

PARISH CALENDAR—2012

February			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
5th	Septuagesima 3rd Before Lent Education Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00am	Joint Family Service Canon Rodney Nicholson			
		7.00 pm	Candle Light Supper	Kings Centre		
7th	Tuesday	6.00 pm	Cookery Club	Village Hall	<i>In Aid of Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust</i>	
9th	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
12th	Sexagesima 2 nd before Lent	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins		Mrs P. McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs P. McFall		
16th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall		
17th	Friday	1.00 pm	Village Entertainment Group	Village Hall	<i>Mad Hatters lunch and film Alice in Wonderland</i>	
19th	Quinquagesima Sunday before Lent	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn		Mrs G. Cragg Mrs K. Brown
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B Lewis		
20th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall		
22nd	Ash Wednesday	10.00 am	Prayers Canon Rodney Nicolson	Mr T. McLean	NO	
		3.30 pm	Prayers Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn		
26th	Lent 1	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	FLOWERS	Lady Clitheroe Mrs C. Athworth
		11.00 am	Matins Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B. Lund		

March

4th	Lent 2	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	IN LENT	Mrs S. Marlow Mrs J. Aspinall
		11.00am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mr 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 R. Assheton—440173



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*This month the Newsletter has been sponsored by
Barbara and Brian Lewis
In loving memory of their daughter Jayne*

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2012 Issue 2 February

www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



I WAS shocked, as all of us were, by the capsizing of the Costa Concordia. This was not some ill-equipped Philipino boat hitting a storm in the south seas but a state-of-the-art cruise liner, complete with all safety devices, going down in normal conditions of the European coast. Explanations centre around the captain navigating four miles off course, over-riding the computer, so as to salute a retired colleague on the

island of Giglio. Should cruise brochures now carry the warning, "Our ships are safe so long as the captain follows the rules"? Such an incident is extremely rare. Even so, a \$1 bn vessel, with all its luxury, can become a graveyard, as the Titanic did 100 years ago. The mighty can fall.

Mighty people, too, can be brought low. Last week four of us went to the cinema to see "Iron Lady", the film in which Meryl Streep superbly plays the part of Margaret Thatcher. Few would deny that the former prime minister had qualities of conviction, courage, endurance and hard work. History will also remember her fighting back the tears as she left 10 Downing Street, ousted by her colleagues and no doubt still smarting from the public attack which Geoffrey Howe, her former foreign secretary, had launched on her in the House of Commons.

The Bible has many warnings about human pride, beginning with the Tower of Babel which God chose to wreck. God can come across occasionally as harsh in the earlier part of the Old Testament, but it was necessary for people to learn in a way they could understand about the dangers of human arrogance. We don't, of course, want to undervalue what people have achieved. Anyone receiving hospital treatment will be hugely grateful for modern science and technology. Yet the wrong sort of pride is always ready to rear its ugly head. We still need the reminder of Psalm 20:

Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses,
But we will only call on the name of the Lord our God.

Approaching Ash Wednesday and Lent, it is worth remembering our frailty. Dust we are, and to dust we shall return. Grasping this truth deeply, we can then throw ourselves on the mercy of the living God who promises, through Christ, to raise us up. Therein lies our hope, our promise and our delight.

Canon Rodney Nicholson

I know that my redeemer liveth

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	December	2011
COMMUNICANTS	82	705
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	834	4,188
VISITORS	15	1,051
DONATIONS	10,759	18,461
HOUSE BOXES	15	224
TOTALS	11,623	23,924

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

David Busby who is recovering well at home

Anne Musson who is recovering well

Karen Walker of Greendale who is undergoing treatment.

John Wrigley and the family of Elizabeth

FAREWELL

David Busby has written to us:

AS Wendy and I approach the end of our career in Downham, I thought that we would like to, firstly thank all the good residents of Downham for their kind thoughts for me during my recent hospital procedures, and to say that I have made a full recovery. Secondly to say a goodbye to all our many local friends who have supported us during the years. There is inevitable sadness after almost 28 wonderful years but, time marches on and it is time for us to move on and leave The Assheton Arms in the capable hands of Joycelyn who will, I am sure, do a wonderful job. A very special thanks also to Lord and Lady Clitheroe, and Ralph and Olivia for allowing us the use of The Assheton Arms over the years. DB

John Seymour and Rita Boyd

Who have moved from Lowergate Farm, good luck in your new home.

