

PARISH CALENDAR—2012

April/May			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
30t	Monday	6.30 pm	Downham Village Hall AGM	Village Hall	AGM	
5th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Fuchsias with Phil	
6th	Easter IV	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Lady Clitheroe Mrs C. Ashworth
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Alan Reid	Mrs P. McFall		
10th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
13th	Easter V Rogation Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.00 am	Matins Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mr T. McLean		
16th	Wednesday	7.30 pm	History Group	Barley Village Hall	Pendle Witches 1612—2012	
17th	Thursday Ascension Day	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Members' Night	
19th	Saturday	From 11.00 am	Festival of Prayer Book Worship	Blackburn Cathedral	11.00 am Choral Communion 2.15 pm Speaker The Prayer Book in Literature 3.30 pm Choral Evensong	
20th	Sunday after Ascension Day	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn		Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs A. Richardson
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B. Lund		
25th	Friday	6.00 pm	Closing date for Art Competition	See page 6		
26th	Saturday	7.30 pm	Jubilee Concert	Church	Octameron Singers	
27th	Whitsun Day	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr B. Lewis	Mr & Mrs Keith Hall	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
		11.00 am	Pentecost Family Service with Baptism Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill		
June						
3rd	Trinity Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00 am	Jubilee Holy Communion Rev'd Alan Reid	Mr T. McLean		
		12. noon	Parish Jubilee Lunch	Village Hall		
7th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Tour of Whalley Abbey with Alan Reid	

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019

OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 440173 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—440173

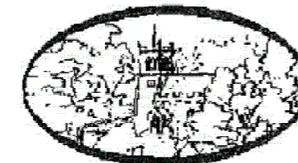


www.downhamvillage.org.uk



PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2012 Issue 5 May

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



THERE have been some excellent television programmes recently. The Preston Passion was televised on Good Friday. Although the video clips of three stories were, I thought, too long, and the commentary rather missed the point about why Jesus died, the play itself was riveting and excellently presented, showing the essential unity among the Preston churches. The best story, I thought, was the last one about a primary school girl who lovingly cared for her inebriate mother, making the tea for her younger brother and sister. The Children's Society tries to help these child carers.

There has also been a BBC2 series on chaplains in Liverpool which has really been heart-warming. They have not all been Christian chaplains: the series has followed a Jewish chaplain, working in a delightful way with Jewish students, and a Muslim chaplain similarly doing a caring job.

The Christians included the Anglican and Roman Catholic chaplaincy team at Alder Hey Children's Hospital and the Street Pastors. Street Pastors operate in many towns, with the full support of the police, offering kindness to young people in danger as they spill out of the nightclubs. They offer girls flip-flops, for example, to avoid cutting their feet on broken glass. Why bother? These Christians just want to show the compassion of Christ.

The hospital chaplains give huge support especially to mothers with a very sick child who might, for example, need over ten operations. Probably not churchgoers, these mothers turn to the chaplain for support and prayer. One young mother - a single parent, it seemed - had really become a Christian through an experience of God's peace and love which overwhelmed her as she walked away from the operating theatre.

Sometimes we hear that expression, which to my mind is absurd, "We're all in it together". By nature, human beings are not "in it together". We look after our own interests. These chaplains really are in the thick of it. But, then, so was God. In the cross of Christ he shared in the world's suffering, and through the Ascension, celebrated on May 17th, he draws the pain right to his own heart. As he returned to heaven, Jesus brought with him the wounds and the scars.

With my warmest greetings.

Handwritten signature: Rodney Nicholson

O GOD, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end.

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	March	2012
COMMUNICANTS	50	124
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	254	784
VISITORS	41	58
DONATIONS	220	462
HOUSE BOXES	-	-
TOTALS	515	1,304

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Karen Walker of Greendale who is undergoing treatment.

Bob Swarbrick whose recovery is slowing proceeding.

Patricia Thomas who is recovering from knee surgery

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW HOME

WE welcome, somewhat belatedly, **David and Jane Garnett** who moved into Hollins Farm some months ago with sons Joe and Thomas.

Also to **Peter and Heidi Henshaw Snowden**, Niall and Hugo who have moved from Brookside to Ashtree Cottage, Top Row, Downham

Christian Aid Week

Rodney Nicholson

DO GIVE generously to Christian Aid Week when the red envelope is delivered to your home. Whatever our problems are, for most of us they are as nothing compared to those of the poorest of the world's poor, whom Christian Aid supports. The charity makes a real difference in over 300 projects, and Christian Aid staff who have visited these countries tell moving stories of what Christian Aid money has achieved.

