

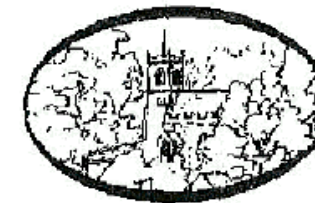


PARISH CALENDAR—2013						
March			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
3rd	Lent III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	ChristChurch Chatburn	NO	Mrs G. Cragg Mrs K. Brown
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B. Lund		
7th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	AGM	
10th	Mothering Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	FLOWERS	Mrs C. McGrath Mrs G Smith
		11.00 am	Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis Mrs A Greenhill		
11th	Monday	6.30 pm	Village Hall Mgt. Cttee.	Village Hall		
14th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
17th	Lent V	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	IN	Lady Clitheroe Mrs C. Ashworth
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
21st	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Birthday Party	
24th	Palm Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	LENT	Mrs S. Marlow Mrs E. Parker
		11.00am	Matins	Mr B. Lewis		
31st	Easter	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Mrs A Musson	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P. McFall		
April						
4th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall		
7th	Easter I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	ChristChurch Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs B Lewis
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
<b>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019</b> <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 Mr Shaun Roney—441667</b> <b>Hon Secretary The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210</b>						
		<a href="http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk">www.downhamvillage.org.uk</a>				

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



# newsletter

2013 Issue 3 March

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

I AM annoyed when, on the television news, the announcer says that “So -and-so is there for us” - in Downing Street, or Paris, or wherever. Most announcers seem to do it - just take notice. I call out, “He’s not there for me - he’s there because it’s his job”. I think I am irritated because the announcer is trying to make me feel that there’s an intimacy between us, which does not exist.

The practice of using Christian names is good, in my view, but with one exception. Someone rings from a company or organisation and says, “Hello, I’m James, or Karen”. But I don’t need to know their name. It’s the company that is contacting me, not an individual. I only need an individual’s name if, say, I want to trace the progress with some problem. Similarly, supermarket staff wear their name tags - as if I need to know their identity!

At Christmas we have the irrelevance of Christmas greetings from Sainsbury’s or the borough council. Such greetings mean very little. Am I included in the Mayor’s seasonal good wishes? Yes, I am, but so what? The vague and general have little value.

By contrast St Paul referred to: “The Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.” I am not just one of millions. I am loved by the eternal Son of God himself, whose love is not wafer-thin, but deep, enduring and was most powerfully seen on the cross.

It is said of some people in deprived housing areas, that they have low self-esteem. A recent Channel 4 series on Blackpool has highlighted the addiction of a significant number of people – women especially – to drinking too much. They literally become legless, after blowing over £100 on one night’s absurd consumption. Yet one police officer suggested the reason was that these people had nothing to live for, except to wait for the next drinking bout.

We all need to know that we matter – for ourselves and not for anything we might do or give. Whatever our age or social class, God wants none of us to feel unloved or unwanted. He does not send vague greetings or offer an illusion of concern. His love is sure and solid. Jesus once said that as a hen gathers her chicks, so he would gather his people under his wings.

With warm greetings, as always,

*Canon Rodney Nicholson*

SO when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea Lord thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	January	2013
COMMUNICANTS	54	54
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	354	354
VISITORS	26	26
DONATIONS	230	230
HOUSE BOXES	-	-
TOTALS	610	610

#### OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

**Karen Walker** of Greendale who is undergoing treatment.

**Bob Swarbrick** who is making progress.

**Betty Mercer** who has been unwell

**June Rumfitt** who is having a spell in hospital.

#### Two new clergy

THE REVD Sue Williams, formerly vicar of Chipping, is instituted as vicar of Mellor, Balderstone and Samesbury on Tuesday 12th March. It will be good to welcome Sue back into the deanery. She has also been involved with theological education - for clergy and readers.

We have also welcomed the Revd Martin Duerden and his wife Sue into the deanery. He was instituted vicar of St Peter's, Salesbury on Sunday 10th February in a packed church which included many members of his former parish in Wigan. They spoke highly of him.

