

PARISH CALENDAR—2012

March			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club AGM	Village Hall	Spellbound Productions "Craftsmen"	
4th	Lent 2	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	NO	Mrs S. Marlow Mrs J. Aspinall
		11.00am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mr B. Lewis		
8th	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
10th	Saturday	7.30 pm	Bane	Village Hall	Comedy Show	
11th	Lent 3	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	FLOWERS	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mr T. McLean		
15th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	BIRTHDAY PARTY – Belated Chinese New Year Party – year of the Dragon	
18th	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	-	Mr & Mrs B Lewis
		11.00 am	Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill		
21st	Wednesday	7.30	PCC Meeting	Church		
25th	Lent 5	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicolson	Mrs E. Parker	IN	Mrs E. Parker Mrs J Whitsey
		11.00 am	Matins Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B. Lund		
26th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall		
April						
1st	Palm Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	LENT	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P. McFall		

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

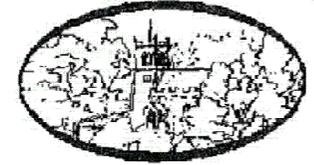
Hon Secretary The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—440173



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PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2012 Issue 3 March

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



IT'S NOT true that we can never make an effective shortcut. Laying ready-grown turf on the lawn, for example, rather than sowing seeds, avoids the problem of birds' eating them up. Whisking the white sauce ingredients together, as Delia Smith showed, removes the effort of making a roux. Many other useful shortcuts, such as climbing hills with the aid of a walking pole, could be quoted, taking some of life's drudgery away.

Often, however, no shortcut is available. The musician must practise faithfully. The successful business person will spend hours of hard work behind the scenes. The good parent will make time, however inconvenient on occasions, for their children. No one should buy a puppy unless they are prepared for the long haul of attention, care and training.

The devil offered Jesus three shortcuts to success: popularity, miracle-working, and the abuse of power. Satan knew what he was doing. His offers had a superficial attraction. "Why not?" could have been said to each temptation for, after all, the end justifies the means, doesn't it? But Jesus knew there were no shortcuts to the work he had come to do. This involved constant obedience, diligent prayer and unwavering love, all of which would lead to the cross. That, however, in St John's words, was his finest hour – the reason why he had come – for by the cross he would save the world.

In the 1930s the German Church, on the whole, preferred the safe way of complying with Hitler's rule to the risky route of speaking the truth. We should be wary of criticising them because we do not know how we would have reacted. We can only hope we would have had the courage of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose commitment to Christ made him oppose wrong and injustice, against all the advice of "sensible people". It was a decision for which he paid with his life.

St Francis, like Jesus his master, called people to live dangerously for the kingdom of God. We, like people of all time, prefer security and comfort. In spite of Jesus's warning about laying up treasures on earth, we like financial stability. We're not too keen on the experience of Christians in other parts of the world, Iraq included, who have found that the loss of everything has led to fresh discoveries of the power and riches of Christ.

At least this Lent we might seek Christ in a way that "cuts ice".

Robey N. N. N.

O LORD, who for our sake didst fast forty days; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued by the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	January	2012
COMMUNICANTS	41	41
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	530	530
VISITORS	17	17
DONATIONS	242	242
HOUSE BOXES	-	-
TOTALS	789	789

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Karen Walker of Greendale who is undergoing treatment.

Bob Swarbrick whose recovery is slowing proceeding.

Candlelight Supper

SNOW reduced the number attending the deanery action group's Lasagne Supper at Clitheroe Community Church on Sunday February 5th, by about one third. Even so, the event raised £533 (plus gift aid) for The Children's Society: only one sixth down from last year. 13-year-old Grace O'Malley from Rossendale – the "sensational soprano" who sings in the style of Katherine Jenkins – delighted the audience, making everyone who came, glad that they had braved the wintry conditions.

Former archdeacon dies

THE VEN Desmond Carroll (93) who was Archdeacon of Blackburn from 1973 to 1986 died peacefully in his sleep at his Blackburn home on February 14th. His long ministry included being Diocesan Director of Education for 14 years, prior to his becoming Archdeacon, and latterly he was associated with St James, Blackburn, where his funeral service took place. He was then buried at Balderstone, the parish of which he was vicar at the same time as being Archdeacon.

His wife Doreen, who outlives him, is a former Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union, the organisation with which she has had a long association.



LENT

Lent is the period of six weeks 40 days (not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday in western Christian Churches. and climaxes during Easter Week. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

During the 40 days of Lent, Christians remember the time when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. During this time Jesus was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist.

Fasting

Lent is a time of giving things up. For Christians, it is one way of remembering the time Jesus' fasted in the desert and is a test of self-discipline.

There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy such as cakes or chocolate.

Shrove Tuesday

In western Christian churches, the day before Lent starts is Shrove Tuesday. This is also known as Pancake Day. This day was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent. Today people often give up chocolate or alcohol.

