

**PARISH CALENDAR—2011**

| December |                  |          | Event   | Sidesmen/<br>women   | Altar<br>Flowers                        | Church<br>Cleaners                |
|----------|------------------|----------|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1st      | Thursday         | 7.30pm   | Garden Club                                       | Greendale  | <i>Christmas Dinner</i>                 |                                   |
| 4th      | Advent II        | 8.30 am  | Holy Communion<br>Canon Rodney Nicholson          | <b>Christ Church<br/>Chatburn</b>  | <b>NO<br/>FLOWERS</b>                   | Mrs G. Cragg<br>Mrs K. Brown      |
|          |                  | 11.00am  | Holy Communion<br>Revd Alan Reid                  | Mr B. Lewis  |   |                                   |
| 7th      | Wednesday        | 7.30 pm  | Downham & Twiston<br>Time Bnnk                    | <i>Lower Hall<br/>Downham</i>  |   |                                   |
| 8th      | Thursday         | 10.00am  | Coffee Club                                       | <i>Village Hall</i>  |   |                                   |
|          |                  | 7.30 pm  | WI  | <i>Greendale</i>   | <i>Christmas Party</i>                  |                                   |
| 11th     | Advent III       | 8.30 am  | Holy Communion<br>Canon Rodney Nicholson          | Mrs E. Parker  | <b>IN</b>                               | Lady Clitheroe<br>Mrs C. Ashworth |
|          |                  | 11.00am  | Matins<br>Revd. Alan Reid                         | Mr T. McLean   |   |                                   |
| 16th     | Friday           | 12.30pm  | Pre school Nativity Play                          | Village Hall   |   |                                   |
| 18th     | Advent IV        | 8.30 am  | Holy Communion<br>Canon Rodney Nicholson          | <b>Chatburn<br/>Christ Church</b>  | <b>ADVENT</b>                           | Mrs S. Marlow<br>Mrs J. Aspinall  |
|          |                  | 11.00am  | Matins<br>Revd Anne Hardacre                      | Mrs B. Lund  |   |                                   |
|          |                  | 6.30 pm  | Carol Singing at Twiston                          | <i>By Kind invitation of Steve and Diana Wilkins<br/>at Lower Smithyfold</i> |   |                                   |
| 23rd     | Friday           | 2.00 pm  | Decorate Church                                   |  |   |                                   |
| 24th     | Christmas<br>Eve | 6.00 pm  | Carol Singing round<br>Downham                    |  |   |                                   |
|          |                  | 3.00 pm  | Family Christingle Service                        | Mrs B Lewis<br>Mrs A. Greenhill  | <i>In Aid of the Children's Society</i> |                                   |
|          |                  | 11.30 pm | Midnight Holy Communion<br>Canon Rodney Nicholson | <b>Christ Church<br/>Chatburn</b>  |   |                                   |
| 25th     | Christmas<br>Day | 11.00am  | Holy Communion<br>Canon Rodney Nicholson          | Mrs P. McFall  |   | Mrs S. Travis<br>Mrs A. Chadwick  |

**January 2012**

|     |                              |         |  |                                 |  |                     |
|-----|------------------------------|---------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1st | Sunday<br>after<br>Christmas | 11.00am | United Carol Service<br>Canon Rodney Nicholson | Mrs B Lewis<br>Mrs A. Greenhill |  | Mr &<br>Mrs B Lewis |
|-----|------------------------------|---------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|

**OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019**

**OUR CHURCH WARDENS**

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 440173      Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250

**VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Chairman and Bookings Secretary** Mr Shaun Roney—441667

**Hon. Secretary** The Hon Mrs Ralph Assheton—440173



[www.downhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk)



This month the Newsletter has been sponsored by Betty Mercer  
who wishes all her friends and neighbours  
A Very Happy Christmas

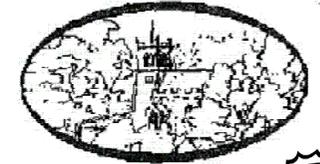


**PARISH OF ST. LEONARD**

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON**

**newsletter**

2011 Issue 12 December



**From Canon Rodney Nicholson**

**Viewpoint**



THE TENT dwellers outside St Paul's Cathedral were a delightful bunch when I met them ten days ago. I had been invited to a Children's Society presentation in the Cathedral crypt and so, making my way to the preliminary 5pm Evensong, passed these charming and relaxed "protesters" in the grounds outside. They included a large dog which, I guess, was also protesting against the capitalist system.