#### NEXT MONTH

A coffee Morning in aid of the Children's Society will be held a Browsholme Hall, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs R Parker on Saturday, 6th April. 10.00 am to 12 noon.

The Annual Church Meetings will be held on Sunday, 7th April, at 12. noon after the morning Service.

The March Newsletter has been sponsored by Dave and Olive Awbery in celebration, this month, of their (first) ten years at Hill Top, Twiston.

## Did you go to Downham Youth Group?

For one night only

Downham youth group will be opening its doors to celebrate

### Derrick Smith's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Time: 7.00pm

Date: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Location: Downham Village Hall

Pie and peas supper plus bar

£5 per person - Proceeds to Village Hall funds

RSVP Janette Dickin ( Smith) 07528

484477 (evenings) or email: [janettedickin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janettedickin@hotmail.co.uk)

Diane Pope (Smith) 01200 446126 (evenings) or email:

[dianepope543@btinternet.com](mailto:dianepope543@btinternet.com)

P.S. If you know the whereabouts of anyone else with any connection to the youth group or the summer schools please ask them to contact us, as all are welcome. The more the merrier. Dad's excited about seeing you all.

#### Is Britain still a Christian country?

**Rodney Nicholson**

THIS question came up at our Lent course. David Cameron apparently thinks that Britain is still a Christian country. Is he right, or not?

Clearly fewer people attend church than years ago, although all my life I have heard it said that congregations have gone down. But, statistically, the number of regular worshippers, taken as a whole, was higher in, say, the 1950s. There is less Bible knowledge today than when I began my ministry. I remember in the 1970s being able to give children a Bible quiz, in which a range of questions could be asked. Today you could ask, "Who was Jesus's mother?" or "Where was Jesus born?", but harder questions would be too much for most children.

After the last War, Archbishop William Temple produced a report, "Towards the Conversion of England", in which he said that, having won the war, England now needed to win the peace by becoming a Christian country (again?). In other words, in 1945 the Church felt that the English needed to be converted to Christ. Although church attendances were higher a generation or two ago, the need for mission has always been there, hence the great Billy Graham campaigns of the '50s and '60s and more recently.

Do bigger congregations equal a more Christian country? Not necessarily. Although churches may have been fuller in the 18th and early 19th centuries, and the Ten Commandments better known, yet society accepted slavery and other social evils. Church-going was high in the Irish Republic in the 1960s and '70s, yet the Church ran those iniquitous laundries for unmarried mothers and other young women. The Church could teach the Ten Commandments yet give protection to a priest who was sexually abusing children.

So, on balance, I agree with David Cameron. Britain *is* still a Christian country. Two-thirds of Britons claim to be Christians. Our history and culture are shaped by the Christian faith. The Church, though smaller, in some ways, is more alive than ever. We are a fairer, less judgmental society. And there's plenty of compassion - love in action.

## LENT APPEAL

Churches working together to combat  
the effects of poverty in Lancashire

### Feed my sheep, feed my lambs ...

Donations of non-perishable goods for our foodbanks are urgently needed.

The need just in Burnley has gone up from 117 parcels last week to 155 this week. We need regular donations – and not just food, but money too, so that we can ensure we provide the right balance of food. Foodbanks would also welcome volunteers to help pack and deliver parcels. (Further details from Gill or Greg below)

Fewer than 5 per cent of those who use foodbanks are homeless. Most of them are ordinary families with cash flow problems from rising bills, spiralling debt, or delayed benefit payments. Many are suffering from unexpected sickness, bereavement, or unemployment. The demand for help has grown exponentially. As we anticipated, the need will double again as austerity bites, fuel bills rise, and the welfare budget shrinks.

**Feed my sheep? (John 21:17)** In partnership with churches, Christian charities such as The [Trussell Trust](#), Salvation Army and [Community Solutions](#) support Churches to run foodbanks in the Lancashire region.

**Feed my lambs? (John 21:15).** According to Oxfam, a shocking one in three children lives below the poverty line in the UK. Mothers are choosing between feeding their children or heating homes.

