



PARISH CALENDAR—2012						
November			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Folk Lore and Wild Flowers</i>	
4th	Trinity XXII	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	<i>Lord & Lady Clitheroe</i>	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P. McFall		
8th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
9th	Friday	7.30 pm	Trivia Quiz Night	Village Hall	<i>Includes supper</i>	
11th	Trinity XXIII Remembrance Day	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	Collection for the work of the Royal British Legion	Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs A. Richardson
		10.50 am	Remembrance Service Revd Alan Reid	Mr B. Lewis		
12th	Monday	7.30 pm	WI Bingo Night	Village Hall		
14th	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall		
15th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Greendale	<i>An Evening with Spellbound</i>	
		7.00am to 10.00 pm	Election of Lancashire Police Commissioner	Village Hall		
18th	Trinity XXIV	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn		Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs B. Lund		
21st to 24	Wednesday to Saturday	7.30 pm	Stage 2—Downham	Village Hall	<i>Play—Strictly Murder by Brian Clemens</i>	
25th	Trinity XXV Christ the King	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00am	Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre	Mr T. McLean		
December						
2nd	Advent Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	NO FLOWERS IN ADVENT	Mrs P. McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P McFall		
		6.30 pm	Advent Carol Service	<i>Blackburn Cathedral</i>		
3rd	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>June Weaver—Family History</i>	
6th	Thursday	7.00 pm	Garden Club	Greendale	<i>Christmas Dinner</i>	
OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019 OUR CHURCH WARDENS The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 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—441210						
 www.downhamvillage.org.uk						

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2012 Issue 11 November



From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



T WAS coffee time. Driving to the Scottish highlands for a walking holiday, my friend and I pulled into a lay-by and listened to the 15-minute morning service on the radio. The presenter read from the book of Judges, in the Old Testament, about the angel visiting Gideon and saying, “The Lord is with you, mighty man of valour.” In the reading, Gideon answered, “If the Lord is with us, why has all this (difficulty) happened?” We did not know that story and were impressed by its up-to-date ring. “If God loves, why has this happened?”

Many times I have been struck by some new truth from the bible. A lunch-time service highlighted a verse from the little known prophet, Joel, “I will give you back the years which the locusts have eaten”. In other words, with God there is always hope and the opportunity of fresh beginnings. This is expressed in one of my favourite verses, from 2 Corinthians 5: If anyone is in Christ, he (or she) is a new creation; the old has gone; behold, the new has come.

The Psalms too are a treasury of wonderful promises. As well as the well-known Psalm 23, there is also Psalm 27: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear, or Psalm 16: In your presence is the fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore. These few examples show how we can be thrilled constantly by the bible’s riches, finding its message relevant and heart-warming.

Just as to live without good food or fresh air would rob life of its vitality, so to live without the bible diminishes our inner well-being. Jesus used the bible at times of stress, for his life was anchored in the word of God. So ours needs to be. Our very blood needs to be “bibline”, so to speak. Parents and grandparents need to read bible stories to their children, as well as other books, because the truths are timeless and nothing is more important than that we are at home with Jesus Christ in his life, death and resurrection.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice will focus our minds on this country. For Britain to be truly great, however, we need to honour the bible, in whose pages are the words of life and hope. This Sunday is Bible Sunday when we thank God for his love-letter to us, for that is what the bible is.

PLEASE NOTE
Remembrance Day service
starts at 10.50 am

Rodney N. Assheton

Collect for All Saints

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	September	2012
COMMUNICANTS	60	453
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	270	2,038
VISITORS	75	706
DONATIONS	370	10,226
HOUSE BOXES	-	151
TOTALS	719	13,121

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Karen Walker of Greendale who is undergoing treatment.
Bob Swarbrick who is making progress.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE

The Coffee morning at Downham Mill, home of Philippa McFall, on 27th September, raised £117 for the work of The Children's Society in the North West of England. This was part of the Society's National Coffee Morning event. Thanks to all who helped and attended. PM



'From Darkness to Light' Advent carol service *Sunday 2nd December 2012 at 6.30pm*

Our parish is invited to the Advent Carol Service at Blackburn Cathedral. The Advent Carol Service is an example of the very best in liturgical drama, moving from darkness to light through the great space which is our cathedral. It seeks to reflect the great Advent themes of hope and expectation which precede our celebration of Christmas.

