

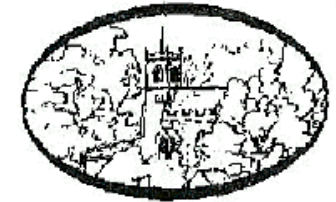


Parish Calendar 2014						
March		Event		Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd	Quinquagesima	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs A Holden Mrs T. Stell
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alfred Graham	Mr T. McLean		
4th	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Village Hall Management Commtee			
5th	Ash Wednesday					
6th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	AGM	
9th	Lent I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	<b>NO</b>	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Alfred Graham	Mrs B. Lund		
13th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
16th	Lent II	8.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>	Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs F Eldridge
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P McFall		
20th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	<i>Birthday P:arty = Venice Night</i>	
23rd	Lent III	08.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	<b>IN</b>	Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00 am	Matins Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr B. Lewis		
24th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Monasterial Wealth in E. Lancs</i>	
27th	Thursday	7.00 pm	Touring Dance Company	Village Hall	<i>Northumbriana</i>	
30th	Lent IV Mothering Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	<b>LENT</b>	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00 am	Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill		
<b>April</b>						
6th	Lent V	8.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Christ Church</b>	-	Mrs P. McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		11.00 am	Holy Communion	Mr T. McLean		
		12 noon	Annual Church Meetings			
<p><b>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE</b> – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019</p> <p><b>OUR CHURCH WARDENS</b></p> <p>The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250</p> <p><b>VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>Chairman and Bookings Secretary</b> Mr Shaun Roney—441667 <b>Hon Secretary</b> The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210</p>						
		<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 3 March

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

WE KNOW the saying, “Fiddling while Rome burned”. It was similarly useless to throw blame around when the Thames valley and Somerset levels suffered from the abnormal floods. Blaming somebody or something is all too easy; what counts is getting stuck in and doing something.

More to the point is: how seriously are we taking climate change? Some deny any such change exists, but virtually all scientists believe it to be as true as that smoking causes lung cancer. Lord Stern for example, an internationally respected authority on climate change said in 2006 that four of the five wettest years ever recorded in this country have occurred since 2000; so have the seven warmest years. Australia has just had its hottest year on record. Bangladesh has had two once-in-a-lifetime cyclones in just three years. The Philippines as had its worst-ever typhoon.

We might expect global warming to make the weather warmer. Not so. Scientists warned years ago that the first change this country should expect is more rain and wind, since a warmer atmosphere holds more water.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concludes that it is 95% likely that most of the rise in global temperatures is due to greenhouse gases, deforestation and other human activities. “The risks are huge,” says Lord Stern. The Arctic sea ice is melting more quickly than was expected eight years ago.

The prime minister is reported as advising people in Upton-on-Severn to speak to “the man upstairs” about the floods. As well as doing that, it is crucial to care for God’s world before irreparable catastrophe happens, and yet the environment is rarely the first concern of most political parties. Of course, there are big issues, such as cost, but the cost of inactivity will be greater

This last Sunday’s readings included Romans 8 where Paul speaks about creation groaning in pain. Farmers, growers and many ordinary people in this country and across the world hardly need reminding of that reality. Paul also speaks of the glory ahead, but that does not absolve us, who know more about the world than he did, of praying and taking action before it is too late.

Facts taken from article by Paul Vallely in Church Times

*Canon Rodney Nicholson*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES	
	January
COMMUNICANTS	41
COLLECTIONS	£
SERVICES	285
VISITORS	14
DONATIONS	23
HOUSE BOXES	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>324</b>

## OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

**Jean Whitsey**, who, after a fall, and hospital treatment was back home for her ninetieth birthday—very many happy returns Jean.

## STORM DAMAGE TO ST LEONARD

AS well as a number of trees around the parish the cross finial at the west end of the Parish Church was blown down, unfortunately it was smashed into two pieces. The one hundred year old piece of carving weighs about a quarter of a ton and just missed grave stones at the west end where, traditionally, clergy are buried. Insurance procedures have been put in touch and we will doubtless have to be patient as more urgent issues take priority. A decision as to whether the shaft may be repaired or whether a new item has to be commissioned has yet to be made by technical experts.