The foodbanks provide emergency food to people in crisis. Most of this is donated by the public. Most recipients are referred by a front-line care worker, like a doctor, a social worker, or a schools liaison officer. As well as emergency food, the foodbanks point clients to other agencies, such as HelpDirect and work with Local Authorities to help resolve the underlying cause of the crisis. They also link with drop-in, homeless and other centres.

**So when you are saying grace this weekend, remember the work of the foodbanks. More practically, why not add some extra staples to your regular shop, and drop them off at the collection point in your church.**

### LENT SHOPPING LIST

Please could you provide any of the following to support Lancashire Foodbanks?

Tinned soups  
Tinned tuna, other fish, meat or stews  
Pasta sauces  
Tinned vegetables Tinned potatoes or dried potato sachets  
Cereals  
Tinned fruit Tinned rice or other puddings  
Biscuits  
Long life milk  
Sugar (small bag)  
Instant noodles

All items should be well within date - no perishables thank you!

**Please place items in the box provided in church**

## THE PARISH CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL



**T**HE ROLL is due for renewal this year, 2013 and applications have to be in two weeks before the Annual Meeting on Sunday 7th April at 12.00 noon.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an application form which those desiring membership should fill in and either, post back to the Hon Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer, Tom McLean, Ings End, Rimington, Clitheroe BB7 4EH or leave in the post-box provided for the purpose at the back of Church.

The Electoral Roll Officer will accept one form from a couple from the same address, who both wish to join and where both names and both signatures are on the form. Spare copies of the form for other family members/parishioners are available at the back of Church.

By enrolling, you become a voting member of the Church of England and are entitled to vote at Church Meetings, for the Parochial Church Council and Synod representatives. These are the governing bodies of our Church and proper representation from the Parish is most important.

### Supper Success

**T**HERE was good support from Downham, as always, for the candlelit lasagne supper for The Children's Society last Sunday, held in the Community Church, off Henthorn Road, Clitheroe. Nearly 60 diners enjoyed either the traditional lasagne produced by Rodney Nicholson or the vegetarian option which previously was provided by Jennie Aspinall but this year was cooked by Philippa McFall. Members of the Whalley Deanery action group provided a splendid array of desserts after which the gathering enjoyed opera-style singing by pupils past and present of Burnley-based John Garratt.

Canon Rodney Nicholson closed the evening with a very brief talk about the work of The Children's Society, in which he told the story of a young man in York who, through certain problems, achieved little at school but who was helped to establish his own cleaning business through the Society's help. He was also able to achieve a long-held ambition of becoming a DJ, with his own equipment. The event raised a welcome £460. RN

### Sadness and Joy

**Rodney Nicholson**

**F**IVE years ago I took the wedding of a young couple at Downham who, as sometimes happens, lived outside the area - in Stockport. The bride was brought up in West Bradford and so they occasionally attended services at Downham to qualify for the electoral roll.

I had no further contact with them until just over a year ago when Ross, the husband, e-mailed me with the sad news that they had had a stillborn baby son, Toby, whose ashes they would like to be scattered at the church where they were married. I arranged to meet them and took a short service with them, for which they were grateful.

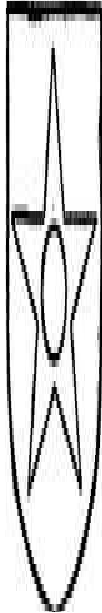
Two weeks ago the mother, Rebecca, emailed me to thank me for arranging for Toby's name to be included in the book of remembrance. An attractive temporary inscription was produced, pending the engraver's making a permanent entry. They had come over to Downham to see it.

She added that they now had a new baby, Samuel Thomas (Sam) who had been born safe and well. They look forward to coming to a service at Downham or Chatburn, proudly bringing Sam.

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

**ASSHETON SERMON 2013**

**T**HIS SERMON was preached, to a very large congregation, which included our now regular friends from the Prayer Book Society, by Canon David Galilee on Sunday, 27th January, 2013 at the 11.00 morning service. Canon Galilee treated the congregation to a scholarly and intellectual display of his material and of the use of the English language, in an most interesting sermon which departed from the usual overt use of texts stipulated in Sir Ralph's will of 1666.