WELCOME

Joycelyn Neve (Proprietor) and **Anthony Shirley** (Head Chef) who have moved into the Assheton Arms with ambitious plans for the menus and the building. The Assheton Arms will be closed from 20th February to 1st April for the building work. Also welcome **Jonathon Parkinson** who lives in Longridge, the manager. The parish wishes you all well with this venture.



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
Whalley Deanery Fund-raising Committee

CANDLE LIGHT SUPPER

Sunday, 5th FEBRUARY, 2012

at

The King Centre
Milnthorpe Avenue off Henthorne Road
Clitheroe BB7 2LE

7.00 for 7.30 pm

Enjoy a Lasagne Supper with delicious puddings
and vegetarian option

Bring your own wine and glasses Soft Drinks Available
And Make a Donation to the Society

Entertainment by Grace O'Malley



Rosie's corner

AN EARLY morning walk is a blessing for the whole day. And I've had some beautiful early morning walks recently, when the ground has been hard with overnight frost, and **no mud!** That means I come home as clean as when I went out, which makes a nice change. But I love going out, whatever the weather. After all, walks are what dogs do best, so I'm always delighted when the walking shoes appear.

Now I really love shoes. Well I think most ladies like shoes don't they, so no surprise there. But I don't put them on my feet of course. My feet come already well equipped for every sort of terrain, thank you very much.

No, what I love about shoes is hiding one so it's owner has to hunt for it. Then sometimes, well, quite often really, I creep under the table during meal times and quietly undo VicR's shoe laces. And I do like to have a slipper in my bed with me, and sit and wait for the reaction of it's owner who has probably been hunting all over the house for it. These are good games, though I'm not sure that others in the pack agree with me. I think it must be what McK calls **Getting Up To Mischief**, but never mind, it's my belief that everyone should have fun, and laugh and play daily.

Last Friday I got my first certificate at puppy class. Now I must be honest, I didn't have to do much to get it. All I did was turn up at the classes and show willing, though it's quite surprising what I've learnt so far. But when I next go to puppy class in a couple of weeks time I'll be working for my bronze award, so I'll really have to start behaving myself then.

I've been into Edisford school again since I last wrote to you. The children were learning about guide dogs, and as there is no guide dog puppy living here anymore, I went along instead. Of course, I can never be a guide dog, but I can be a friend. It seems to me that you don't really make friends, you recognize them. Lots of the children recognize me now, and stop to speak to me when I'm out and about on my daily walks. They seem to like it when I wag my tail at them, and no wonder. Simply by wagging it's tail, a dog can express more feeling than some people can by talking for hours.

Rosie's Rules 5) "Delight in the simple joy of taking a long walk" - Allen Anderson

Kathleen Nicholson

DOG FOULING

Sadly, not enough people are using the dog waste bin on Hare Green to make it worthwhile for RVBC to send out a vehicle to empty it. The bin will therefore be removed for use elsewhere in the borough. The good news is that clarification has been given that properly bagged dog waste may be put in normal litter bins, or in the household red wheely bin. Remember, particularly in and around the village, that no one likes to step in muck, so bag it. When bagging dog waste, do put it in a bin rather than decorating a fence or bush.

SMITHFIELD BUILDING

The new roof over the disused silage clamp at Smithfield was completed on time before Christmas. Nigel Evans agreed to cut the opening ribbon, and chip the first log at a small ceremony. Bowland Bioenergy are now able to chip their piles of timber, whatever the weather! The work was partially funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, delivered by the NWDA and Defra. "Europe investing in rural areas".

FLYING LANTERNS

LCC have recently joined both the National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Maritime and Coastal Agency (MCA), in highlighting the dangers of flying lanterns. The four main dangers

- They cause fires (Lancashire Fire and Rescue have been called out 4 times in 18 months).
- They can injure livestock, for although most of them are designed to biodegrade, this can take 6 months, and still leaves wire and bamboo for animals to choke on.
- They are a danger to aviation as they can rise up to a mile.
- They are often misidentified as distress flares. The MCA receives hundreds of calls each year which uses up valuable time and resources.

Please think about these consequences when you are considering the seemingly innocent launch of a lantern.