## VICAR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

**CANON** Rodney Nicholson, our priest in charge has announced his intention to retire in September.

Rodney took over as priest in charge combining our united benefice of Chatburn Christ Church and Downham St Leonard with his existing parish St Paul Low Moor, Clitheroe eleven years ago. He came to Clitheroe 25 years ago from St Bartholomew, Ewood, Blackburn where he had been priest in charge for eleven years.

Talks about reorganisation of Clitheroe Parishes and Chatburn and Downham have been held for some months now and it is expected that new arrangements will be announced soon.

## SPECTATOR

OME good things to report this month for a change and I am still loving the karaoke machine. It is fascinating to see how people's personality can change from mild to manic when they are given a microphone!



We are very excited about a 'visitation' from the Jersey Whiteys this weekend and SO looking forward to lots of laughs and family time. Best of all, it's looking very much like we will have a downstairs loo as our new and long awaited bedroom and wet room takes shape. What a relief, I thought with so many extra people in the house I was going to have to do a rota! Has anyone else noticed how the older we become, the more important it is to know there are ample loos for us to access and at a certain time, our time?!!

I don't remember giving toilets a second thought when I was a tot, apart from thinking how cold it was in winter having to trail all the way to the end of the yard outside and hoping the paraffin lamp was lit to provide the tiniest bit of heat. Yet nowadays before leaving the house, we have to go before we set off anywhere 'just in case' and if we visit somewhere new, a loo is one of the first things we need to locate before we can enjoy the day. Someone I was speaking to recently even had an 'app' on her phone which flagged up the nearest loo to wherever you may be in the world. Amazing. I want that app!

Something else I found amazing recently was the number of villagers who turned out in the most foul weather, battling gales and driving rain to get to the village hall for opinions on future plans for our post office and shop. I was convinced that we would be the only ones there and was stunned to find that we had seats right at the back of a packed hall. I sat down quietly and red faced as it was pointed out to us that we were late. Oops!. Its good to know there is so much community spirit and It made me feel very privileged, yet again, to live here.

And now I must go as I want to be the first one to use our new all singing all dancing loo, a momentous occasion indeed. "Jon!".... "put that camera back now"!!

## RAINFALL

WHILE parts of the country remain under water, we have, surprisingly, been relatively dry (though it has felt otherwise!).

The rainfall recorded at Downham Hall in January 2014 was 6.81 inches. This compares with the 149 year average of 4.34 inches. Our wettest January of recent times was 1990 with 9.57, though the wettest recorded was 1928 with 11.53! The driest was 1997 with 0.40 inches. Sadly we keep no records of wind, the strength of which has been a feature of the last weeks. RCA



## A GOLDEN YEAR FOR THE FOREST OF BOWLAND

2014 marks 50 years since the designation of the Forest of Bowland as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – making it a great year to celebrate this wonderful area. The Forest of Bowland website will have a suite of dedicated 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary pages, which will be updated throughout the year with news about events and activities. Visit [www.forestofbowland.com/50years](http://www.forestofbowland.com/50years) or contact the AONB team on 01200 448000.

Crossroads Care Ribble Valley  
Bill Honeywell's

## Quiz Night Friday 21st March

@

West Bradford Village Hall

7.30 to 11.00 pm

Including Buffet Supper by Tim  
(Waddington)  
Ticket £10 from

the office  
224104

Tom  
445471



## VEG

Village Entertainment Group

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 7.00 pm  
At Downham Village Hall  
Dansformation

### "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

**Rodney Nicholson**

## FROM THE VICAR

### Women bishops soon?

WHEN I came to St Paul's, women were not allowed to be priests. That was before the November 1992 vote, only carried by the narrowest majority in the House of Laity, which opened the priesthood to women. Without that vote and the years of campaigning that led up to it, we would never have seen Anne Hardacre, Catherine Braithwaite, Hilary Murphy and many more fulfilling their calling. Women bishops has taken longer but General Synod has moved swiftly and the mind of the Church is that this change should happen. The Queen may sign the royal assent at the end of this year, and 2015 should see the first woman bishop.

