baptism

We welcomed Lucy Annabelle Bagnall-Musgrove, daughter of Lee Bagnall and Nicola Musgrove to the sacrament of baptism on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Some twenty-five of her their family and close friends were present. Lucy and her parents live in Whittle-le-Woods, near Chorley, but Nicola and her father are painters and decorators on the Downham estate, so they are regularly in the area.

#### Interment of Ashes

The ashes of **Sheila Robinson**, who died in June in Sale, having lived previously in Downham, were buried beside her husband Max (on 20th July). Max, who died five years ago, traced his family in Downham back to the fifteenth century, where his grandparents, Alf and Alice Robinson (nee Croasdale) followed past generations in living at Lower Hall Farm. They moved to Sale in the late nineteenth century, with their young family, one of whom was Fred, Max's father who, apart from serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, spent his life in Sale, marrying Mary, from Shropshire.

Max, born in 1928, became a lecturer in Sales and Marketing at Salford University. Following his retirement, he and his wife Sheila moved to Downham in about 1990, though they had previously visited relations there, settling in Brookside. After he died in 1999, Sheila stayed for about a year then moved back to Sale, where her daughter Maxine (Fitts) and family live.

### SPECTATOR

**W**ELL, what larks we had....not....when I decided to swap sides in our new bedroom to make it easier for Jon. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but if I have any more good ideas, please would somebody shoot me! Anyway, by the time I had moved our 'stuff' around, my get up and go had got up and gone and I started to hyperventilate every time I looked at the bed awaiting clean bedding and noting that we had not even had supper and it was almost bed time. I went into the living room where Jon had made a smudge mark on the screen with his nose as he sat pressed up to the TV watching the world cup final. "Come and help me make the bed or I am going to have a heart attack" I said in my best Whiney voice. He never even turned around. "Half time in 10 mins love", was the reply. "But I may die before then" I tried to get in between him and the TV screen. " good, good" he said as he got hold of my hand, which I thought he was going to hold or stroke lovingly but which he used to manoeuvre me out of the way, without even moving his nose off the screen. Tut. I went back into the bedroom and decided to wait lying down.



I wondered if I should telephone number-one daughter to ask if she would come and make the bed, then put me in it, but as she lives an hour away that seemed a bit dramatic! We got it finished eventually and I just hoped I would be able to sleep on Jon's old side, as the right side had always been 'my' side but actually I slept really well. "that's because you slept on my old side AND on your old side" said Jon next morning "which is why I slept on the settee!" Oops! I never even missed him.

### HARES

THE Editor will no doubt be pleased to learn how widely the Thunder circulates. No sooner had I written that the hares were welcome in the garden at the Hall when they started to munch the poppies in earnest! To avoid any unpleasantries, a length of netting had to be erected to ensure that some flowers remained for the Open Day. Thankfully all was satisfactory for the weekend.

RCA

### VILLAGE PICNIC

#### AND CHILDREN'S SPORTS

#### ON THE LAWN AT DOWNHAM HALL

By kind invitation of the Hon Ralph and Olivia Assheton

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 12.30 TO 3.30

Bring your own picnic - races at about 2.00 pm  
 Entry for adult by £1 raffle ticket. children free of charge  
 all parishioners and children/grand children are welcome

## A DAY OUT

*Kathleen Nicholson came across a 1951 parish newsletter from her old church of Christ Church, Blackpool, in which a "Boys' Own" ramble to Pendle Hill is graphically described. The following is an edited version.*



ALTHOUGH only a small party of boys met at Central Station on Tuesday, 31st August, we all had a grand time. We took the train to Blackburn where we stayed for about an hour, visiting the Market House, the Fish Market, King George's Hall and, of course, the Cathedral, then returned to the station to wait for "The Chatburn Express". One boy rang his father to give him the latest news on the ramble.

We chose a dining car on the train and were soon busy having lunch. We noticed Whalley Abbey and shortly afterwards entered Clitheroe, noted for its castle, well-kept grounds and fine cricket ground. Soon our train reached Chatburn, and as we crossed the bridge we were greeted with a shower. After a short wait we left the station, and after about half an hour's walk reached Downham, rightly known as a Ribblesdale beauty spot. Here the rain came on again and dark clouds filled the sky so, being wise, we sheltered in the church porch.

However, the local sexton\* advised us that it would be nice after the storm, and it was. We walked about three miles along the main road then turned right up a path, at last reaching the summit of Pendle Hill, where we thanked God for his care and goodness to us, then had tea. We came down quickly and rejoined the main road back to Downham.

