

Parish Calendar 2014						
June			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Sunday after Ascension	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean		
2nd	Monday	6.30 pm	Village Hall Committee	Village Hall		
5th	Thursday	<b>7.00 pm</b>	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Chairman's Walk</i>	
		7.00 pm	Social Event	Whalley Abbey	<i>After Dinner Speaker Peter Ward</i>	

8th	Whitsun Day	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs F Eldridge
		11.00 am	Matins Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr B. Lewis		

12th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
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15th	Trinity Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>		Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Alan Reid	Mr T. McLean		

19th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	<i>Gos on Tour</i>	
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22nd	Trinity I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins		Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00 am	Matins Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B. Lewis		

29th	Trinity II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P McFall		Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		11.00 am	Songs of Praise Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mrs A Greenhill		
		2.30 pm	Concert	In Church	In aid of Music at St Leonard's	
		2.00 to 6.00 pm	Garden Party	Well House Grindleton	In Aid of the Poppy Fund	

30th	Monday	<b>5.50 pm</b>	History Group	Meet Downham Bridge to car share	Conducted walk at Ribchester from the Museum at 6.30 pm	
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**July**

3rd	Thursday	<b>6.50 pm</b>	Garden Club	Meet Downham Bridge to car share	Visit Varley Farm Bolton-by-Bowland	
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6th	Trinity III	8.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs G.Cragg Mrs K Brown
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean		

**OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE** – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019  
**OUR CHURCH WARDENS**  
 The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484  
 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250  
**VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Chairman and Bookings Secretary** Mr Shaun Roney—441667  
**Hon Secretary** The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210

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

**PARISH OF ST. LEONARD**

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON**



**newsletter**

2014 Issue 6 June

**From Canon Rodney Nicholson**

**Viewpoint**

**M**ANY of us regret UKIP's recent success. Nigel Farage, with his beer-drinking image, is hardly what we admire in a national leader. The party may not be racist but it feeds on people's fears that those of certain other races may change our way of life and take advantage of our services. Christianity, by contrast, is a global faith, rejoicing that "in Christ there is neither East nor West". We have a Ugandan archbishop; we would have no problem in Downham with a Romanian priest or a Lithuanian reader.

UKIP's success illustrates the ease with which many people will follow a strong leader. Whilst we are not comparing Farage to Adolf Hitler, the general point stands that the people of Germany, in huge numbers, were willing to follow a demagogue who offered easy answers. Most people are followers rather than leaders, and - given a dose of fear - many will line up behind a "no-nonsense, plain-speaking" personality.

Religion carries a similar danger. A young clergyman in Sheffield in the 1990s inspired a great following through his Sunday evening 9 o'clock service, which in itself was an excellent idea. Unfortunately, under the cloak of counselling, the Rev'd Chris Brain was having sexual liaisons with young women. The press had a field day, the service was stopped and Mr Brain lost his licence, but the affair showed how a gifted leader could get his followers to go almost anywhere with him.

I saw a disturbing photo some months ago of young African boys rejoicing in church. Those impressionable youths were celebrating the new laws passed in Uganda which impose heavy and cruel penalties upon men involved in homosexual relationships. Our Archbishop of Canterbury has appealed to the Anglican church in that country not to support such inhumane treatment. Leaders offering black and white solutions to complex problems may be praised for their uncompromising convictions, but others may feel that life is not so clear-cut.

We are currently celebrating the ascension of Christ – his coronation as Lord. Jesus was never a hectoring or condemning leader but one who inspired loyalty by his treating people graciously and seeking to bring out the best in them. Rather than give simple answers he often told stories and said, "What do you think?" His apparent, at times, weakness had the power to change the world.