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday many western Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong doing (penitence) and mortality.

The ashes come from burning the palm crosses from Palm Sunday of the previous year.

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter ending in Holy Week

Grace O'Malley sings at Chatburn

THE NEXT Chatburn concert, on Friday 23rd February at 7.30pm, features soprano Grace O'Malley with the Preston Flute Group. As the church now has enough funds for the new electronic organ, the proceeds of future concerts will be divided between a charity and the church. This and the following concert will benefit Hope for Justice, a Christian charity which tries to rescue children who are enslaved and trafficked for sex, and to bring their abusers to prosecution. Mary Smith, the former Diocesan Resources Officer, now works for Hope for Justice, being based in Bradford, and spoke about the charity at Chatburn last month.

Rosie's corner

Kathleen Nicholson

THIS month I've been jumping through hoops. It's my latest trick, and well worth doing when there's a piece of garlic sausage for me when I've got through. I've been running through a tunnel at puppy school as well, which was great fun! Things are about to get more serious there though, as I'm now working towards my bronze award. I've enjoyed playing in the snow since I last wrote to you. It was such a delight, and though it was strange I wasn't frightened of it at all, not even when a huge snowman appeared in the field.

But I have to admit, there are some things that I am a bit frightened of. For a start I'm not so keen on getting into the car. Well, you never know whether it might take you to the vet, do you? Usually though it takes me somewhere nice, so I'm beginning to realise that it's silly to be so bothered about it. Another thing, I don't really like going out for a walk at night. But again, once I can be persuaded to go out, I find out that most of my fears are unfounded, and a walk in the dark can be quite enjoyable. One evening at home a big spider ran across the carpet, and I got out of the way of that as quick as I could. (I'm sure some of you will completely understand my reaction!) But then I gathered up all my courage and took a closer look at it, and I realised how silly I was to have been so scared of it. I didn't catch it though. I'm not quite brave enough for that yet.

Now I'll let you into a secret. *I don't like going into church.* That might sound very odd for a dog that lives in a vicarage, but those big doors do seem very frightening. The strange thing is that once I get in there it's not really that bad. Well, once you get used to it it's quite nice! There are usually people there who are very friendly and make a fuss of me, and there's often a tasty biscuit for me as well. And even when the church is empty, it's very peaceful in there.

I have heard that there are some people who, like me, can be a bit put off by the strange look of the church building. Well, take advice from an 8 month old puppy and don't be scared. Step inside, and you will find an oasis of calm. You may also find friendship and laughter, music and worship. And it doesn't seem to matter what age you are. I believe there are some there that are even younger than I am!

Rosie's rules: 6 *'Feel the fear and do it anyway.'* Susan Jeffries.

From Canon Nicholson

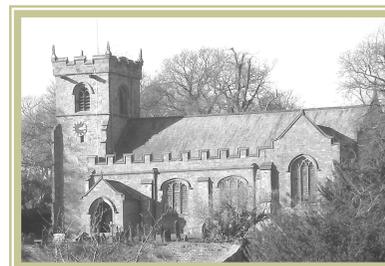
Elizabeth (Liz) Wrigley

AS TOM McLean wrote last month, we miss Liz Wrigley greatly. She loved Downham, the village where she lived from the age of 9 up until 1966 when, following her marriage to John, she moved to Clitheroe. As an accomplished local historian Liz left a highly-valued legacy of information about the area - her painstaking research leading to talks and articles. She produced a booklet for tourists and local people and also led historical walks in the area. Whilst grateful for what she produced, we regret that her sudden death has robbed us of much more research.

Liz was also closely involved with the Downham Stage 2 play group and indeed had been enjoying herself with the cast of the latest production the evening before she suffered her massive cerebral haemorrhage. As a WI member she was well known, enjoying social events with old and new friends. Her many other interests included handicrafts, embroidering, baking and jam-making, and travelling, especially in North Yorkshire, the Dales and Teesside which she and John would visit every year to find a Blue Gentian (a rare and beautiful Alpine flower) at the top of the dale.

A former receptionist at Clitheroe Health Centre, Liz attended college in Manchester with a view to becoming a practice manager. After her first post at Longridge, she became practice manager at Townhead Surgery, Settle, from where she retired two years ago, although she returned on a part-time basis to teach Antony, her replacement, the skills. Liz was a regular worshipper and PCC member at St Leonard's, taking her faith seriously and listening carefully to the sermons. A gentle, yet wise and humorous woman, she enhanced the company in which she was sharing.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband John, their children Veronica and Martin, her grandchildren Shannon and Jordan, her brothers Wilfred and Robert, and her aunt, Betty, who lives in the village. It was standing-room only at St Leonard's for Elizabeth's funeral service on February 2nd, when there was an atmosphere of huge respect and fondness for one whose death was so shocking. Her brother, Robert, spoke movingly and with some humour of how much his sister meant to the family and to many other people. As we prayed with her at her death in the Royal Blackburn Hospital, may she rest in peace and rise in glory.



