

PARISH CALENDAR—2011

November		Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd	<i>All Souls Day</i>				
3rd	Thursday	7.30pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Christmas Floral Demonstration</i>
6th	Trinity XX	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe Mrs D Braithwaite Mrs A. Richardson
		11.00am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mr B. Lewis	
8th	St Leonard's Day				
10th	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Club	Village Hall	
12th	Saturday	10.00am	St Leonard's Day Tidy-up	Church	
		2.00 pm	WI Trash & Treasure Fayre	<i>A Table-Top Sale—Bargains Galore</i>	
13th	Trinity XXI Remembrance Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		10.55am	Matins Revd. Alan Reid	Mr T. McLean	
14th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Old Chatburn Pictures & Discussion</i>
15th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	PCC	Church	
17th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	<i>Group Meeting and Workshop</i>
20th	Trinity XXII	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Chatburn Christ Church	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P. McFall	
23rd/ 26th	Wednesday to Saturday	7.30 pm	Stage 2—Downham	Village Hall	<i>84 Charing Cross Road</i>
27th	Advent I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	NO FLOWERS Mrs P. McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		11.00am	Baptism and Family Service Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill	
30th	<i>St Andrew's Day</i>				
December					
1st	Thursday	7.30pm	Garden Club	Greendale	<i>Christmas Dinner</i>
4th	Advent II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Christ Church Chatburn	IN ADVENT Mrs G. Cragg Mrs K. Brown
		11.00am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs. B. Lund	

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 Ralph Assheton—440173

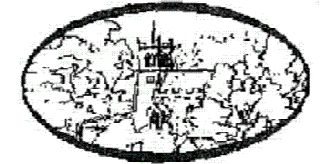


www.downhamvillage.org.uk

The first Sunday in Advent is the Sunday closest to St Andrew's Day. This date marks the start of the liturgical or church year. It marks the start of the Christmas season for many people in the United Kingdom, and a period of preparation for Christians.

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2011 Issue 11 November

www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

IN 1996 three women were acquitted at Liverpool crown court of causing criminal damage totalling £1.5 million to a British Aerospace Hawk plane. Known as “The Ploughshare Group” the women deliberately disabled the aircraft to halt its sale to Indonesia where they believed it would be used against the people of East Timor struggling for independence. The judge ruled that the women’s action was justified since they were trying to prevent a worse crime – that of genocide in a country with a poor human rights’ record

Remembrance time not only calls us to remember members of the British armed forces who have died in conflict. It should also make us ask questions about the origins of these weapons used against British people and others. Where did these armaments, causing such suffering, injury and death, come from?

The peace group, “Stop the War Coalition” accuses Britain of being one of the most prominent “gunrunners” to the world’s most oppressive and corrupt regimes. The group adds, “Out of the 26 countries which the UK has highlighted as being ‘countries of concern’ on human rights, we sell arms to 16 of them.” Apparently the UK exported arms worth £30.5 million to Saudi Arabia between February and June this year, as compared to £22 million in the same period last year. Shortly before the UN Security Council imposed an embargo on weapon supplies to Libya, Britain provided the regime with ammunition worth £64,000.

Toward the end of her life Princess Diana campaigned against landmines, speaking out against these horrific weapons during a visit to Angola. A Junior Defence Minister called her comments ill-informed but before the first anniversary of her death, the new Prime Minister signed the international Ottawa convention banning landmines. The convention came into force in March 1999 but some countries, including the USA, Russia and China have still not signed the treaty.

At St Leonard’s on Remembrance Day we shall hear the reading from the prophet Micah about turning swords into ploughshares. One organisation literally does that, making farming tools out of former weapons. The Liam Fox episode reminded us that there’s “a dirty world out there”. How much dirt lies at the door of the arms trade we shall only know when all is revealed, as it will be on the Day of Judgement. Meanwhile we can try to live out Jesus’s words, Blessed are “the peacemakers”

Rodney N. Assheton

O Almighty God who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of thy son Jesus Christ our Lord; Grant us grace to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, that thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	September	2011
COMMUNICANTS		360
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	256	2,289
VISITORS	66	936
DONATIONS	225	7,142
HOUSE BOXES		169
TOTALS	547	10,536