*Robert N. ...*

**O**LORD from whom all good things do come: Grant us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	April	2014
COMMUNICANTS	71	218
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	405	882
VISITORS	86	171
DONATIONS	1,022	2,277
HOUSE BOXES	23	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>3,353</b>

### OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

**Brenda Lund** who is recovering from an operation.

**Rodney Nicholson** who has had an operation.

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### Midweek wedding

**A** FULL church witnessed the marriage of local couple Katy Mercer and Simon England on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, when the congregation included guests from as far away as Germany, South Africa and North America. The Bridgewater String Trio provided the music, along with our choir, and a team of bellringers was assembled from other churches. It was a joyful occasion, with everyone in celebratory mood and appreciative of St Leonard's church. The reception took place at the Eaves Hall hotel.

Katy, a teacher, is grand-daughter to Mrs Betty Mercer, Downham's oldest resident. She and her solicitor husband, Simon, have departed for a honeymoon by Lake Garda.

#### Pat Houston died in April, 2014

**I**N February 1993 The Revd Pat Houston and his wife Sandra came from North Carolina to Downham for a year. Pat took up the challenge of an English Parish having retired from his full-time ministry in Greenville. The couple were immediately taken to the hearts of the entire Parish. Looking back, we see that in his first Newsletter piece Pat wrote "The Vicar's View" about hospitality, and mentioned the warmth of the gracious welcome that he and Sandra had received. He said, even at that early point in their stay, that they were on their way to uttering the expression of St Paul "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you". This was all too typical of the man who drew the best out of all he met and made a lasting impression upon us all. They left us in mid January 1994 and are remembered with great affection by all who met them. It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Pat. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Sandra and the family.

### SPECTATOR

**I** WENT to the Coffee Morning recently and it was very busy again, there will be standing room only soon! I really enjoy catching up on what's going on as well as having the time to talk to people I don't see often. I think it's an excellent group, friendly, welcoming, well organised and if there are unexpected changes, everyone is contacted so they don't miss out and they feel included. It could also have something to do with the gorgeous cakes, one of which Jon now expects me to take home for him after every visit, and I love the bric a brac stall where you can always find a bargain I am not really a one for groups or committees, and people often laugh when I tell them I am shy. I am. . . HONESTLY! . . . I just cover it up well sometimes. At other times, my lack of confidence makes it very difficult or even impossible to go to a party or event, and so being greeted with a smiling face makes all the difference. I don't do small talk very well either and that's why I sometimes talk a lot of nonsense, it is . . . HONESTLY or try to avoid conversations and people.

I used to tell my volunteers when I was a working girl (oops that doesn't sound right does it ?! ) to always treat people with respect and how you would wish to be treated. Also you never know what someone has going on in their life and a smile or friendly gesture can make the difference between a good day and a bad day.

The Gospel according to Mathew says it all," So in everything, do unto others what you would have them do to you" very wise. talking about good days rapidly turning to not so good, Jon and I went to our exercise group last week and got a taxi from Clitheroe. "Roefield Centre please, Edisford Bridge...." Yes, yes, I know that" said the taxi driver, but went straight past the turning into the gym, even though I shouted, "here" and took us into the second turning, Thistle Homes! (for the elderly!) When I said it was next door we wanted, he looked at us both and said, in a surprised voice" oh your'e going to the gym ?!!" Well I tell you that did nothing for my confidence and luckily I remembered something else from the Bible, a Commandment and one that probably saved the taxi drivers life.... "thou shalt not kill" !!! Luckily their isn't one which says " thou shalt not give a dirty look!" Tut.

#### "Grandma's Boasting Corner"

#### Di Braithwaite

MY Grandson, Stephen Braithwaite, has arrived back from Dubai after playing cricket for the England Physically Disabled team against Pakistan.

They played in one warm up match, three 20/20 matches and three One Day Internationals. Stephen got a wicket with his first bowl in the warm up game which earned him the nick name "Golden Arm" and in the first 20/20 match he got 2 wickets and 2 run outs, winning him the Man of The Match Award. We were able to watch the 20/20's on the ECB link and saw his Dad, Terry, with Jane and his sister Lucy enjoying the match and the lovely weather.