These people, in my opinion, enhanced the Cathedral rather than "spoil the view" because they were emphasising a point that needs to be made, not least by the Church itself. Far from saying "yes" all the time, Christians are supposed to turn the world upside down and be agents for the kingdom of God. It would be easy to throw cheap jibes at the demonstrators, saying that they go home at night to enjoy comforts paid for by capitalist money, or that they are unlikely to change the policies of the banks. The deeper truth is that these people are protesting against greed and selfishness in the financial institutions – a view which is shared by many city workers themselves. According to a report commissioned by the St Paul's Institute, 75% of City professionals agreed that "there is too great a gap between rich and poor".

Money is not the root of all evil; it does tremendous good. Bill Gates with his generous support of anti-malaria vaccines shows how money can benefit huge numbers of people. By contrast, many of the City's activities are designed chiefly to benefit the financial interests of a rich minority who, as our Bishop has pointed out, enjoy "loadsamoney" lifestyles while others face austerity.

When Christ judges the world, one criterion in his judgement will concern people's response to the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the prisoner and the dispossessed. The St Paul's report revealed that 76% of the financial-sector workers interviewed did not believe that "The City of London needs to listen more to the guidance of the Church". Those who dismiss the Christian message would do well to remember Jesus's parable about the successful businessman who suddenly dropped down dead and then had to face the God for whom he had previously had no time. The bankers, as all people, will need to give an account of their lives. To listen to Christ now and use money to relieve human need would be a wise way of preparing for that day.



*Rohan N. Roney*



St Leonard's Parish Church  
Clergy, Congregation and Parochial Church Council  
wish all readers of the Newsletter  
A Very Happy Christmas



| ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES |              |               |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                             | October      | 2011          |
| COMMUNICANTS                | 224          | 574           |
| COLLECTIONS                 | £            | £             |
| SERVICES                    | 804          | 3,093         |
| VISITORS                    | 72           | 1,008         |
| DONATIONS                   | 280          | 7,422         |
| HOUSE BOXES                 | -            | 169           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>               | <b>1,156</b> | <b>11,692</b> |



### OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

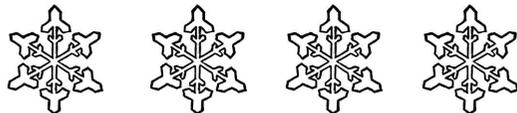
**Anne Musson** of Clitheroe who had a severe cardiac problem in the Clitheroe town centre on 11th November and who is making excellent progress following surgery at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

**David Busby** who is in hospital.

### FAREWELL

**BILLY BARKER** left Downham recently to live in Great Harwood so that he is nearer to his daughter and family. Billy and Elsie moved to the White House in 1975 following 16 years at Greendale restaurant. Both had links with Downham in their early lives although Billy was born in Chatburn – his family moved to a cottage at Brookside when Billy was 4 years old, where his mother ran a little shop.

Although Billy did not get out as much in recent times he has always been involved in local activities, being Village Hall secretary for many years. He and Elsie appeared in 'Born and Bred' when the film company made the television series in the village in 2002/3. We wish Billy well in his new home and we wish him a very happy 90th birthday on 29th December.

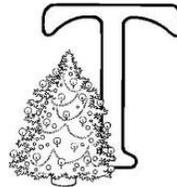


### Chatburn Carol Concert

**PLANS** are well in hand for a return visit by The Grand Choir to Christ Church on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

A fine collection of 30 songs has been put together – including Christmas songs and carols, songs from the shows and folk/popular music. Tickets (£7), available from Roy Porters or on the night, include wine and mince pies. Some surprises are in store and the evening is guaranteed to be an inspiring start to the Christmas season. RN

### Rosie's Corner



THE world is an amazing place – take a look at it! I may not have seen that much of it yet in my short 20 weeks, but I'm certainly impressed with the lovely autumn colours. In fact I'm the colour of some of the autumn leaves myself. And I just love frosty mornings, walks by the river, and cosy evenings by the fire.

