

Parish Calendar 2014						
January			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
5th	The Epiphany	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Peter Shepherd	Mr T. McLean		
9th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
12th	Epiphany I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs P. McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		10.50 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
14th	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Management Committee	Village Hall		
16th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI & History Group	Village Hall		
19th	Epiphany II	8.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>		Mrs G. Cragg Mrs K. Brown
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B. Lewis		
26th	Epiphany III Assheton Sermon	08.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis	Mrs C. McGrath Mrs J. Smith
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Alan Reid The Ven Michael Everitt	Mr B. Lewis		
		7.00 pm	Candlelight Supper	Kings Centre		
February						
2nd	Epiphany IV	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Peter Shepherd	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Lady Clitheroe Ms C. Ashworth
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Peter Shepherd	Mr T. McLean		
<b>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE</b> – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019 <b>OUR CHURCH WARDENS</b> The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250 <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						
		<a href="http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk">www.downhamvillage.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.downhambanner.com">www.downhambanner.com</a>				

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



# newsletter

2014 Issue 1 January

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

**L**ET'S make a resolution for the Christmas/New Year period: no negative talk about Christmas becoming too commercialised or people forgetting the true meaning of Christmas or any other dreary and time-worn comments. Let's simply enjoy the festival without any need to complain. After all, one aspect of the true meaning is that we are good news people, passing on, at least in spirit, the Good News, or glad tidings, which the angel brought to the shepherds in the fields above Bethlehem. But there's not much good news in the complaints department.

We have a wonderful God. If we really believe that, out of his love for us, he became a human being, born in a manger, then we do not lose our excitement at this lovely season as the years pass by. The question is, "Do we really believe?"

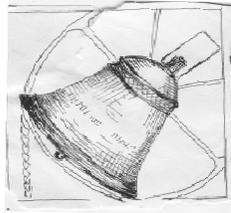
A small group of us listened to The Messiah in Blackburn Cathedral recently. Sung by the Blackburn Music Society it was a superb performance. During the interval, however, I got talking to a choir man who enthused about The Messiah, but admitted that he liked the great oratorio purely for the music and singing. He had no faith in the Lord by whom it was inspired. That seemed to take the heart out of the great piece.

The same applies to Christmas. It will be just a matter of food and alcohol, festivity, money and, to a degree, pointlessness unless we have a living faith in Christ the Lord of all. Of course, you can have a good and generous time without any faith, but the depth and continuing joy comes from kneeling before the Babe of Bethlehem and making him the focus of our lives. "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel".

We can be glad that the true meaning is apparent in Clitheroe in many ways: the crib by the castle, Andy Froud's St Nicholas night Walking Nativity on December 6<sup>th</sup> and all the carol/Christingle services. There's also abundant good will - seen, for example, in local support for the Salvation Army toy appeal. Our Lord was born in poverty. We in turn respond to those who have real needs - maybe lacking the means to heat their home. Here at St Leonard's we especially support the Food Bank and The Children's Society. All this ensures that blessed Christmas which I hope you will enjoy.

*Rodney N. Assheton*

MERCIFUL Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it being enlightened by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain the light of everlasting life.



A  
Happy  
New Year  
to  
All Our Readers

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	November	2013
COMMUNICANTS	36	618
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	198	2,439
VISITORS	73	961
DONATIONS	265	6,852
HOUSE BOXES	21	166
TOTALS	557	10,418

#### Our prayers are said for

Jean Whitsey who suffered a fall from her door step in a gust of high wind.



#### John Bell at Chatburn

JOHN Bell, the renowned song-writer, preacher and broadcaster, will be at Chatburn on Saturday February 8th he will give two talks in the morning, then lead worship in the afternoon. On Sunday 9th at 11am he will preach at a special united service at Christ Church. Further details are on page six of The See, but please make a note of these dates now.

#### Holden chapel

HOLDEN Chapel, near Copy Nook, holds a carol singing evening followed by supper on Monday 30th December at 7.30pm.

It's always good when churches, like St Leonard's, host such events *after* Christmas Day because most carol services take place during Advent, not Christmas, which only starts on 25th December. It's lovely to have something to look forward to.

Holden chapel houses a warm and friendly Christian fellowship meeting in a warm and welcoming building, set in a superb rural situation.