Chatburn concert

THE NEXT Chatburn concert, on Friday March 23rd at 7.30pm, will feature the Preston Flute Group and the sensational young soprano, Grace O'Malley. It will be a splendid evening, and tickets are £7, including wine or tea/coffee and refreshments. RN

Surprise meeting

Rodney Nicholson

THE other Sunday evening I was taking the service at Chipping, after which I got talking to an elderly couple, whom I know fairly well, in the congregation, and a younger woman with them. The younger woman was German and had stayed in Chipping every January for, I think, twenty-five years, ever since she and the couple's daughter had taken part in exchange visits when they were girls. The visitor said that she was a potter and liked to lead pottery sessions in schools. She loved the children's delight when she fired their creations in the kiln.

Asked where exactly in Germany she lived, she replied, "Near Cologne". "The city was badly damaged in the war" I commented. "Yes, she agreed" and then her host added, "And I was one of the British pilots doing the bombing. But I was only obeying orders as, of course, the German were doing."

The woman felt nothing but friendship for Britain. She herself was not alive in the war but members of her family may have been killed by Allied action. It was a lovely example, I thought, of reconciliation, and I would never have heard this heart-warming story if I hadn't got into conversation with the trio after the service.

From Canon Nicholson

Prayer on Ash Wednesday

THE BISHOP of Blackburn, Bishop Nicholas, has asked that Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, be kept as a day of prayer and fasting – for the ongoing work and mission of the diocese, and for all young people in our county affected by the economic recession. Fasting, in Bishop Nicholas's words, is part of our prayer, and when we fast we share with our Lord in His fast. Fasting, Bishop Nicholas adds, helps us to resist temptation, and is a way of sacrificing a little something to God. "If you cannot abstain from food, consider abstaining from a luxury or enjoyment, perhaps even having a fast from television?"

There will be midday prayers in St Leonard's on Ash Wednesday, and also Holy Communion in St Paul's at 10am and afternoon prayers in Christ Church, Chatburn at 3.30pm (before the school governors' meeting at 4.15pm).

Congratulations

PRE-SCHOOL Susan Carter and her team at the Downham Pre-school are understandably very happy to have been granted an "Outstanding" rating by Ofsted, following their recent inspection.

The report gave them the highest grades possible in every category. The pre-school will now be used as an exemplar of good practice for other pre-schools across the county.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERAL Jean Chambers

THE FUNERAL service of Jean Chambers (69) of Chatburn was held in St Leonard's on January 16th. The venue was chosen because Jean's daughter, Annette, is married to John Lund of Wood Farm.

A native of Keighley, Jean lived for many years at Silverdale, then Arnside, where she met her husband Derek on a blind date! They later moved to Bentham, then Chatburn. A colourful and artistic woman, Jean was afflicted by multiple sclerosis but she never let this dampen her enthusiasm for life. A former Samaritan, she liked the variety of cultures and races in the people she met, being interested in how others saw the world. Humorous, contented, strong-willed and generous are just some of the descriptions appropriate to Jean.

She will be greatly missed, especially by her family, including her mother, Peggy, her husband, Derek, her children Kevin, Annette, David and Stephen, and her six grandchildren, Abbie, Amy, Karl, Terri-lee, Jay and Carys

Elizabeth Wrigley ne Hewitt

The Parish was in a state of shock and disbelief on receiving the sad news of Elizabeth's sudden illness and untimely death on Thursday 25th. Our deepest sympathy goes to John and their family. Funeral Arrangements are Thursday 2nd February at 12 noon at St. Leonard's. An appreciation will appear in next months Newsletter.

In the meantime the arrangements for our meeting of the history group, on 20th February, which was so enthusiastically founded by Elizabeth, will stand.

THE PARISH CHURCH

Christmas Carols

SOME time ago - before Christmas - a choir came to Smithy Fold It was great to welcome new and old singers and many of our Twiston neighbours. We sang plenty of carols whilst sipping mulled wine - made to a recipe given us by - Mrs (Jean) Whitsey many moons ago...

Thanks to all who contributed. S & D Wilkins

THE tradition continued on Christmas Eve singing around the village a collection was made for the choir's chosen charity

Our Christingle service on Christmas Eve took a traditional form, with a distribution of orange Christingles and the message about the light of the world,

The annual St Leonard's carol service was on Sunday 1st January, at 11.00 am, with a very full congregation gathered to hear the nine lessons and to sing the interspersed carols. The readers were drawn from our parish with representatives also from St Pauls and Christ Church, Two readings by Ralph Assheton and his sister Helen were, very sensibly, read from the pulpit the additional height giving improved projection and clarity. Guests in the congregation included members of the Blackburn branch of the Prayer Book Society.