I love chasing leaves as well, though, as I mentioned last month, digging is my favourite hobby. Disappointingly though, I still can't get McK to show any enthusiasm for it at all. It's not fair is it, especially as I've just heard about a dachshund who was allowed to accompany his famous archaeologist owner on excavations. She said he was an excellent digger but never kept notes and tended to mix up the bones.

I've been to school this month! In fact, I've been to two schools, one for children and one for puppies. VicR took me in to Chatburn school for assembly, (one of the things I've found out that he does on those other six days of the week – it's not one long holiday for him after all). The children made a great fuss of me. I expected nothing less, of course and I enjoyed all the attention. I had a good time at puppy school as well, and I'll be going there every Friday evening for the next few weeks.

VicR, McK and I also went to see VicR's mother in a home in Morecambe. She's over 95 times older than I am, so I think that must be really really old. It seems that she hasn't recognised them or responded to them for a few years now, but when she saw me she smiled! That was a real breakthrough, and she even started to stroke me and talk to me. I enjoyed sitting on her knee, it gave me such a warm comfortable feeling. The staff were pretty pleased to see me as well. I've heard a whisper that if I learn to be good I may one day be able to be a 'Pets as Therapy' dog, so I'm going to try very hard to learn all those lessons at puppy school.

*Rosie's Rules 3) "Be nice to people. Give them a chance to talk and smile and laugh, and you might just make their day. They might make yours, too." - David Frei 'Angel on a Leash'*

Key: VicR = Vicar Rodney; McK = my carer, Kathleen (the vicar's wife)

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

A recent car crash on Twiston Lane highlighted the problem of speed on narrow lanes. Remember that the Highway Code instructs drivers to drive at a safe speed for the conditions. It is no good thinking that because the Satnav says there is a 60mph limit, that is how fast you can go! Equally it is virtually useless honking your horn to warn of your speedy approach. Other vehicle drivers will not hear you, while horses and prams have no time to get out of the way.



Louis Greenhill Timewell plays tenor sax in the Clitheroe Royal **Grammar School Swing Band** which will be appearing soon to raise funds for their Malta tour which is planned for October 2012. Hear them at Shackleton's Life Style Centre Chatburn on Saturday 4th December between 1.00 and 4.00 pm and again at Sainburys in Clitheroe on Monday 19th December 1.00 to 4.00 pm





## Downham and Twiston Time Bank

The Time Bank is still here. It's not used very often but when it is, it's extremely useful. For those who are new to the idea, the Time Bank is a scheme where people help each other out in all sorts of ways such as pet care, computer assistance, moving furniture, car lifts, etc. We're meeting to discuss the Time Bank and everyone is welcome.

**Wednesday 7th December  
7.30pm  
Lower Hall  
(down the lane opposite the school)**

If you would like to request a service or offer or revise a service please ring me **01200 440912**



**Sue Hinder**



## Komedy of Errors

A show packed with chaotic clowning, jaw-dropping juggling, unique uni-cycling, mind-boggling magic played to a packed Village Hall at the end of October. Thanks to VEG (Village Entertainment Group) for making the arrangements. The show was enjoyed by Children and adults alike and included a memorable glo-scene played against an otherwise dark house.

VEG says the next show will be for adults and will be staged in March.

## From Canon Nicholson



**F**ENDORSE what Diana Braithwaite has written (Page 4). October 30<sup>th</sup>, All Saints Sunday, was a magnificent occasion with a packed church and the congregation is a celebratory mood. Bishop Nicholas inspired and encouraged us. As I said in my welcome, our appreciation of Bishop Nicholas includes our gratitude for his forthright public statements on issues of social justice, and it was a great joy to have both him and Mrs Christine Reade with us on our centenary Sunday.

I personally felt honoured at being the priest who happened to be in post on this milestone day. The priest who will join the celebrations in 2111 has not yet been born! - which makes the point that we are links in a chain but, in Christ, united with the saints of God across time and space. I would like to add my personal gratitude to all the people of St Leonard's - including churchwardens, but many others too - for their hard work in preparing for the event. The parish team really pulled together and it was a delight to be part of their company. I would mention also the appreciation which the many visitors expressed for Elizabeth Wrigley's excellent exhibition.