#### THE ASSHETON SERMON

ON Sunday, 26th January, 2014 we welcome, as preacher at the annual Assheton Sermon, The Venerable Michael Everitt, Archdeacon of Lancaster. The Archdeacon was educated at Warriner School, Bloxham; Banbury School; King's College, London; Queen's College, Edgbaston and the Venerable English College, Rome. He was ordained in 1992, his first post was as a curate at St Andrew, Cleveleys. After this he was Succentor (deputy Precentor) then Precentor (in charge of music) of Bloemfontein Cathedral. From 1998 to 2002 he was Chaplain at St Martin's College, Lancaster then Rector of Standish until his Archdeacon's appointment. We look forward to his sermon.

#### WINTER HELP

From Councillor Gary Scott

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has secured funding to help residents of Downham and Twiston this Winter. There is support for the over 65s who are in need of boiler repairs. The over 70s can receive a bag of rock salt delivered free to their home. Also you may request help to switch your energy supplier to save on fuel bills. Please contact the housing team on 01200 425111 for further advice.

#### POLICE CONTACT

If any resident needs to contact their local Police Officer/Station the details are below.  
CLITHEROE POLICE STATION 01200 443344  
PC TONY WALSH 0752 806 6450  
LANCASHIRE POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101  
[tony.walsh@lancashire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:tony.walsh@lancashire.pnn.police.uk)

#### SPECTATOR

IT SEEMS very strange writing January's Spectator in December, and although I don't make new year resolutions, I think I am going to pray very hard for a bit of respite please in the new year, from the almost biblical proportion size curses that have befallen us in 2013!

In the last 2 months alone, we have had illnesses, stress, friends diagnosed with cancer, a loved one in intensive care following an accident, met a seemingly very nice indecisive elderly couple who decided to hit our car when my daughters were on their way home after visiting us and then tell the insurance that it wasn't their fault so we stand to lose a ridiculously high excess and our no claims bonus! Then I spent most of yesterday in the Accident and Emergency after mum was blown off the steps outside her house by the wind..."please no more ...I give in!!!!"

.....Now that is where I broke off to go up to the village hall for the delicious Christmas soup and sandwich "do" (normally known as coffee morning) and just when I thought it was safe, I gave a thank you speech that makes Bridget Jones seem like a much in demand after dinner speaker! Argh!

They do say what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, so Jon and I are thinking of joining the Circus next time it hits town. Anyway, I cannot start the new year with a grim Spectator so I thought I would, like the song, "Accentuate the positives and eliminate the negatives, latch on to the affirmatives and don't mess with Mr In-between". Sorry I got a bit carried away then! So, we can't change ill health and death but we can make each day count, and so what if the accident which was not our fault is going to cost us, at least nobody was hurt ("except my bank balance" I can hear Jon muttering) My lovely mother in law is still with us, in spite of her Mary Poppins imitation! and I found again how wonderful my next door neighbours are when they zoomed me up to rescue Mum and brought me home from the hospital. Who cares about a speech that missed bits out, at least I stood up and did it...gulp. Yes, life is still good and I'm still standing (and laughing) This is Linda Whitsey for stand up Downham....feeling very positive actually. Happy New Year

"What day is it?" "It's today," squeaked Piglet.  
"My favourite day," said Pooh.

## DIOCESE NEWS

THE diocese newsletter *The See* is always available from the table in church. In addition the diocese website [www.blackburn.anglican.org/news.asp](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/news.asp) has been augmented by a YouTube Channel launched on October 9th [www.blackburn.anglican.org/you tube](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/you tube). It's been a busy few months for the Diocese. You'll find [all the latest news](#) on the Diocese website.

### YouTube channel

TALKING of YouTube, [the new channel](#) for the Diocese has got off to a great start. If you haven't had a look yet, please do so and don't forget to subscribe to the channel while you are logged in, and you will then be the first to know when future videos are uploaded.

### Bishop Julian's Deanery Days

IN DECEMBER, Bishop Julian completed 10 of his 'Deanery Days' that were planned for before Christmas, with four more to go. There have been good turnouts for the 'Meet the Bishop' evenings on each day which include a question and answer session.

We hope to feature recorded excerpts of a Deanery evening soon on the [Diocese YouTube channel](#); useful for anyone who couldn't attend. The local media have followed the Bishop around the Diocese during the Deanery Days. See it on [Clitheroe Advertiser's](#) website also.