### Children's Society on the front line

*As a speaker for The Children's Society, I receive regular updates on line about their work. The following is one example:*

### Help for runaways to be enhanced

AN estimated 100,000 children run away each year and, in doing so, face dangers including sexual exploitation and being drawn into crime or drugs. Iryna Pona, policy advisor at The Children's Society, says that the importance of addressing running away has risen in the wake of recent child exploitation cases. "The understanding of the issues and risks associated with running away have been growing and we have identified particular areas where actions need to be taken because children are falling through the gaps in services", she says.

### I was on drugs, had no home, no life... and then Becca saved me

New mother Beth thanks her counsellor for helping her to finally confront her problems... She was referred to The Children's Society and given a support worker, Becca Bailey. Throughout the interview, Beth looks across at Becca for reassurance. Becca is Beth's moral compass, the light who has guided her out of the darkness.

### The ordeal of refugees at Yarl's Wood shames us all

One of the many side effects of uncontrolled immigration has been the cruel treatment meted out by this once-hospitable nation to genuine asylum seekers. These include the women and children kept at the grotesque Yarl's Wood detention centre in Bedfordshire.

## VILLAGE MEETING TO DISCUSS DOWNHAM POST OFFICE

The residents of Downham and Twiston were invited to an open meeting at the village hall on Wednesday evening 12th February, to discuss options available for the Post Office building which has been vacant for some time.

County Councillor Gary Scott took the chair and the Hon Ralph Assheton outlined some suggestions.

A community shop, bed and breakfast, café, either singly or combined ownership were suggested, with the ice cream shop on hare green selling tourist requirements ice cream, pop, crisps and post cards etc.

The G.P.O. said they would send outreach personnel one morning a week if required for pensions, stamps etc. either in the building or train someone to do the same in a front room. Various opinions were expressed but whatever was decided upon the biggest problem was car parking.



## RECYCLING —Downham and Twiston

THE RVBC is changing the day on which they collect the white sacks for paper. From 1<sup>st</sup> March it will be on the same day (but different truck) as the Green wheelie bins. They hope that this will encourage more people to recycle paper. At present RVBC collects about 2,000t per year, but would like to raise this to 2,500t. It is fine to put the sacks out early in the morning, even when it is raining as the paper is measured by weight.

If anyone would like additional sacks Ralph Assheton holds a small stock. It does not matter about mixing cardboard with paper, but the paper factory cannot cope with waxed cardboard (like fruit juice and milk cartons) so please continue to put these in the Red bin.

RVBC still has a few spare Green bins for compostable waste, so if anyone who has not got one needs one call them on 425111 and they should be able to deliver one at no charge.

**PUBLIC**



**COURSE**

Organised by the W I  
Downham Village Hall - Wednesday 9th April 7.30 - 10pm.  
Open to non members.

**£10 per person**

The evening covers recognising and dealing with heart attacks and strokes, choking, breathing difficulties, and unconsciousness.

A separate evening may be arranged for use of a defibrillator

**Anyone interested please ring 01200 440925 to book**

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

**ASSHETON SERMON**

On a very wet and squally Sunday morning the Venerable Michael Everitt, Archdeacon of Lancaster made his first visit to Downham, in comparison to the weather, he received a very warm welcome. As the visiting Preacher of the Annual Assheton Sermon, he gave a very interesting insight into the life and times of Sir Ralph Assheton during the Civil War and the Long Parliament.

The Archdeacon himself has had a busy career in the Church, starting in Oxfordshire to London, Birmingham, Rome, Bloemfontein Cathedral, St. Martins College, Lancaster, Standish and Cleveleys.

A full congregation enjoyed meeting the Archdeacon and hoped he would return soon in better weather. The organist was Mrs Dorothy Brewer. DB



**100 HYMNS**

SOME parishioners from St. Leonards joined in the sponsored hymn sing at Christ Church Chatburn to raise money for the Leprosy Mission.