## Lancashire Sings Christmas

AMONG the many carol singing events this month is the BBC Radio Lancashire "Lancashire Sings Christmas" on Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm, when groups are invited to meet in a non-church venue, such as a pub, supermarket or community centre, then tune into the local radio and sing along with the Salvation Army band some well-known carols. Carol singers can phone or text in, making the event an interactive experience. All are welcome at Downham's local venue - the Brown Cow at Chatburn - so come and enjoy the experience! 36 venues have been registered so far across Lancashire but this number is increasing.



## ROAD WORKS

It came as a surprise to everyone to find that Chatburn Road was to be closed for repairs. Sadly Lancashire County Council as the Highway Authority did not cover themselves in glory! Those of you who tried to call the 0800 contact number on the roadside notice found that it did not exist. Neither the Parish Meeting, District Councillor nor Estate, had any better information until the Thursday evening when the Road Closure notice was published. In the event the workmen on the ground were mainly helpful in letting locals through and the little bit of resurfacing that was done is an improvement. Enquiries continue via Gary Scott our District Councillor as to what went wrong and why, in the hope that LCC can do better next time.

## ROADSIDE TREES

Recently a number of small roadside saplings have been felled. These self sown trees were undermining the adjoining drystone walls and threatened to knock them down in future years if left untouched. Thankfully there are plenty of young trees in hedgerows and woods, so the effect on the wider environment will be minimal.



## SMITHFIELD FARM

Work started early in November to put a roof over the disused silage clamp at Smithfield. The work had received planning consent in the summer, together with a promise of grant from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), which DEFRA administers. The new roof will match the existing shippon, but give Bowland Bioenergy the opportunity to manufacture and store woodchips for fuel, whatever the weather.

RCA

## THE NEW "DUTCH ELM DISEASE" – PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM

**A** deadly tree disease has been discovered lurking in Churn Clough wood at Sabden. Phytophthora Ramorum (Pr) is a fungal disease from the USA, which initially infected Rhododendron. Sadly it has now gained the ability to infect other plants and trees, both broadleaves, conifers and shrubs (such as bilberry). Infected trees, especially Larch, soon produce millions of spores which drift in the wind, before dying. The Forestry Commission is currently trying to control the outbreak by felling every tree within 100m of any infected one.

At Churn Clough this means that the whole wood will have to be felled by 30 March 2012. Aerial photographs indicated that Hookcliffe wood might have been infected. Thankfully this was not the case, but it remains at high risk. Plans for more felling around the Estate, especially of Larch, are under discussion in the hope that pre-emptive work might be able to avert the need to fell whole woods.



### THE PARISH CHURCH

#### SERVICES Christmas Arrangements

TWISTON neighbours old and new, are invited to join Steve and Diana Wilkins at Lower Smithyfold Barn for Carols, mulled wine and mince pies from 6.30 pm on Sunday, 18th December. Please let Diana know if you can make it on 445250. Collection will be in aid of the 2011 charity supported by the St Leonard's choir—Asthma Research. DW

#### NATIVITY

There will be no Church Nativity production this Christmas. However Downham Pre-school has invited any parishoners who would like to, to join their party and Nativity at Downham Village Hall on Friday 16th December. Mince pies are on offer from 12.30, (unless the children have finished them earlier), with the performance itself starting at 1pm.

Our Family service this Christmas will be the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 3.00 pm.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, 1st January at 11.00 am

#### ST LEONARD CENTENARY

St. Georges flag flew proudly on the tower as the Centenary of the refurbishment of Downham Parish Church was celebrated on Sunday morning. Guests included the Bishop of Blackburn the Right Reverend Nicholas Reade, members of the Prayer Book Society and couples who had been married at St. Leonards over the years. The Bishop conducted the sung communion service assisted by Canon Rodney Nicholson, Rev. Alan Reid and Reader Mrs Linda Leadbeater. Mrs Adele Pridding was the organist.

Candles were lit by the longest married couple present, a newly married couple, the Patron Lord Clitheroe, Choir member Mrs. Anne Chadwick, Church Warden Mrs. Diana Wilkins and villager Mrs. Kath Swarbrick. Cont.....