Taxation

Paying due taxes is a Christian and moral duty. Christian Aid highlights the sin of multi-national companies who avoid paying taxes to the governments of developing countries on the commodities which they take out. It is estimated that these unpaid taxes equal one and a half times as much as these countries receive in overseas aid. RN

Pastoral Assistant at Christ Church

MRS ENA DOUGLAS was commissioned as a Pastoral Assistant at Chatburn on Sunday, 22nd October. The Revd Sue Williams, the Diocesan Warden of Readers and Pastoral Assistants, gave Ena her certificate and badge of office, after saying that by her training and commissioning, Ena was authorised to share in the pastoral ministry of the parish. Under the guidance of the priest-in-charge, she might help in such areas as baptism and confirmation preparation as well as visiting families, the elderly and the bereaved.

The Christ Church congregation warmly welcomed her to her new role, presenting flowers as a tangible expression of their support. Members of the St Leonard's 8.30am congregation signed a card for her.

FRIENDLY...

Congratulations to the parish of St Paul Low Moor on the award of Child Friendly Church and to all who worked to achieve the conditions for the award. The award was presented by the Archbishop of York the Most Revd Dr. John Sentamu at Blackburn Cathedral on 21st October.

Seasonal concert at Chatburn

THE next in the series of music events at Christ Church Chatburn, is a return by popular demand of The Choir from The Grand in Clitheroe, to perform candlelit Christmas Carols and other favourite songs in church at 7.30 pm on Friday 9th December. Tickets in advance (£7) include wine, mince pies, tea and coffee, 01254 384893 or 01200 441624, or from Roy Porter Butcher in Chatburn.

Rosie's Corner

Kathleen Nicholson

from the new Cavalier Kings Charles Spaniel puppy at Low Moor vicarage

Hello everybody,

Well, what a strange couple of weeks I've had! I've arrived in Clitheroe, and I really missed my family at first, but I've sat on so many comfortable knees since then that I hardly think about them at all now. It's quite ok here really. VicR has a big voice, not too sure about that yet but I'm beginning to get attuned to it, but food arrives regularly (very important!), bed is cosy, (hot water bottle at night – highly recommended) lots of toys to play with, and then there's the garden. Very interesting place, the garden, and I haven't even explored it all yet. You see, I really love digging, but for some reason McK doesn't share my enthusiasm and brings me indoors quickly.

Now I must ask you, what do you know about squirrels? Such annoying creatures, they are, and what a nerve they have! They even sit on the bird table! I mean, what are squirrels *for*, exactly? Now I don't know whether to believe her or not, but McK seems to think that God made them! If she's right, I suppose that means that He must think they're ok, and I suppose that means I'll have to try very hard not to chase them. Maybe we all sometimes have to make the effort to be nice to those whom we find difficult.

All this mental effort thinking about squirrels is making me very sleepy. I do sleep a lot you know. After all I'm still only a baby. In fact, I can feel myself nodding off right now... ..zzzzzz
Rosie's Rules: 2) "Take naps. Sleep is the most exquisite invention." – *Heinrich Heine*

Key: McK = Kathleen, my carer VicR = Rodney, the vicar

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

STAGE 2—DOWNHAM

Present

84 Charing Cross Road

By

Helene Hanff

Directed by
Fran Osborne

23rd to 26th November

Tickets £6
From
Tourist information 425566
Fran Osborn 423301

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON
HISTORY GROUP**

MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2011

7.30PM

'A BIT OF OLD CHATBURN'

TALK & PICTURES ON
CHATBURN HISTORY

ENTRANCE £1

NO NEED TO BOOK — JUST TURN UP

Downham W.I.

TRASH & TREASURE FAYRE

A table top sale

BARGAINS GALORE
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
BOOKS & HOUSEHOLD GOODS
JEWELLERY AND GIFT IDEAS

Downham Village Hall

2 pm to 4.30 pm

Saturday 12th November 2011

Admission 50p at the door

St. Mary's Centre, Clitheroe

SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2011
come along and drop in to the centre
between 1pm – 6pm to view the

Travel stories & photos of the 'Crossroads Bears'

Some of the bears have travelled far and wide
throughout the world
in the past twelve months

Tea and biscuits available

Evening Concert by singing group

'OCTAMERON'

7pm - Tickets £7
available from Crossroads – 01200 422 104

Bar open from 6pm – and in the interval

presentation of prizes for winning bears
will be made at the interval

Letter to the Editor

Kerry Wray (Parker) has written: A few words of thanks and my goodbyes, although I will obviously still be coming to Downham on a regular basis (As most of my nearest and dearest still live there!) I would like to say my goodbyes formally.