The boys were all very thirsty and, being unable to obtain any tea, we refreshed ourselves with sarsaparilla and ice cream. Then we learned from the village store that our train would just about be leaving Chatburn but, noting the arrival of a Ribble bus, we decided to make the short journey to Blackburn by bus and see the beauty of the countryside by road. Arriving at Blackburn we caught a goods train to Preston and there changed to a fast train which took us to North station by about 8.20 pm, after an enjoyable and very varied ramble.

Many of us love the countryside and the beauty of its hills and dales. As we looked around and down from the top of Pendle, I remembered the chorus of one of our best-known and loved Harvest hymns: -

All good things around us are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.

\* The sexton in 1951 would be Mr Harry Martin, father of Betty Mercer.

## DOWNHAM AND TWISTON TIME & EQUIPMENT BANK

Diana Wilkins has dropped us a note: Many thanks to the Time Bank for the loan of the travel cot - one less thing for the proud parents to pack.

10.

The Ashes of the late **Brenda Lund** were buried after the morning service on Sunday, 20th July. Her immediate family attended.

The ashes of the late **Kathleen Crewe**, of Manchester, were interred on Thursday, 24th July at 12.30 pm. Kathleen was reunited at Downham with Ged, her husband, who died twenty five years ago at an early age. His close connection with Downham being that he had been evacuated to Downham in the early part of the war and had developed a great love of this place, often returning with his family until he died.

## Holy Matrimony

20th July - **Simon Morris and Caroline Hoare** Simon is a GP, at Burnley, also the doctor for Burnley Football Club. Caroline is National Accounts Manager for Rectella, involved with the supply of fair trade barbecue equipment. The couple enjoyed a two-day reception at Eaves Hall, followed by a short honeymoon in Italy.

25th July - **Richard Healy Robinson and Laura Claire Ashworth** Farmers of Slaidburn. Richard is Grandson of Nina Healy, herself originally of Downham.

## GARDENS OPEN

THIS year in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, the Soldiers' Charity, and of course the Village Hall, the Gardens open on Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th July raised over £4,500, to be divided between the charities. This was an excellent result, profits slightly up on last year in spite of the massive competition locally on that particular weekend.



Each day there was a first class Band Concert, on Saturday the Clitheroe Town Band gave spirited performances of all their pieces under the baton of their conductor Mickey Haydock, a serving territorial army soldier, who appeared in uniform. On Sunday the Barnoldswick Brass Band, under guest conductor John Cowking, of Slaidburn, provided the background to the perfect example of an English afternoon out. Singing in the Rose Garden on Saturday, the Ardenettes a trio from Burnley gave a beautiful short recital and on Sunday the Clitheroe Grand Choir could be heard, in great form, adding to the atmosphere. Teas served in the Garages and Ice cream completed the arrangements.

Stalls were augmented by displays by the army cadets with bugles and drums. The rally of Alvis cars on show at the front of the house prompted interest, as did the an army climbing wall, or cliff side (with appropriate H and S in place).

Col Philip Naylor, of the Benevolent Fund has written: *What good news and what a grand total. from the perspective of the charity I would like to thank everyone who made the weekend such a great fundraising event. I can assure you that the proceeds will go toward some very deserving cases. I would particularly like to thank Ralph and Olivia for inviting us to their home.*

Chairman of the Village Hall Committee Shaun Roney says *Thank you to the committee for organising the event and to all the helpers and prize donors for their generous efforts in making a great occasion.*

## THANKYOU

To **Carole Ashworth** who is retiring, after 21 years service from the church cleaning rota. and to **Carol McGrath** and **Jill Smith** who are also hanging up the Dyson, This is a duty for which the parish is grateful, it is not too onerous and every pair of volunteers we recruit extends the frequency on which it falls—at present once every twelve weeks. Anyone who would like to offer to do this, please contact Lady Clitheroe on 440173.

PLANS to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War have been announced by Ribble Valley Borough Council. A dove tree is to be planted in the grounds of Clitheroe Castle on Monday, August 4, surrounded by a 'garden of light' comprising hundreds of tea-lights in remembrance of the local young men who lost their lives during the war. Ribble Valley Mayor, Coun Michael Ranson, will plant the tree at a site near the castle gates at 6pm, before lighting a tea-light in memory of his great-uncle, James Ranson, who died aged 22 at Ypres on October 6, 1915. Jim, as he was known to family and friends, was a medical officer and died from shrapnel wounds sustained at the Battle of Loos while treating other wounded soldiers. People will then be invited to light their own tea-light in memory of a specific person, the borough's fallen, or as a call to peace. The tea-lights will burn for four hours, before Clitheroe Castle plunges into darkness at 10pm as part of the national 'Lights Out' campaign.