Organised by Rev. Anne Hardacre, 100 hymns were sung in 2 1/2 hours raising £1020 for the charity. The ladies of Christ Church supplied tea and home made cakes to keep everyone sustained.

Mr. Geoffrey Hitchen and Mr Robert Tattersall took turns to play the organ accompaniment, with Mr Roy Porter on his accordion and shouting out the hymn numbers and verses to be sung.

An enjoyable and worthwhile afternoon with about 40 people singing and listeners popping in to give support when they could. DB

**DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP**

ON Monday, 14th February, the History Group met in the upper room of the Village Hall to hear Ken Geddes give his illustrated account of the construction of Stocks Reservoir.

An engineer and academic he gave an insightful account of the water supply for Blackpool, the effects of compulsory purchase on the local people and the tremendous engineering undertakings, such as the fourteen miles of railway that were used and then taken away after completion.

The opening, by Prince George fourth son of King George V, took place in 1932 and the works were enlarged in 1951. A pictorial tour of the workings of the massive dam, purification works and the surrounding countryside ended an interesting evening.

Our next meeting is on Monday 24th March at 7.30, when the speaker will be Roger Frost and his subject, Monasterial Wealth in East Lancashire.

**GARDEN CLUB**

WE are back. On the 6th of March The Gardening Club meets for the AGM (5 mins) and our first speaker, a firm favourite. Phill Dunnett will be here to speak about Alpines.



This year June has reluctantly decided to retire from being our treasurer, after 22 years. so please, whilst you are waiting impatiently for that first meeting would you consider becoming our new one! Bearing all this in mind our subs will not be collected until April

**We look forward to welcoming our members and possibly some new friends.**

CA

**COFFEE CLUB**



IT was almost standing room only at our February meeting despite a very wet and windy morning. It was lovely to see everyone and fortunately we didn't run out of cakes, in fact one or two of our hungrier members came back for seconds! Andy Froud, the Vicar of St Mary's Church, joined us for the first time and was made very welcome. We hope that he will become a regular "coffee clubber" St Valentine made a surprise visit with vases of red roses, chocolate hearts and a free raffle, which was won by Edith after Tom, who was the original winner, passed up on the chance to own a very attractive pink flannel in the shape of a handbag! All in all a very successful meeting and we look forward to seeing you again on the 13th of March BL

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**

There was great excitement on Sunday afternoon 22nd February, as Red Riding Hood visited Downham Village Hall. Around 60 youngsters, along with Mums and Dads enjoyed the familiar story which was performed by "Horse and Bamboo" They brought the story to life with the help of puppets, very clever masks and an extremely convincing "Big Bad Wolf" The audience were delighted if not a little scared! Afterwards the children were invited to go backstage and examine the 'props' and ask lots of questions. Refreshments were served and everyone agreed it had been the perfect way to spend a wet and cold Sunday afternoon. See the advertisement p 6 for the next Spot On Production. BL

MANY members think about what they want to do during their retirement and like to keep busy with a range of interests and hobbies. Carol Johnson, Downham W.I.'s February speaker, took on a farmhouse that needed restoring. Not satisfied with the challenge of restoring the farmhouse, she also decided to go from making jams for friends and family, to doing it as a business, with all the challenge of rules and regulations that entailed. Carol gave a very humorous talk, describing the bureaucracy she came up against, when setting up her jam and chutney business. At the end of the talk we were all amazed by her energy and determination in what was supposed to be her and her husband's retirement! We also had the opportunity to buy her delicious jams, marmalades and chutneys.



The LFWI Spring Council Meeting takes place at the Floral Hall, Southport, on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Tickets may still be available from the LFWI Office.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> March Downham W.I. celebrates its birthday party and the theme of the evening is 'Venice Night'. Tickets are £8.00 and will include supper provided by Tim of Waddington. Members can wear masks if they so wish and undoubtedly some of our very talented members will be working on their masks already! AK

*We hear that Sister of Tony at Twiston Gwen Shackleton has an exhibition of her Ribble Valley pictures*  
*At the Steward's Gallery Clitheroe Castle*  
*March 1st - March 31st - daily 12 - 4*  
*April 1st - May 4th - daily 11 - 5*