Downham will always be my home and although I have had a long time to come to terms with moving it has still been very hard for me to leave, in fact Andy had to do the packing up as it has made me too upset. I hope who ever is the next tenant is as happy living there as we have been. Thanks to everyone in the village for their kindness to me and my family over the past six years.

Thanks to Lord & Lady for allowing us to live for this time in Downham it has been very special, Madeleine was born there and during our time there Hope has turned from a sweet child into a TEENAGER!!

A special thanks must go to Shaun who has been a stalwart figure to me. Anytime I needed help he was always there to lend a hand (when my dad or Andy was not around!)

Thanks to you all again. Kind regards, Kerry

Less religion, more faith and love

Rodney Nicholson

I NEVER like the word "religion". It makes me think of rules, of fussing about detail, of lacking humour and struggling to please God. After all, the word, religion, has the same root as ligament, which refers to being tied down. Jesus, by contrast, did not come to tie us down but lift us, giving us freedom and new life.

I was talking to someone recently whose late husband had been put off God by some severe teaching, received as a child, about how we must obey all the rules. "If not, God will cut us off for ever." Now, of course, there's a challenge about being a Christian. The baptism service speaks about being a faithful follower of Christ to our life's end. Ours is a cross-shaped faith in which what was immensely costly for the Son of God cannot be cheap for us.

And yet, we have a God who comes to us in gentleness and love, which means that his heart must bleed for all the inhumanity in the world, including cruelty to the animal creation. Christianity is never a religion which insists on our obeying certain rules or worshipping God in a particular way. Rather it is about loving God and other people, about growing in a relationship with God through prayer, worship and Christian service, and about being thrilled by name of Jesus through whom we have forgiveness and the hope of heaven.

Sometimes we hear that derogatory term, Happy Clappy. Well, I am happy clappy: not, I hope, in the sense of being trivial or insensitive, but in the reality of being loved and accepted by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sets us free from pre-occupation with ourselves and gives us a heart to love his people and serve those in need. In all this there is deep joy. I suppose that's it, really: religion kills, faith in the living God brings life and joy.

Animals Deserve Kindness in God's World

Rodney Nicholson

BEN has a lovely, trusting face. Sadly he is an ill-treated German Shepherd, whom I happen to know about, currently living in an RSPCA centre in Hull. Two weeks ago, acting on a tip-off from neighbours, officers broke into the house to find the dog starving, unable to walk and with bald patches on his body - the result of flea infestation. He is receiving kind treatment before being put to sleep. The RSPCA is mounting a prosecution against the owner.

Ben has had a miserable life, which he did not deserve. So have millions of animals the world over: donkeys forced to carry bricks until they drop, dogs kept alive for meat in cruel conditions in Far Eastern countries, bears and monkeys ill-used for human entertainment - the list goes on. At Remembrance time we might remember the huge number of horses - peaceful creatures - dragged into battles not of their making but which caused them unimaginable suffering.

Mankind has often treated animals as though they were mere commodities, whose feelings and pain were irrelevant because their purpose was simply to serve human profit or pleasure. By contrast the book of Isaiah describes heaven as a place where wild and farm animals and children live together in peace. "There will be no more hurting or killing on all my holy mountain," says God. Whilst human beings must always come first, we should have enough love left for God's other creatures.

THE PARISH CHURCH

FAMILY SERVICE

Harvest

I hear that the Harvest family service was a lively and well-attended occasion with Canon Rodney Nicholson part-cooking a pan of homemade soup as part of his talk. Apparently he was saying that our different personalities blend together, rather like the various vegetables which make up the soup. The congregation was invited to sample some previously –made soup after the service. It provided a bit of rivalry with the coffee and biscuits! The traditional and newer hymns and songs were appreciated.

Our harvest giving supported the Bishop's appeal – for two projects in Guatemala and Uganda.

Our next Family Service will be with a holy baptism on 27th November.

ST LEONARD CENTENARY

A REPORT on our celebration Eucharist to be held on Sunday 30th October will appear in the December Newsletter.