Parishes throughout the Diocese have been invited to send representatives to take part in a special service to commemorate the start of the First World War. The service will take place on **Sunday August 3rd at 4.00pm**. During the service - at which Bishop Julian will preach - a re-constructed First World War Memorial will be dedicated. The original was removed from the Cathedral some years ago. At the end of the service, Commemorative Candles with a poppy motif will be distributed - one to each parish. The candles have been specially commissioned by the Diocese to support individual parish commemorations which may begin with a vigil on the following day - August 4th when war was declared at 11.00pm.

The service on August 3rd and vigils on August 4th mark the start of a four year commemoration which will see oak trees bearing plaques in memory of Ribble Valley's fallen planted in the borough's 35 parishes over the coming months.

A civic service at St Mary's Parish Church, Clitheroe, will be held on Sunday, 3rd August.

Locations such as Blackpool illuminations, the Houses of Parliament, and Tower Bridge are among hundreds around the UK which will switch out their lights in a national commemoration to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War. Properties will go dark for an hour at 10pm on August 4, except for candles or some small form of illumination to allow "a shared moment of reflection". The Lights Out event is part of the 14-18 Now cultural programme marking the centenary.

The Lights Out event was inspired by a speech given by the then-foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey on the eve of the war, when he declared:

"The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."

**A Vigil will be observed at Downham St Leonard starting with a short said service at 10.00 pm during which the lights will be extinguished apart from one candle to represent Christ the light of the world.**



level with views across the Forest of Bowland and Pendle. The Gardens consist of a Herbaceous lawned cottage garden, flagged herb garden and walled gravel garden. Steps lead to orchard and organic kitchen garden including bee hive and potting shed. A stream and pond area planted in 2009 is still maturing with a grassed walk through natural meadow and wild flower meadow, are just some of the features of this very lovely, new, hidden gem in Ribble Valley.

**The Garden Club Show is on Saturday, 2nd August. Spare schedules are in the newsletter rack at the back of Church. CA**

### COFFEE CLUB

COFFEE Club was a lively affair as usual and everyone had a chance to catch up on village gossip (in the nicest possible way of course) It was lovely to see our youngest member, Joseph Tobias, who I'm sure is going to be running around before very long and also four year old Ella, the daughter of our Curate Andrew and his wife Becca. June and Edith did brisk trade and everyone enjoyed rummaging around in the hope of finding a bargain on the bring and buy or a book by their favourite author. Thank you ladies we all appreciate your efforts. Carole's custard tart is still very much in demand but we both enjoy trying out new recipes as well. Brian said he's never eaten so much cake, as he has to eat all my mistakes! Thank you to everyone for continuing to support the club and to anyone who contributes in any way, it's much appreciated. Our next meeting is on 14th August at 10.00 am. BL



VICE PRESIDENT Susan Whittaker welcomed everyone to the July meeting and Introduced Brian Lewis, who told members about the valuable work of the Children's Society. He asked that donations of clothes etc for the society's charity shop be brought next time.

Members had been quite busy of late, enjoying a visit to Carnforth followed by a tour and afternoon tea at the Midland Hotel, Morecambe. Daphne Porter was thanked for organising this.

Members had also attended Lancashire Federation events. Eileen Parker told of an interesting day along with 300 other WI members learning about Women as Spies and Bletchley Park.

Eileen Roberts reported on an enjoyable day learning how to make lemon curd, fudge and to make the best of Summer Tubs. Slaidburn Walk – Julie Parker told of a lovely day walking near Stocks Reservoir followed by lunch in the village café.

*Downham Hall Open Gardens – Marion Courtney reported on success on the WI cake stall contributing £169.00 to the event's charities. Men had proved the best customers snapping up traybakes and puddings.*

An invitation from Dunsop Bridge WI to their meeting 10th September has been received. Speaker JR Gibson 'My Life as a Toastmaster'. And a thank you from the Bronte group of W.I.'s to Downham WI for catering.

The centenary AGM of the National Federation of Women's Institutes will be broadcast live next year. It is hoped to have our own celebration to mark the occasion.

Other events were listed on the monthly newsletter delivered to members.

Tags for members' entries in the Clitheroe Area WI Show were handed out and more tickets for the event sold. This takes place on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July at Edisford Primary School 10.00 – 4.30.

Members then took part in a light-hearted games evening, playing a round of Beetle, Dominoes and Bowls in turn.

The next meeting will be held at the Assheton Arms, on Thursday, 21st August at 7.30 pm – a Quiz night and Sandwiches and Chips supper which must be booked, please ring Susan. CN 9.