In the last match Stephen made 19 runs but the team was unlucky to lose by 12 runs. All the family are very proud of him, and as Stephen said, it was an honour to play for his Country whatever the outcome.

### SOCIAL EVENING WHALLEY ABBEY

Thursday 5th June at 7.00 pm Two Course Supper

After Dinner Speaker Peter Ward **The Lighter side of the Justice System**  
**Tickets and enquiries from The Abbey office 01254 828400**

## Dog accepts his master's death

Rodney Nicholson

I TOOK the funeral in St Paul's a few weeks ago of a registered-blind man who had a Guide dog. When I paid my first visit to the family, Jock the golden Labrador was clearly missing Keith. On my second visit, however, the dog seemed happier and more relaxed. Apparently the family had taken him to Brian Price's funeral parlour where he saw his dead master, then was content. It seemed that he accepted that Keith was not coming back but that he would be all right.

Subsequently the family has taken Jock three times to Clitheroe cemetery, letting him run up to the grave.

Jock came to the funeral service, as did Chris Tattersall, who lives off Chatburn Road, with his dog Bob. Chris and his pal have twice come with me to Edisford School to talk to a class about Guide Dogs. Jock (5) would not have been assigned to another blind person, so Guide Dogs are happy for Keith's wife, Mavis, and the family to keep him. He came to Keith eighteen months ago, having been previously abused by a blind man, which required him to be returned to Guide Dogs for rehabilitation.

## Too much chicken

THE DAUGHTER of a lady whose funeral I had taken at St Paul's recently told me that the family had an excellent meal afterwards at a local hotel. Her only complaint was that they were given half a chicken each, which she thought was an excessive quantity, particular in the middle of the day. I wholeheartedly agree. The purpose of chickens may be to feed human beings but that does not include being slaughtered mainly to end up in restaurants' rubbish bins. The world should feed people's need, not greed.

## Queen Mary's visit to Downham

A BIT of Downham history came to light when I was chatting to one of our regulars at the St Paul's soup lunch in Christian Aid Week. This elderly lady remembered the visit of Queen Mary, widow of George V, to Lady Assheton, grandmother of the present Lord Clitheroe, in presumably the late 1930s. Queen Mary came by train to Gisburn, then by car to Downham Hall. My elderly friend remembers waving to the royal car as it passed through Rimington.

The question is why did the royal train stop at Gisburn rather than Chatburn or Rimington? Could it be a forerunner of the Queen's visit to Blackburn on Maundy Thursday, when the car was taken off the train at Gisburn, following the Queen's spending the night in a siding there? Maybe, unlike other stations, Gisburn has that facility.

RN

## IN AID OF CROSSROADS CARE RIBBLE VALLEY

St Michael and St John  
Parish Centre Clitheroe  
Tickets £5 from  
Crossroads Office 422104



## FASHION SHOW

Summer Clothes for all ages

Tuesday 17th June  
Bar 7 to 7.45 Show at 8pm

## Downham Hall Gardens Open

AS reported earlier the Gardens Opening this year is to be 12th and 13th July in aid of the Village Hall and the Army Benevolent Fund. As ever please help with raffle prizes, tombola prizes and plants. Olivia is asking for scones for the afternoon teas, so please let her know if you are willing on 441210.

## FESTIVAL BOWLAND —2014

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am – 12.30pm Barley

## The Water Story

THE FOREST OF BOWLAND is an important water gathering area and the Pendleside village of Barley has a string of reservoirs. Join United Utilities ranger, David Oyston, for a walk around Ogden Reservoir Suitable for children aged 10 yrs and over if accompanied by an adult. Booking essential. Please contact the AONB office on 01200 448000 or email [sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk) £3, 3 hours, terrain guide 4, 4 miles.