THE PARISH CHURCH

CAROLS

THANK you from the choir to all who sang, listened and contributed to the carol singing at Christmas 2011. We raised £152:67! (that's about £50 down on the last few years) Choir funds are going to be used to 'top up' the total so that £200 can be sent to Asthma UK.

Mothering Sunday Family Service

THE March Family service will be our traditional Mothering Sunday act of worship and appreciation for mums, takes place on Sunday 18th March at 11.00 am at St Leonards.

Downham & Twiston History Group

AT OUR meeting on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm in Downham Village Hall members remembered with gratitude the work of Liz Wrigley, founder and driving force of the Group.

Our speaker, arranged at short notice, Jenny Palmer gave an interesting presentation on how to find the history of your house and the people who lived there. She distributed a booklet that outlines the main points made in her talk.

Two members provided refreshments and a short discussion took place on the future, Members agreed that we should carry on with arrangements much as laid down by Liz, with a mix of group work and outside presentations. The dates previously agreed would stand; these are 26th March, 16th April, visit to Barley History Group in May where the topic is Pendle Witches, and presentation of Downham Postcards by Edwin Jackson in October. We will work on the "Chatburn -2" material in the meantime with a view to finishing this later in the year.

VILLAGE HALL

COOKERY CLUB

Stephanie Moon returned to the Club on 7th February to demonstrate ways with game. Working with no fewer than six different types, pigeon, woodcock, hare, venison, and rounding off with a delicious pheasant casserole and potato supper including a choice of wine and local cheese with biscuits.

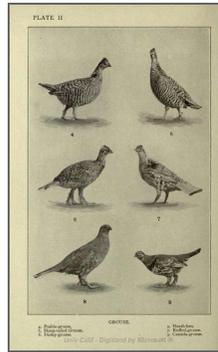
A very informative and enjoyable evening. The Lancashire Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust benefitted from the donation portion of the admission price. A fantastic Village Hall Evening enhanced by the recent improvements in equipment and heating. Stephanie was on great form fresh from her most recent stint on TV's Great British Menu.

GARDEN CLUB

THE NEW Season starts on 1st March with the Club's (short) AGM followed by a presentation by Spellbound Productions entitled "Countryside Craftsmen". New and non-members welcome. CA

THE VILLAGE HALL GOLDEN JUBILEE of HM The QUEEN

THE Management Committee is arranging a Village Party at the Village Hall on Sunday, 3rd June to Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. A small payment and A Jacob's Join is envisaged or a slightly higher payment for anyone unable to contribute to the meal. Any suggestions from parents about suitable activities gratefully received by any committee member More details after the next meeting.



COFFEE CLUB

IT WAS a 'full house' at this months meeting of the Coffee Club, which only goes to prove that our members are not deterred by bad weather.

It was very icy outside and great care was needed to negotiate the roads by car or on foot. We were very grateful once again for the new central heating at the Village Hall.

The 'Bring & Buy' stall was popular as usual and we were delighted to have local fresh eggs for sale as well as other treasures.

There was great interest in our youngest visitor, George, who is only six weeks old, what an extensive range of ages we have!

The next Coffee Club will be on March 8th, perhaps we will have daffodils to greet us then? O Awb.

DOWNHAM VEG (Village Entertainment Group)

BANE An original Comedy Show

Downham Village Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 10th March, Tickets £6 and £4. Telephone Angie on 01200 440146 or Barbara on 01200 440925 or from Chatburn Library.

This is a travelling Spot On show set inside the fictional world of the filmic anti hero Bruce Bane. The performance features multi-character switching, mime and physical theatre backed by live music.

"These shows are riotous spectacles which dazzle with inventiveness and shine with wicked humour".

More information at www.brucebane.com

W.I.



On Thursday 16th February Downham W.I. members met at Downham Village Hall. The meeting began by remembering a recently deceased and much loved member, Mrs Elizabeth Wrigley, in a beautifully written and humorous piece read by Downham W.I. President, Mrs Julie Parker. Members observed a minute silence.

In spite of the sad start to the meeting, it was an enjoyable evening where members learned about, ' The History Of Shoes ', in an extremely funny and enlightening talk by Linda Sawley. Members were encouraged to buy more shoes!

Future Events

Wednesday, 14th March is the Lancashire Federation of WI Spring Council Meeting in Southport.

Next Meeting

Downham W.I.'s next meeting is the annual birthday party, on Thursday, 15th March. This year the party will have a Chinese New year theme, both in dress and food, for the more adventurous.

New members are always welcome to the meetings, which begin at 7.30 p.m. AK

Welcome to Andrea Kay, who has taken over from the much-missed Elizabeth as press officer for the WI. - Editor.

ROAD CLOSURE

LCC Is resurfacing Downham Road, Chatburn during February/March. No further details available yet. RCA