ASSHETON SERMON

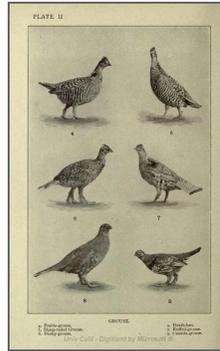


THIS year, on Sunday, 29th January at 11,00 am the Assheton Sermon was given by the Revd Andy Froud, Vicar of St Mary Magdalene, Clitheroe. Members of the Prayer Book Society, made the journey to St Leonard's for the second time in January. The preacher chose as his text "I know that my redeemer liveth" the one from Job left in the will of Sir Ralph in 1686

VILLAGE HALL

COOKERY CLUB

THE Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust are holding a game demonstration evening, as a fundraiser for their Lancashire branch, on Tuesday 7th February at 6.30 p.m at the Village Hall, it will be a fantastic evening. Fresh from her most recent stint on Great British Menu, Stephanie Moon is returning to do the demonstration and, as she did last time, provide some wonderful food for us to enjoy. It's a bit more expensive than normal - £20 per head but it will be well worth the extra £'s and the money raised will be going to one of the UK's leading conservation charities. Please let Olivia know as soon as you can if you would like to attend. OA



Downham & Twiston History Group

Downham Benevolent Society, an early Friendly Society begun in 1785 by a group of handloom weavers, was the topic for the January meeting. Many locals will have seen the society's banner which was on display in the church during autumn.

Made of silk with gold and silver leaf paint, its age and condition are a cause for concern: recently a conservator from the People's Museum in Salford came to look at the banner and advise on repair and storage conditions. Details of the Benevolent Society, often referred to locally as the 'old sick club', can be seen in the rule book and register, kept at the Lancashire Archives. Our history group has a copy of the information from this relic and a photograph of the centenary celebrations in 1885. EW

The next meeting is Monday 20th February at 7.30pm in Downham Village Hall

COFFEE CLUB

It was all smiles and a sunny day at our first Coffee Club of 2012. All in good spirits although still recovering from Christmas colds and the Bring and Buy Stall was very popular (perhaps it was all the unwanted Christmas presents?) Any of our members know that they can just 'pop in' even if they are en route to other appointments, there is always time for a quick cuppa! If you have not called in before, you would be made very welcome and because it is only for 'locals & ex locals' you would be sure to know someone there. Our next Coffee Club will be Thursday February 9th, hope to see you then. O Awb

DOWNHAM VEG (Village Entertainment Group)

Come and join the Mad Hatter's Lunch Party

in
Downham Village Hall
at
1pm on
Friday 17th February 2012
Lunch* and games from 1pm
Fancy dress optional
until the showing of

Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland

at 2pm
Tickets £5 Telephone Angie
on 01200 440146
or Barbara on 01200 440925

*hot dogs and juice provided

W.I.



THE speaker for our January meeting was unable to attend so member, Joyce Plumridge, stepped in with her talk 'Miniatures', originally planned for the 2011 programme but had to be cancelled.

Joyce always wanted a doll's house after her own had to go when she was evacuated during the war. Years later, after paying a substantial sum for her first piece of miniature furniture, her husband, Doug, decided he could make the furniture himself. He started with a chair, following which they both went on a course and, over time, developed their art to an amazing level of skill. They went on to sell miniatures at fairs across the length and breadth of the country. It was only through Doug's health problems that they were unable to take their goods to a prominent fair in Chicago. Since Doug passed away, Joyce no longer goes to the fairs but she has a delightful collection of miniatures, some of which she brought to the meeting.

Other WI news

We are planning a Chinese New Year theme for the birthday party in March. Christine Newhouse is the lucky member selected to be delegate at the national AGM at the Albert Hall in London.

Next Meeting

The speaker for our 16th February meeting is Linda Sawley on the topic 'Shoes, their history and mine'.

EW

ROAD CLOSURE

LCC Is resurfacing Downham Road, Chatburn during February/March. No further details available yet—but, remember, you heard it here first,

RCA