Our family has always had a deep attachment to Christian Aid. My wife's mother, when she was dying from heart failure in hospital in Blackburn 12 years ago, said, almost as her closing words: "Put £10 in my Christian Aid envelope." I admire the elderly woman in Burnley who said, "I'll collect for Christian Aid until I die; then I'll stop."

Morecambe Bay walk

THE WALK across Morecambe Bay takes place on Saturday 30th June - the last before Derek Hartley retires as Leprosy Mission area manager. Please let Anne Hardacre know if you would like to come.

The Changing Face of Weddings

Rodney Nicholson

WE ATTENDED a family wedding in Lancaster a week ago: that of my niece, Jenny, who was marrying Luke, an Australian. It was a lovely occasion, in spite of the absence of Jenny's mother, Margaret, who died of cancer nine years ago. Jenny was very close to her mother - as she is to her dad, my brother - and Margaret would have revelled in all the preparations as well as in the wedding itself. I'm sure she did rejoice, even so, from where she is now.

The marriage took place in the historic Lancaster Priory, our "family church". Wine or Schloer were served in church afterwards. Weddings always take a long time, so I was able to pop into town to pay some cheques in at the bank while the first lot of photos were being taken.

We then travelled to Grange-over-Sands for the reception at the Grange Hotel. Such a venue would be outside our price range - we're more village hall people - but my brother is financially quite well off and very generous too. He chose Grange, however, for its proximity to the Lake District so as to give Luke's family a taste of the north country's good scenery. About 15 of them had made the journey, so my brother, Andrew, wanted them to enjoy their visit to the full.

Jenny and Luke looked blissfully happy, surrounded by well-wishing family and friends. Kathleen and I travelled with Rachel and Jonathan, staying for the ceilidh but not the disco afterwards, which our son, Richard, ran.

Going somewhere nice?

Kathleen and I were talking about how wedding gifts have changed from the days when anyone gave anything to help a young couple to set up home, to the practice of couples sensibly producing a gift list (to avoid getting five teapots!), and so to the new situation when couples already have their home furnished and equipped. Couples today have usually been living together for some time, although I know some committed Christians who feel it right to wait until marriage before taking that step. Accordingly, Jenny and Luke, like some other couples, invited gifts towards the cost of their honeymoon, when they plan to do a lot of travelling, although they stressed that guests had no need to give anything at all.

It's a different concept but we delight in a couple's love and commitment whether or not they have previously lived together.

Jubilee Concert
with the



Singers



**St Leonards
Church Downham**



on Sat May 26th at 7.30
£7.00 inc. refreshments

Tickets from Downham Post Office
or ring Eileen on 01200 426981



Jubilee Celebrations Art Competition

As part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations, we are holding an Art Competition open to children of all ages!!



Open to children of all ages that live Downham & Twiston. The theme for the competition is: "Jubilee Spirit" and entrants may choose their own topic within this theme. Prizes will be awarded and entries will be exhibited at the Jubilee Lunch on 3 June 2012.

Entrants are asked to submit one picture using the artistic material of their choice.

There are three age categories, with ages taken on 30th May 2011

Pre SCHOOL & INFANT: Aged 3 – 6 Years

JUNIOR: Aged 7 – 10 years

INTERMEDIATE: Aged 11 – 18 years

SENIOR: Aged over 18 years

The closing date for entries is 25 May 2012. Entries should be handed in to Chestnut Cottage. For more details contact Philip Naylor 01200 441352

Abridged version of announcement in April Newsletter

PN

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Rosie's Corner

Kathleen Nicholson

JUST like the human species we canines love to play with balls. I've been told that my predecessor, Rowley, used to play football with RJ when he came home from school, and they say he was an excellent dribbler. Now, although it's known as the beautiful game, I can't say I'm too keen on it myself. Well, how would you like to kick a ball that was almost as big as yourself?

I can't quite get to grips with tennis either. Even tennis balls are a bit too big for me to get my mouth round. No, golf is my game. Those little balls are just perfect for chasing. Of course, my rules will be slightly changed from the rules you humans play by, but there's not really a lot of difference. Basically, as far as I can see, you hit the ball and then go and look for it. Well, I get Mck to hit the ball for me, and I run after it, hopefully catching it **before** it gets lost down a hole, or anywhere else for that matter.