**ORGANIST**

**T**he Assheton Sermon was the last day on duty for our Organist Adele Pridding who now plays for St Leonard's at Langho.

The Revd Alan Reid thanked Adele for her twenty years of playing and of mastering a difficult instrument. He presented her with a cheque from the congregation and Di Braithwaite on behalf of the Choir thanked Adele and presented her with a bracelet as a memento of her time with us at Downham. We all wish her well in her new post.

The search for a permanent replacement goes on and in the meantime Canon Nicholson has obtained the services of two musicians, Robert Tattersall from Low Moor and James Robinson from Clitheroe, St James who will fulfil the role between them.

**VILLAGE HALL**



**H**ISTORY Group members were given a very interesting and well-illustrated talk by Dr Graham Cooper, from Grindleton, on the enclosures of the Commons and Wastes.

The history of these events could be traced by the type of walling and hedging used to determine the boundaries of the newly created fields. The advantages and improvements brought about were explained as were the hardships, consequent upon the enclosures, upon the smallest-scale farmers who could not afford the necessary costs of boundary walls demanded by the Acts of Parliament governing enclosures.

The disagreement, of 1570, between common owners of Chatburn and Downham was illustrated by use of a map lodged in the Lancashire Archive.

Dr Cooper's fee, a cake, was very kindly provided by Mrs Philippa McFall.

Members were brought up-to-date with the progress on interviewing evacuees and those around Downham and Clitheroe who could remember the events of 1939.

The group was also informed of the work surrounding the grant application for conservation of the Downham Benevolent Society Banner of 1885.

The next meeting of the group, to be held in April, will be announced when the arrangements for the speaker are completed.

TM.

**GARDEN CLUB**

THE AGM of the Club and discussion about the programme for the year will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 7th March at 7.30 pm. New members are welcome. CA



**COFFEE CLUB**



IT took my romantic husband to point out that the Coffee Club meeting would fall on St Valentine's Day this year, so it had to be chocolate hearts all round to celebrate!

A busy morning it was too. It was nice to see visiting friends of members coming along—all very welcome. I had feared that there may be a reduction in our numbers this month because our usually efficient Parish Newsletter Editor had put the wrong date on the back page (was just to keep us on our toes). Luckily only a few turned up a week early!

Next month our meeting is Thursday, 14th March (put it in your Diary), I Hope to see you then. O.Awb.

**SPOT ON THEATRE RETURNS**

**THE SAGA OF NOGGIN THE NOG**

Will be presented on Sunday afternoon 14th April

At the Village Hall

A show for Children 3 years and up

More details in next month's Newsletter

**J**ULIE welcomed everyone to the February meeting of Downham WI. On Thursday, 21st.



Kathryn gave a report of a very successful QUIZ NIGHT held at West Bradford village hall where one Downham team came first. As the quiz was held in several venues on the same night throughout Lancashire we shall have to wait to find out the overall winners.

Members were reminded that the coach going to the Annual Council meeting will leave the Clitheroe Bus Interchange at 8.20 am PROMPT. Please note the main speaker is Jenny Murray – Radio 4 Women's Hour.

It was announced that the April meeting will be held at Chatburn Chapel and for the June meeting please swap speaker & competition with September.

Guests are welcome at our Birthday Party, the theme is Lancashire, please contact Chris on 446620 for further details. Show Know How which will be held at Barley on Tuesday 16 April, plus there is to be a Federation walk from Downham Tuesday 23rd April.

Any members have recollections of WW2 Evacuees to Downham, please contact Tom McLean.

Olive asked members to let her know if they wish to order or cancel the Hotpot magazine which costs £3.70 for the year.

We welcomed a return visit from Linda Sawley who told how she started writing books, the ideas, the challenges and achievements. Did you know how easy it is to set up your own publishing company? It was also interesting to learn that the availability of online books is proving a godsend to budding writers as they can now sell their books as downloads avoiding the huge printing costs.

The next meeting, the Birthday Party, will be on 21st March at 7.30 in the Village Hall. CN