## Downham Post Office

SINCE the Village Meeting held earlier in the year, discussions have been on going to accommodate the strong local desire to retain a cafe. Negotiations with a prospective tenant are, hopefully, nearly complete, and should see the re-opening of the cafe, alongside a bed and breakfast business. The cafe is planned to include a retail element based around specialist foodstuffs rather than day to day household goods. The aim is to retain the same name though currently the Post Office element is not confirmed,

## The PCC

AT THE first meeting after the AGM the Officers of the Parochial Church Council were elected for the year 2014/15. Jon Whitsey, who, at the Annual Meeting had signalled his intention not to stand for another year in office, steps down after fifteen years of magnificent service. Always absolutely spot-on with the accounts and reports Jon has a knack of making the balance sheets comprehensible to ordinary mortals not being accountants or bankers. Thank you Jon for that. The reporter digresses, PCC elected Mr Brian Lewis to the office of Hon Treasurer and Mr Tom McLean to the Hon Secretary role.

Other important issues were discussed including the arrangements for the Parish which, together with the other half of our existing joint benefice, Chatburn Christ Church, formally enters into a partnership agreement with St Mary the Virgin, Clitheroe from the date of Canon Nicholson's retirement later this year. In the meantime advantage will be taken of an extended hand-over period with our new Priest in Charge, Revd Andy Froud, gradually taking on more responsibility with us.

It is possible that the cross finial that had been blown down from the ridge at the East end of the roof may be repairable, the break being clean and the diameter of the shaft being substantial enough to permit drilling for steel reinforcements to be inserted. Watch out for the scaffolding.

## BISHOP JOHN'S FAREWELL EUCHARIST

Parishioners are invited to join others in the Diocese to celebrate this in the Cathedral on Saturday 19th July 2014 at 11.00am. Those who are interested should contact Ralph Assheton for more details.

## Organists

FOLLOWING Adele's departure over a year ago we had begun to feel that we may be singing unaccompanied. Robert Tattersall valiantly stood in for a whole year rushing from one service to another which, clearly, had to be a temporary arrangement. During that period James Robinson joined us, but, being a shift worker who has to cover some Sunday work in his day job, cannot do every Sunday. We now have Simon Emery and welcome Janet Ismail who are covering some Sundays in each month so we are *organised*.

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

St. Leonard's Church, Downham  
**The A Cappella Singers**  
 present

"Music for a Summer Afternoon"

**Sunday, 29th June 2014 at 2.30pm**  
 Proceeds towards Music at St. Leonard's  
 Tickets £7.00  
 (accompanied children under 12 free)  
 Further details or tickets –  
 Contact Molly Roskell Tel: 01200-440450  
[www.acappellasingers.co.uk](http://www.acappellasingers.co.uk)

**Special Deal:** Concert & Afternoon Tea  
 to follow at the Assheton Arms  
 Tickets £12 (Must be booked in advance)

**DEANERY  
 PRIMARY VISITATIONS—2014**

**P**CC members from three deaneries supported the admission of their Church Wardens at the massive Primary Visitation in the Cathedral and Parish Church of Blackburn St Mary the Virgin, with St Paul on Tuesday 13th May 2014, starting at 7.30. At this Primary Visitation the Bishop of Blackburn gave an inspiring Sermon and handed the Wardens their wands of office. He also led prayers for their support and commitment in the fulfilment of their duties in the ensuing year.

The Wardens of the seven former Bradford parishes of Hurst Green and Mitton, Waddington, West Bradford, Gisburn, Bolton-by-Bowland and Grindleton were given precedence on this occasion and admitted to office first, by way of a formal Diocesan welcome by the Bishop. This was followed by a rousing reception by the whole congregation. As ever, this service was a jolly good sing, with the rafters almost lifting (apart from one hymn which no one appeared to know!.)

**DOWNHAM AND TWISTON  
 HISTORY GROUP**

**O**UR April Meeting on 28th in the Village Hall was a mix of historical farming fact, family anecdote and poetry. Christine Thistlethwaite told us through pictures and word of her time at Lower Gills Farm at Rimington and about the history of the family and their roots on the other side of Skipton. She illustrated the march of progress in farming and country life, taking her audience through the seasons in the shepherd's tasks and life.