Even VicR will sometimes enjoy a game with me and when he throws them for me those little, hard balls fly along so well. I could play that game for hours, but funnily enough, the humans playing with me seem to get tired long before I do. I can't understand it!

There are two lambs in the field next to the vicarage. They are small like me, just about my size in fact, so we get along really well, and I always stop for a chat with them when Mck and I go out for walks. Lambs are truly special creatures – they must be because God named Himself after them. And always remember, the Lamb of God loves you because of who He is, not because of anything you did or didn't do. How amazing is that!

Rosie's rules 8) 'Look for the small things in life to bring joy. A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.' St. Francis of Assisi



CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE!



ALL residents of Downham and Twiston, together with any visiting friends and relatives, are warmly invited to the Village Hall to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Sunday 3rd June at 12.30pm. The special barbeque and Jacob's Join on the day is part of the nationwide 'Big Lunch' Please **phone Betty Mercer on 01200 441535** with the names and numbers of those attending, **by 21st May at latest please** Tickets to cover the costs are £7.50 per adult (just £5.00 if you contribute to the Jacob's Join) payable on the door—all children under 16 are free.

Arrangements for the Day (abridged from last month's Newsletter)

The committee will provide barbeque (burgers, sausages, buns, vegetarian option, condiments etc) and ice cream and cones for pudding. Guests are asked to bring their own drinks and plastic glasses/cups and, if possible plastic plates.

Olive Awberry (415926) and Olivia Assheton (440173) are co-ordinating the Jacob's Join. If you would like to contribute a large bowl of any of the following and benefit from the ticket price reduction, please call Olive or Olivia to let them know what you would like to bring: Green salad, tomato salad, chopped carrot, cucumber/pepper (not dressed), potato salad, coleslaw, grated carrot or beetroot salad, pasta salad, cous-cous, greek salad, lentil salad, three bean salad, crisps/nibbles.

If anyone has any good ideas for children's entertainment or activities on the day, please let Barbara Lewis know on: 440925.

Please come and join us! OA



Parish Church of St. Leonard ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

AT THE AGM of the Parish Church of St Leonard on 15th April the Annual Report of the Parish Church and annual accounts for the year 2011 were received. (Copies available at the back of church or on request).

The Church Warden vacancy caused by the resignation of Rachel Newton was filled and the remaining two indicated a willingness to serve for a further year. Our Wardens are now: The Hon Ralph Assheton, Mrs Philippa McFall and Mrs Diana Wilkins. Other ex officio members of the PCC are: The Patron, Lord Clitheroe and our Warden Emeritus Mr Norman Lund JP. Elected members are Lady Clitheroe, Mrs Barbara Lewis, Mrs Brenda Lund, Mrs Carolyn McGrath, Mr Tom McLean, Mr Philip Naylor, Mrs Molly Roskell, Mrs Kirsteen Walmsley, Mrs Jean Whitsey, Mr Jon Whitsey.

The Sidesmen and women for the ensuing year are Mrs Angela Greenhill, Mr Brian Lewis, Mrs Barbara Lewis, Mrs Brenda Lund, Mrs Philippa McFall, Mr Tom McLean, Mrs Eileen Parker, Mr Jon Whitsey and Mrs Diana Wilkins.

The Chairman (Canon Rodney Nicholson) thanked the PCC for their support in the year and mentioned all those who carry out voluntary work for the parish church including cleaners, those who open and lock up the church and those who provide refreshments on special days. He recorded the passing of PCC member Elizabeth Wrigley and her contribution to church and village life and thanked God for her time with us here.

Mr Lund proposed a vote of thanks to the honorary priests the Revd Alan Reid and Revd Anne Hardacre and the Hon Ralph Assheton proposed thanks to Canon Nicholson for his role in leading and coordinating the strands of life which contribute to the church in Downham.

THE PARISH CHURCH

JUBILEE CONCERT

As part of the parish jubilee celebration and as a fundraiser for St Leonard's Parish Church, the concert group has arranged a visit by vocal group *Octameron*. A very attractive programme has been devised including some regal pieces and some songs from all corners of the United Kingdom. Tickets available from the Post office or book with Eileen on 426981.

FAMILY SERVICE

OUR next family service is April, 29th and in the month of May it combines with a Holy Baptism on Whit Sunday 27th at 11.00 am.