### Welcoming Bishop Julian

**Rodney Nicholson**

SIXTEEN of us from Downham, Chatburn and St Paul's went to St James last month to see and hear the new Bishop of Blackburn, Bishop Julian. Over tea before the meeting, attended by Deanery Synod members, we had the pleasure of meeting his wife Heather too.

The Bishop said that he had visited both the previous Bishops of Blackburn, Alan Chesters and Nicholas Reade, to hear their views of the diocese. He told how he had been appointed to a daunting job but believed he had been given good advice in being told: "Just be yourself".

Bishop Julian had come to Christ as a teenager through the teacher, now a Reader, whom he had asked to preach at his consecration service in York Minster. In choosing him, Bishop Julian was deliberately honouring the place of Readers and lay ministry in today's Church.

### Epiphany

IN A sense, Christmas runs itself. Other festivals need more emphasis because they too are special, lovely and important.

Epiphany on Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>, to be taken by Canon Peter Shepherd, celebrates the journey of the wise men and the glorious truth that Jesus is the light of the world for all people. "Wise men still seek him."



## NELSON MANDELA STILL SPEAKS

**Rodney Nicholson**

MANY of us have been aware of Nelson Mandela all our lives. I remember my father's outrage when he was given life imprisonment on Robben Island in 1964. It was the white South African authorities' big mistake. You cannot stifle the voice of freedom, and from his prison cell Mandela evoked passion, loyalty and the hope that one day the evil apartheid system would be overthrown.

We now know more of the degrading cruelty of the apartheid system which led black people to be forcibly removed from their homes, made to live in squalid townships and humiliated in all sorts of ways. As a child Archbishop Desmond Tutu heard a white shop girl call his father, who was a primary school headteacher, "boy". At Sharpeville in 1980 white South African police shot dead 69 black demonstrators - mainly in the back - and injured over 180 - one among other atrocities.



Nelson Mandela grew in stature during his 27 years in prison and emerged as a reconciler, determined to forgive those who had ill-treated him. He became the first president of the new multi-racial South Africa in 1994 and soon afterwards received the Nobel Peace Prize which he generously shared with his former opponent, F.W. de Clerk. As the world pays tribute to this great leader, we thank God for his endurance.

### Put in a good word for MPs

I NEVER share the low opinion of MPs which many seem to have. It is not the view of Leslie Griffiths, a Methodist minister and life peer, who sits in the House of Lords with the Labour Party. He said that whilst, as in all professions, there are some corrupt people, most he found - of all parties - were doing a conscientious job.

As a body MPs are viewed with distaste but when we actually meet one, he or she is usually a very approachable person with a desire to do their best. As Christians we pray for God's kingdom to come, for which, in Britain, the elected government has a special part.

We should pray for our MPs rather than carp at them. We could even send an encouraging note. Those who are judged as no good need not be re-elected. Over pay, an independent body, not the MPs themselves, recommends the 11% increase. We can so easily slide into envy, blame and criticism. Justice may demand a place for these but we need to be valued and encouraged. We are much more in tune with Christ the Prince of Peace if we try to build up rather than sneer and put down.

### Archbishop tackles energy companies

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, invited the bosses of the Big Six energy companies to a private meeting in mid-December. He said that energy companies must "behave with generosity and not merely to maximise opportunity" and that they had a huge responsibility to serve society. The meeting comes after the Most Rev Justin Welby said he understood why people felt above-inflation price rises were inexplicable and called on the companies to act with generosity. Four of the Big Six suppliers are believed to be sending their most senior UK executives, in contrast to a recent Commons select committee hearing where just one, E.on chief executive Tony Cocker, attended to face MPs.



A spokesman from Npower told Utility Week: "While energy is not the usual territory for religious leaders, it is important from a poverty point of view which is their territory, so it is right to talk.

*Source: Daily Telegraph on line*

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

ON 1st December a ring-round was quickly arranged cascading from the Warden to the pews that Communion would be in the Village Hall. The electrics had failed so no boiler no organ, This followed the cancellation, at the last minute, of the 11.00 am service the week before when the boiler broke down.

Sidespersons Barbara and Brian Lewis had all in hand, the essential Linen, plate, bread and wine were transported to the Village Hall and Altar and Chairs arranged, A small cross in silver on a marble base which we have owned for many years (left in the will of Mrs Johnson, a missionary who lived at Pendle House, Twiston until the 1960's) came into its own for the first time. The village hall electric piano was in place and James appeared un phased by the change of instrument and accompanied the advent hymns with great artistry and skill.