On 19th May at 7.30 at the Village Hall the meeting was an illustrated talk to launch the book of our own Jenny Palmer: *Whipps, Watsons and Bulcocks—a Pendle Family History, 1560-1960*. A fascinating and interesting story about her ancestors and immediate past family and she sought to answer several questions on the way to demonstrate her themes: Life in hill farming, Quakers, why people stayed in one place, inheritance and more. Twenty copies of the book were sold at the meeting and Jenny very generously donated £2 per copy to the Hospice. Further copies available from Jenny on 445619.

The group's June meeting is on 30<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm at Ribchester Museum/Riverside were Colin Cunliffe will conduct a walk round Ribchester, ending at the pub. Indoor talk arranged if too wet. Meet at Downham Bridge 5.50 pm to car share.

**Evacuee Returns**

**H**ISTORY Group members are very grateful to Frances and Peter Eldrige for very generously entertaining many of their number on the occasion of the return visit of Mary Wood and her husband to Downham. Mary was an evacuee from 1939 to 44, staying with the Smithies family at Lyndene. It was really interesting, to reminisce with her about her stay at Downham. It was a lovely day and the tea was scrumptious.

**GARDEN CLUB**

**W**HAT AN interesting evening we had for the garden club meeting. The vice chairman of the British Outdoor Orchid Society very kindly gave us a slide show and a talk on hardy Orchids. He explained the differences between the various species, and their flowering seasons. He also knocked on the head the assumption that all orchids are delicate, pointing out that many survive our Winters. He brought along several plants, some of them in flower and some of them in their dormant stage. A very interesting evening, thoroughly enjoyed by members.

The next meeting will be the Chairman's Walk with Shaun. Walkers will meet on 5th June at the earlier time of 7-00pm at the Village Hall. Supper will be around 8-30pm.  
**CA**



**COFFEE CLUB**

We had a wonderful coffee morning this month. Barbara and I had been saying that quite a few people were away, so it was a surprise when so

many came. A very nice one indeed! We almost ran out of cakes.

It is so nice that everyone gets together and chats. They choose new books to read and jigsaws to complete and we all love to see what June and Edith have to sell. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. We always like to see new people and you will be made very welcome.

Our next coffee morning is on Thursday the 12th of June from 10.0.am. We hope to see you there.  
**CA**

DOWNHAM WI had a most interesting May meeting.



The bursary for Denman College, which is drawn every three years, was won by Mrs Eileen Parker, with Julie Parker as reserve (no relation). Eileen has done so much for the LFWI over many years and has held a range of positions, so it was very fitting that she won. Both Mrs Parkers are past presidents!

Members have been very busy going out and about attending courses, birthday parties and conferences.

Barbara Lewis gave a report on a visit to Hurst Green WI, where members enjoyed a show based on 'Ready, Steady Cook'. Philippa McFall reported on a visit to Slaidburn WI which celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Frances Garner attended a National Conference, 'Inspiring Women Together', which was for WI Presidents. Frances reported on how interesting the conference had been and how much she had learned.

The NFWI Resolution for this year, which is: 'for every WI member to make their wishes regarding organ donation known in respect of organ donation', was carried with two abstentions.

We then went on to learn a little more about four of our members, Barbara Lewis, Julie Parker, Christine Newhouse and Frances Garner, through their excellent talks' on the subject of 'Something That Changed My Life', which was revealing in the twists of fate and choice which brought them to where they are today.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June at Downham Village Hall and will feature 'Gos on Tour' which is a variety show. Visitors are always welcome.

**AK**

**Old Butchers Shop**

**D**AVID and Michelle Brown, who live in the village have taken the tenancy of The Old Butchers Shop on Hare Gren at the bottom of the Village. They will, initially, be selling ice cream, sweets, soft drinks and the like. They will be opening the business in the next few weeks.