THE ASSHETON ARMS

Our local reopened after some refurbishment and on time on 4th April.

It has lost none of the features which previously charmed generations of customers, has new menus and is open seven days. More information at www.asshetonarms.com

Downham and Twiston Time Bank

FOLLOWING the meeting reported a couple of months ago the Time Bank listings have been revised and are enclosed with this edition of the Newsletter.

Members should feel free to update their offers of time or equipment at any time with Sue Hinder
01200 440912
Email:sue.hinder@hotmail.com

VILLAGE HALL

Downham & Twiston History Group

At our March, meeting on 26th the speaker Mr Brian Stott gave an interesting illustrated talk about Rimington, touching on the Village buildings, characters and occupations. Brian very kindly came at fairly short notice because of the gap left by Elizabeth and the general inability of other members to step in with the same depth of knowledge.

At the April 23rd meeting the speaker was Mrs Marion Hutchinson, her topic "Grindleton", who introduced members to a concept which many had not heard of—Landscape History—the study of the way in which humanity has changed the physical appearance of the environment was first recognised as a separate area of study following the publication of *The Making of the English Landscape* by W.G.Hoskins, in 1955. It uses evidence and approaches from other disciplines including archaeology, architecture, ecology, aerial photography and local history.

In Grindleton, Marion's chosen area of study, members were given a slide show of features, many of which could be dated and some which begged more questions than they answered. These ranged from ditches, strip field-systems which showed up when the land was flooded or covered in snow, wall remnants, tree plantings, retaining banks, remains of pack-horse roads and other features. Most interesting was the series of landmarks which defined the long-lost flax industry. Embankments, ponds and small sluices to control the flow of water are still quite clearly visible. Some speculation about the roofless buildings at the junction between the Chatburn Road and the Waddington to Sawley Road, ended a most fascinating discussion.

On 16th May, at 7.30 pm the Group has decided to attend Barley Village Hall for the meeting of Pendle Forest History Group, when the topic is The Lancashire Witches 1612 to 2012 by Robert Poole of Lancaster University.

THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DON'T forget the AGM of your Village Hall 6.30 pm on Monday 30th April at 6.30 pm.

COFFEE CLUB



ALTHOUGH numbers were a little down this month due to 'appointments' etc the Bring and Buy Stall was as busy as ever. We always encourage everyone to 'drop in' when convenient on Coffee Club Day and are so pleased that our members do.

The next Coffee Club will be Thursday May 10th when Barbara (and no doubt Carole) will be kindly running the show when we are on holiday. They hope to see you there.
O. Awb.

GARDEN CLUB

GARDEN Club members were given a preview presentation by talk and projector show of Montford Cottage Garden by owners Craig Bullock and Tony Morris. This is the garden we are to visit for our July meeting.



Members were told how the garden had evolved over the past thirty years and about the plants and other features of the garden including interesting garden buildings and planting schemes. Craig gave a demonstration of flower arranging from a small number of stems and branches of specimens available in the garden now. This was the first prize in the RAFFLE. Members enjoyed talking to the gardeners and are looking forward to the July Visit.

The next meeting of the club is Thursday 3rd May at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall when the topic is *Fuchsias with Phil*. CA

W.I.



Downham W.I. enjoyed an interesting talk and presentation last Thursday by retired policeman, Chris Binns. Many people wonder what to do on retirement. Chris decided to walk from Land's End to John O'Groats over a number of months in 2007, ably supported by his wife. His talk was illustrated with photographs of many places of interest. He reminded us, of what a beautiful place Great Britain is, and the range of landscape there is to enjoy.

Plans are well underfoot for the summer outing in August. There were reports of recent trips by members to a variety of events.

Our next W.I. meeting will be the Member's Night meeting on 17th May.

DOWNHAM PRE SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS to this very successful village business and charity which has achieved a top rating from ofsted, the education registration and inspection body.

The inspection which took place in November and was reported in February, when the findings revealed that overall the quality of the provision is outstanding. In summary the report says: Children thrive in the environment as they are cared for by attentive and experienced staff who know them exceedingly well. Their individual needs are effectively met through effective planning, rigorous assessments and successful partnerships with parents. An excellent balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities results in children being competent learners with a high degree of self-confidence, who feel valued, safe and happy. More at www.ofsted.gov.uk/