## ROUND AND ABOUT

### THE PARISH CHURCH

#### FAMILY SERVICE

THE family service on Sunday 13th July was the baptism service of Lucy Annabelle Bagnall-Musgrove, daughter of Lee Bagnall and Nicola Musgrove.

On Sunday, 21st August the 11.00 am Service will take the form of a Songs of Praise.

#### CONCERT

THE "Music for a Summer Afternoon" concert in church on Sunday 29th June was a huge success raising £360 for the church music fund. The A Cappella Singers were superb and enjoyed by a very appreciative audience. The Twiston Three were first class and James as ever "did us proud" on the organ. The Afternoon Tea and Concert deal with the Assheton Arms was enjoyed by 35, following the concert. A big thank you to everyone involved. MR

#### LIGHTS OUT

10.00 – 11.00 pm Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> August  
This is a nation wide event to mark the hour that Britain joined World War I. It is hoped that every building in the country (safety permitting) will turn out all their lights between 10.00 and 11.00pm, just leaving a single candle or bulb lit.

A Vigil will be observed at Downham St Leonard starting with a short said service at 10.00 pm during which the lights will be extinguished apart from one candle to represent Christ the light of the world. See also page 4.

8.



### DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

ON 30th June the group's meeting was at Ribchester - where Colin Cunliffe conducted a walk round the village. Colin started off in the parish church showing highlights and remarking that it is worthy of a longer visit itself. The group then enjoyed a walk round the village where architectural styles and features were pointed out. Some anecdotes about people who had lived there in the past were included. Very interesting was the fact that the village has no war memorial to the fallen of either world wars and that this has now been commissioned and will be unveiled in August at the centenary of the declaration of World War I.

OUR July meeting on Monday, 28th was an outing to the Blackburn Orphanage, now the headquarters of Child Action North West. A talk about the 165 orphans who served in World War I, ten of whom did not return was included in the history. A discussion about the changes in social policy and present day services offered in support of children with special needs followed. The use of fostering and adoption in preference to the institutional methods of care was explained. This was followed by a viewing of some of the documents from the archive. After an inspection of the memorial garden tea with delicious cake was served.

The August meeting is back at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on 18th. Our speaker is Margaret Dickinson on Packhorse History in the North West, non members are most welcome.

#### GARDEN CLUB

ON 3rd July, Mr & Mrs B Farmer of Varley Farm, Bolton by Bowland welcomed members to their home. They have a one and a half acre garden that's been developing from 2004. Varley Farm is 700ft above sea-



## The Bus Buddy – helping older people to get out & about!



The idea behind Bus Buddy is to:

Encourage a greater number of older people to use the buses

To show them how to use & get the most out of the NOW card

To encourage companionship

Present opportunities to overcome isolation

Team up with the Stepping Out programme to encourage walking

Encourage greater bus usage to encourage viability of services.



CLITHEROE resident and Ribble Valley Seniors Forum member Brian Holden is a self-confessed 'bus nut'. His enthusiasm for the buses and the wonderful places that can be accessed is infectious. In a bid to share this knowledge, we have developed the **Bus Buddy Scheme** which is aimed at people who would like to get out and about, to meet new people and to show those new to the NOW card and public transport how the buses operate, and give an insight into the interesting places that may be visited – all for

free!

The scheme will operate approximately once a month, and will invite people to meet with Brian at the Platform Gallery in the education room to be briefed on the day's trip. Participants will receive a timetable, and be shown how it works, and then the group will head out to the bus station to catch the bus to the day's chosen location.

Once at the venue, people are free to do as they wish – whether shopping, sight seeing of walking, before meeting back at the bus stop for the return trip to Clitheroe, where Bus Buddy Brian will be on hand to ensure that trippers are on the right bus back to Clitheroe. All participants travel at their own risk.

Date	Meeting time & location	Destination	Suggested Activities	Return depart	Arrive in Clitheroe
Wed. 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Between 11 and 11.15 Platform Gallery, Clitheroe	Skipton 11.42 bus	Shopping Walking Visit the castle lunch	15.35	16.20
Wed. 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Between 10.15 and 10.30 Platform Gallery, Clitheroe	Preston 10.56 bus	Shopping Harris Gallery lunch	14.55	15.47
Wed. 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Between 9.15 and 9.30 Platform Gallery, Clitheroe	Southport 9.59 bus to Preston Change to 11.05 to Southport	Shopping along Lord Street  Walk on the pier lunch	15.08 arr Preston 15.55 dep 16.05	16.55

5.