The service will, as usual, include music sung in procession by the Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Young People's Choir. There will also be the opportunity for all to join in those traditional Advent hymns..

We need to be there by 6.10 pm, which suggests we leave at about 5.20 pm and the service will last about 1 hour 20 minutes. So we can share transport would anyone wishing to attend speak to a PCC member. The Dean has asked for numbers in advance.

ROSIE'S CORNER

Kathleen Nicholson

I'M writing a one-off contribution just to show that I haven't hibernated - like the hedgehog in our garden which McK has been keeping an eye on. Last week we were on holiday in Northumberland, and what a do that was! It was raining on the Monday morning but VicR announced, "We'll go on the bus to Newcastle where it will be the fine by the afternoon." McK was doubtful but, of course, VicR always knows best, so off we went. It was wetter in Newcastle than further north, where we were staying, but VicR still thought it would fair up if we went to the coast, so we caught another bus to Whitley Bay. It was raining even harder, so we had our lunch, me included, in a bus shelter. Well, I ask you - what sort of a holiday is lunch in a bus shelter on a pouring wet day in Whitley Bay? We did see the sea, though, and it seems we're going to go back there next year.

Actually, I was admired by a few people on Newcastle bus station before we caught the bus back. McK and Vic R said that it just shows that you meet delightful people in surprising places so long as you are prepared to be friendly yourself. You also have coincidental meetings which someone called "God moments". This happened three days later when we were walking along part of a long-distance footpath called "St Cuthbert's Way". During our coffee-stop in the middle of nowhere, there appeared two Americans - a Methodist minister, who is writing a book, and his wife. They were walking all the way to Holy Island, or Lindisfarne. They liked me and St Cuthbert liked animals, according to VicR, so it was peace and joy in God's creation.

It's strange what excites people, especially men. The day before, we were driving along the coast when VicR said, "This is a perfect place for lunch". I couldn't see what was a perfect about it because it was only a lay-by at the top of a steep hill. It seemed that you had a great view of trains on the east coast main line and VicR seemed highly delighted at the sight of two trains going to Edinburgh.

It was quite good, I suppose, being out of routine. However, I rather like routine. When McK takes me for a walk to the riverside at Edisford, I like her to sit on a seat for a short rest. She did so once, so I think it's good for us to do so every time. VicR said, "It's just like church. We do things because we've always done them. We call it "tradition" but no one knows quite how the tradition started in the first place". Well, he can call it what he likes, but I still enjoy my little rest with McK at that seat.

oo00oo



HISTORY GROUP Project

WE have received a memoir of time spent in Downham as a World War Two evacuee. Ten year old Alan Whelan (1929 to 2009) from Manchester arrived in Downham within a few days of the declaration of war in late summer

1939. He stayed with the Coulston family for fourteen months and records really good memories of his time with them.

History group members would like to interview anyone who has memories of this time or whose parents told them about the time the fifteen evacuees were here. We would like to add to the story which Alan told. Anyone not usually involved in the History group who would like a copy of the memoir will find it on the Downham Village Website, follow the History Group link, or please ask Gill or Tom or Jennie and we will send you one by email or a paper copy.

Downham Village Hall

Trivia Quiz Night

Friday 9th November at 7.30

Tables of 4

£6 per person (incl. supper)

Proceeds for Downham Village Hall

for further information or to book a

table ring Carol 445293,

Olivia 441210 or Shaun 441667

Are you worried
about your memory...or
someone else's?

What are
the signs and
symptoms?

DEMENTIA AWARENESS EVENT

Come and
find out
more

Diagnosis...
how it works!

RVBC
NHS
Alzheimer's Soc

Tuesday 20 November
4pm - 6pm
The Grand York Street
Clitheroe BB7 2DL

Please confirm your attendance by
phoning 01200 414549 or email
david.ingham@ribblevalley.gov.uk



Stage Two Downham

From 21st - 24th November

Stage Two will be presenting their
next production at the Village Hall
'**Strictly Murder**' by Brian Clemens
(scriptwriter for 'The Avengers')

At 7.30 pm

This is a murder mystery, full of twists, turns,
lies and subterfuge. The peaceful life of an
English couple, living in Provence just before
World War Two, is shattered when secrets of
the past are revealed!