Shaun had obviously been given some notice, the heating was on! A cosy atmosphere two whole rows of congregation, good singing led by choir members at the front and comfortable seats all added to give a very positive feel to the service.

Rodney Nicholson officiated and preached and remarked that the change had given us a different form of worship which was more personal that that felt in the lofty, traditional setting, of St Leonard.

All was mended and back to normal by the next week and our Matins was not just as warm but what we prefer in the C of E at Downham.



**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

THIS will be on Chirstmas Eve at 3.00 pm Christmas arrangements are detailed in the December Newsletter

**DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP**

The next meeting, Thursday, 16th at 7.30 pm , at the Downham Village Hall at which Harriet Roberts will be speaking on the Blackburn Orphanage, is at the kind invitation of the Downham WI. at their regular meeting for January.

**COFFEE CLUB**

COFFEE Club members had a change in their routine for the Christmas meeting. On 19th December from 12noon to about 2 pm a Soup and Sandwich Lunch was served by Club Leaders Barbara and Brian and helpers. Tables and Hall were seasonally decorated and the competition was won by Shaun Roney. An amusing vote of thanks to the organisers and helpers was proposed by Linda Whitsey this was seconded by all present. The January meeting will be back to normal at 10.00 am on 9th.



**VEG**

Village Entertainment Group

Future Dates for your diaries Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 3pm The Horse and Bamboo Company will perform Little Red Riding Hood suitable for age 4+ and on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 7.00 pm Dansformation will perform "Northumbriana" (a contemporary dance and music composition) followed by a 30 minute ceilidh. Suitable for ages 14+.

Please support professional theatre locally. **Use it or loose it !**

BL AG

**GARDEN CLUB**

MEMBERS were given a fantastic treat at the Christmas Party—this year at the Village Hall—on 5th December at 7.00 pm. A brightly decorated hall with beautifully decked out tables welcomed members and guests. A delicious (with lots of previously ordered choices) three course meal provided by Tim of the Country Pantry at Waddington was followed by an entertaining distribution of the RAFFLE. Every one was a winner, with the Christmas Fairy, Father Christmas and Elf-an-Safety in attendance. Chairman Shaun Roney thanked Carol and her helpers for a Superb evening. The next meeting is on 6th March, at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.



**The Children's Society**

Whalley Deanery Fund Raising Committee

**Candlelight Supper**

**The Kings Centre**

Millthorne Avenue off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

**7.00 for 7.30 p.m.**

BRING A BOTTLE OF WINE

- (and your glasses)
- Soft Drinks available
- Vegetarian Option available
- Selection of Salads
- Delicious Puddings

ENTERTAINMENT BY

**THE ARDENNETTES**

See them on utube

Why not come along and enjoy the evening Support the Society by making a donation at the Supper

THERE were gales of laughter when the members and friends of Downham WI got together for their Christmas Party held at the Calf's Head, Worston.



Following a delicious meal Betsy the Scullery Maid, otherwise known as Joanne Haliwell, arrived in costume and character to tell tales of her mistress and master, her boyfriend Thomas and of the 'new rage' of a Victorian Christmas tree, stockings filled with oranges and nuts, and more.

All seen from the perspective of a lowly scullery maid, Betsy proved very entertaining, to finish she was joined by Philippa, Daphne, Susan and Peter to sing a tongue twisting version of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Joanne was thanked by President Frances Garner.

During the enjoyable evening the Competitions Cup was presented to Susan Whittaker then closed with the singing of Jerusalem and Christmas carols.

The January meeting will be held on 16th at 7.30 pm in Downham Village Hall and the speaker is Harriet Roberts 'the Buried Treasure of James Dixon – the Blackburn Orphanage'. This is the meeting to which the History Group has been invited as our guests. The competition is 'an old document' and there will be a trade table with a vintage theme. CN

**THE ARDENNETTES**

THE Ardenettes are a group of three best friends. Jade, Soprano, Jessica, Mezzo and Laura, Alto. They became friends when they were all involved in Pendle Hippodrome Theatre in Colne and have been part of the Arden Youth Choir, hence their name. They all attend St Mary's College in Blackburn where they are studying Performing Arts. The Ardenettes sing a wide range of songs varying from Classical to songs made popular by such artists as Rihanna and Adele, plus songs from the musicals..