## Bishop John supported the poor

**B**ISHOP John Goddard, Bishop of Burnley, whose farewell service took place in the Cathedral last Saturday, was a priest who cared passionately for the poor, having served most of his ministry in areas of social deprivation. Gordon Birtwistle, Burnley's MP, paid tribute to Bishop John's reconciliatory work in the aftermath of the town's riots in 2001, saying that the Bishop was hugely respected in so many aspects of Burnley's life.

A man always ready to offer the right hand of friendship to people of other faiths, Bishop was unwavering in his own commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ, in which his prayer life was central. Shortly after moving to Burnley he hit the national, and even international news, by building a garden shed in which to pray. He lives now in his own house at Tarleton.

Although he disagreed with the ordination of women as priests and bishops, he personally was unfailingly kind and gracious towards the female clergy and never wanted this to be the main issue for which he was known. The Church of England accepts both points of view, even though the great majority are now in favour of ministry at every level being open to women.

Bishop John has always been well received in three parishes. We wish him and his wife Vivienne a happy retirement, which includes time on their canal boat and improving their garden.

## Hitting those who struggle

**T**HE Bishop of Burnley would criticise the government if he thought their policies were adversely affecting the poor.

Talking about this on BBC Radio Lancashire, Joe Wilson asked Canon Ed Saville, the diocese's Lead Social Responsibility Officer, if he thought the present government was deliberately targeting the poor. He replied, "No". The government was not, in his view, setting out to harm the poor but added that most MPs of all political parties did not really understand poverty from personal experience. The so-called "bedroom tax", for example, he added is hurting poorer people, and they are the ones hit badly by prices rising faster than income. Most food bank clients are, in fact, people in work, but on low income. When you have little, a 50p increase can present a hardship unknown to us better-off folk.

## Green light for women bishops.

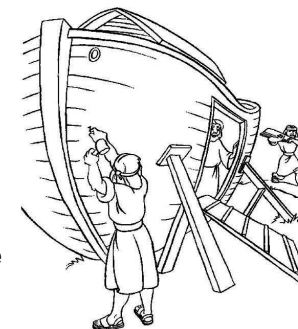
**S**UCCESS at last! After years of argument and debate, the Church's General Synod meeting in York last month recognised that the overwhelming desire was that women could be consecrated bishop. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, had the great disappointment two years ago of seeing his proposals fail to achieve the required majority. Since then the Church has moved quickly in providing better arrangements for those opposed to women bishops. The dioceses voted strongly in favour and General Synod has followed suit.



6.

## FLOODING

**P**LEASE remember that the most serious flooding of the village has historically occurred in August. Please ensure that you know how to protect your property, and if you are going away, that your neighbours know where your flood boards and sand bags are kept. If you are in any doubt please speak to Shaun Roney now, rather than a frantic call phone call as the rain hammers down!  
RCA



## Palestinian suffering

**W**E ARE appalled by the Israeli killing of Palestinian children, along with non-combatant women and men in Gaza. Hamas's rocket firing is wrong but people driven to despair - in their case by the blockade of their small country - react in anger. The Israeli government supposedly warns Palestinian civilians that they are about to destroy their homes, but where do these families flee to? They haven't exactly got a cottage in the country! War is dreadful; collateral damage is a polite word for slaughter of the innocents. RN

## Gisburn's new priest

THE REVD Anderson Jeremiah has been appointed House-for-Duty priest-in-charge of St Mary's, Gisburn. The Bishop of Lancaster, Bishop Geoff, will license Mr Jeremiah at Gisburn on Tuesday 27th August at 7.30pm.

## Children's Society success

THE in-store collection a Booths a week ago raised a record £827 for The Children's Society. We normally raise in the £600s, which is good, but this year's effort was nearly 20% up.

Andy Froud has taken over from Rodney Nicholson as chairman of The Children's Society action group. RN

## Yorkshire meanness?

**I** WAS talking to a vicar about alleged Yorkshire stinginess, and he repeated the old joke that a Yorkshireman is a Scot with the kindness taken out! I commented that church giving is higher in the Yorkshire dioceses than here in Lancashire

He then told me of an incident which happened when he was vicar of Richmond (I think). He met a young German couple who said they had been mugged and, until arrangements could be made with family back home, were destitute. Fortunately this vicar understood German.

It was a Saturday, and he and his wife invited them to stay at the vicarage. They then came to church next morning, when the vicar mentioned the need to the congregation and put a plate out for any contributions. I think any money would be to cover further food and travel and maybe to replace some stolen equipment. £400 was put on the plate - hardly Yorkshire meanness! RN

7.