The exhibition of old photographs and a selection of marriage photographs from each decade since 1911, were enjoyed by the packed congregation as they re-lived happy days and friendships of yesteryear.

The ladies of the Parish assisted by Wardens, Sidespersons, and friends prepared and served refreshments after the service. DB

#### ST LEONARD'S-TIDE TIDY-UP

Thank you to the enthusiastic party who gathered in the Church yard on the Saturday preceeding Remembrance Sunday. Much was achieved, including the pruning back of two of the "hairier" Lime trees overhanging the road, and the sorting out (prior to recycling of) a huge box full of receipts and cheque stubs from the 1990s. Other useful tasks completed were the hunt for woodworm and checking of our inventory of possessions.

Poppy crosses were also placed on all the war graves. RCA

#### Remembrance

OUR Service was conducted by Revd Alan Reid and started at 10.55 with prayers and the Act of Remembrance at the memorial. The wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish by Brig. Philip Naylor.

#### COFFEE CLUB

BUSINESS was brisk on a nice sunny morning and it was really good to see some new faces (as well as the old ones!) Please remember that anyone who lives in Downham or Twiston, or has previously lived here, is very welcome to drop in – if only for a few minutes to have a 'cuppa' and a chat. You can guarantee to see someone you know. It goes without saying that if you have a guest with you they will be made very welcome too.

The next meeting, which will be the last one this year, is on **Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>** - please call in and join us for a festive Sherry. See you then. O Awb.

### DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

THE topic 'A Bit of Old Chatburn' brought 26 people to the November meeting of the Downham & Twiston history group including many visitors from Chatburn. We took a walk around the top part of Chatburn in pictures which led to discussions on two old schools and four Wesleyan meeting places including three custom built chapels. An old picture of the tollgate at toll bar corner reflected life on local turnpike roads in the mid 1800s.

Part 2 of Chatburn history will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February BUT the next meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 will be on the topic of the Downham Benevolent Society, founded in 1785.

#### DOWNHAM & TWISTON GARDEN CLUB

#### Flowers for Christmas

MEMBERS were once again treated to an excellent demonstration by Barbara Taylor and her niece Nicola, making a return visit, on *Flowers for Christmas*. Both striking modern arrangements and more traditional displays were shown. Barbara and Nicola shared some tricks of the trade as they skilfully built up their floral offerings for the group. A great deal of interest was shown in two demonstration "bouquets" made entirely of wrapped sweets.

The demonstration arrangements provided the raffle prizes for the evening; with five very satisfied winners bearing them home.

The Club meets next time at Greendale for the Christmas Dinner on Thursday, 1st December at 7.30 pm.. CA

#### W.I.

AT our November meeting a minute's silence was held in memory of Greta Capstick, a member for 56 years with many of those years serving on the committee and president for 3 years in the 1980s. Daffodils are to be planted on the borders of the village hall car park in memory of Greta and of Elsie Barker, friends who died within a few weeks of each other.

Several reports were shared with members: Ena Douglas on her day of 'Festive Food and Flowers'; Elizabeth Wrigley on photography – 'tweaking digital photographs' and, lastly, a whole group of members brought in beautiful patchwork cushions made on a day course at Slaidburn.

The 'Trash and Treasure Fayre' proved to be successful with £145 for WI funds and £60 from refreshments to go to the Denman College Appeal [all WIs are asked to 'sell' teas to contribute to the renewal of the heating system at the college].

The highlight of the evening was a workshop making jewellery and Christmas decorations using 'Swarovski diamonds' under the guidance of tutor Esther Pugh. Twelve visitors from Billington, Gisburn and Pendleton WIs joined in the fun which resulted in some impressive work.

The next meeting will be the Christmas party at Greendale on Thursday, 8th December. EW

#### PHONE BOX DECOMMISSIONING

AFTER the discussion and agreement at the Annual Parish Meeting, the paperwork to decommission the red public telephone box in Downham is complete. The actual removal of the apparatus will take place shortly. The long term use of the box is still open for discussion, so suggestions to Ralph Assheton please. Current proposals include use as space for public notices, or tourist information. RCA