SHOEBOXES

ANNE and Derek Hardacre again invite people to fill a shoebox with gifts for a child who will probably not receive any other Christmas present.

Leaflets in church explain what gifts are wanted and not wanted. Shoe boxes need to be returned by November 18th. Further details from (01200) 429341.



VILLAGE HALL

THE MANAGEMENT Committee is finalising arrangements for the upgrading of the heating system.....more soon.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

HM government has announced the arrangements for an extended bank holiday weekend from 2nd to 5th June, 2012 in celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's reign. It is suggested that on Saturday, 3rd June communities might hold a big lunch, the format of which is for local decision. Further, it is suggested that events might also fund raise for a local charity.

The Village Hall Management Committee feels this is an excellent opportunity for us to have one of our all-inclusive events and is willing to arrange such an occasion with any assistance offered and would welcome suggestions as to what we might do in Downham and Twiston. Suggestions, which cannot be made too early, to Management Committee Members please,

FUNDRAISING FOR MCMILLAN

108 PEOPLE enjoyed a very successful Bingo evening on Friday night 21st October in aid of McMillan Nurses for Cancer Care.

COFFEE CLUB

A good turnout for the October meeting on a bright sunny morning. It is nice to know that some of our members are so keen to come to Coffee Club that they come a week early!! It is easy to mistake the date! We were glad to see June back with Edith at the Bring & Buy stall, having (part) recovered from 'flu, and Bob who has made a good recovery and can now drive. We also had the honour of being the first to use the Village Hall's new cups and saucers, (what a thrill!) Our next meeting will be **November 10th**. Hope to see you.



DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

WITH the centenary display out again in Church throughout October, it seemed an apt place to have our history group meeting. 18 people turned out on a wet and windy evening to hear about the different eras of church history, using the pictures to illustrate the story of St Leonard's re-buildings and developments. The registers and silver were brought out for the meeting.

We also discussed progress with the Benevolent Society Banner which has been on display in the Assheton Chapel since June. Vivian Lochhead of the People's Museum in Salford, recently assessed the condition of the banner and will advise us on conservation.

The next meeting is on Monday 14th November at 7.30pm in DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL – the topic 'A Bit of Old Chatburn'.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOWNHAM & TWISTON GARDEN CLUB

At the beginning of October the Club celebrated twenty years. Many members came to celebrate. The party began with a slide show of the Wonderful Gardens of Europe by Stuart and Anita Kellington—a wonderful set of pictures set to beautiful music. The party continued with a cheese and wine supper, accompanied by an excellent cake depicting a vegetable garden with rows of carrots, cabbage and celery and also bags of potatoes and a basket of fruit. To end, of course, there was the RAFFLE! An excellent evening many thanks to all concerned, The next meeting is on Thursday, 3rd November, where the demonstration will be Flowers for Christmas, with everything made being raffled. Members are asked not to forget their Christmas menu and payment.



W.I.

October Meeting

Lots of activities gave rise to reports at the start of the October Meeting; Andrea Kay enjoyed her literary lunch at The Last Drop Restaurant, Bolton where she learned about the authors Elizabeth Gaskell and Winifred Holtby; Frances Garner visited the Garstang W.I. Show; Judith Nixon described her walk along the canal from Barrowford to Colne with eighteen W.I. ladies, and Elizabeth Wrigley represented Downham W.I. at the Autumn Council Meeting at Fleetwood, where entertainment was provided by The Lancashire Symphonietta, a good time was had by all.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting then followed, when Julie Parker was re-elected as President, Christine Newhouse as Secretary and all committee members re-affirmed. The President thanked members for their hard work and support over the past year and welcomed six new members to Downham W.I. This was followed by a delicious hot supper which was prepared by Eunice Hook.

Plans were made for future events. The Readstone Singers present their Prelude to Christmas on December 19th at St John's Church, Read; a celebration float is planned for the Preston Guild in 2012; and to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a W.I. Dinner at Haigh Hall, Wigan, is to be held on June 12th, 2012. Where do we find the time? Who says country life is boring! Not for the W.I., that's for sure.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on November 17th when Downham will be joined by members of Gisburn, Pendleton and Billington & Langho W.I.s and will be taking part in a workshop in which they will be making Christmas baubles using Swarovski "diamonds".