This is a very well written play with a strong cast
Bob Cleeve, Steve Cooke, Andrea Cawley,
Kim Croyden and Jean Croft.

Tickets can be bought from Tourist Information
or from Fran Osborne (01200 423301).



Tigers were welcomed to Downham

ON Friday 12th October a class
of 8 year-olds, aka The
Tigers came to Downham with their
Class Teacher Ms Sarah Wright
and two classroom assistants. They
had been learning about settlements
and were interested to see how
different our village is from Great
Harwood. They were welcomed by
Diana Wilkins, Philippa McFall,
Jennifer Palmer and Frances Eldrige
and after a short Q and A in the
Village Hall took part in a 'treasure
hunt' questionnaire around the
village. The children were full of
questions and comments as they
explored the Church but for them the
highlight was feeding the ducks!

It was a pleasure to play host to such
well behaved and interested guests.

DW

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL WI BINGO NIGHT

MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 7.30 pm

£8 including bingo tickets & hot supper

Lots of prizes and a raffle.

Everyone welcome Contact Rosemary on 428257



When Anger Leads to Downfall

Rodney Nicholson

WE SHOULD take no pleasure in the downfall of a public figure. Andrew Mitchell, the former Chief Whip, has paid heavily for his gaffe in insulting a police officer. Predictably, Ed Miliband, the Labour leader, made the maximum political capital out of the incident, yet he was justified in his taunt that a young person could have been arrested for committing the same offence. It seemed as though there was one law for government ministers and another for lesser mortals.

Under stress, many of us say things we later regret. "You're the most disorganised woman (or man) I ever knew", exclaims a husband, or wife. They don't really mean it but are speaking from exasperation. Equally, however, we can hide our real feelings, only to let them out when our guard drops. One of my grandfathers loyally throughout his life defended his elder brother when others criticised him. Near the end of his life, however, when his mind was weaker, he called his late brother all sorts of names. We believed that he was revealing his true feelings, which previously he had kept locked away.

Did Andrew Mitchell deep down believe himself to be superior to a policeman? Did he see himself as someone really rather important who should not be tied down by petty rules? Calmly he would not have admitted to such thoughts but maybe under stress his true feelings came out. Jesus listed the evil which comes out of a person's heart, such as greed, deceit, jealousy and slander. The antidote to these negatives is a heart filled with peace, humility, love and joy. When the heart is right, what comes out is positive and life-enhancing.

Andrew Mitchell indeed apologised, and that should be accepted. We can only assume his apology was sincere. Today we hear some silly apologies, such as "I'm sorry but I don't agree with you", which is not an apology at all, for no apology is needed. Or "We apologise for the late running of this train". The apology may be polite and sympathetic but no one is actually to blame for the train's delay. Apologies may soothe, but if they are diplomatic rather than genuinely felt, then they are worth little.

CRIME AND THE POLICE COMMISSIONER

REMEMBER to remain alert. The theft of flagstones from outside the pub, and also from a property during the middle of the day, reminds us that crooks do not confine themselves to isolated properties or the night. Despite recent assurances that crime is at an all time low, it still happens, even in Downham!

Remember that you can vote for the new post of Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire on Thursday 15th November. The Village Hall (our Polling Station) will be open between 7am and 10pm. The Commissioner will be setting priorities for the police within the county, so vote in order to have your say.

DOWNHAM PARISH MEETING

7pm Wednesday 14th November

DOWNHAM Parish meeting will be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7pm sharp. The meeting is open to all residents of Downham Parish (Twiston has its own Meeting).

The Meeting is an opportunity to bring up issues to do with the civil running of services within the parish. This includes such things as litter, refuse, recycling, roads, paths and street lighting.

RCA

THE PARISH CHURCH

Harvest

THIS YEAR we had a bigger than usual congregation. Whether this was because of Canon Rodney Nicholson's promise to limit the time to half an hour, or whether the length of the service was coincidental, we cannot say. Anyway, it was a lively service in which Canon Nicholson produced some unusual fruits and vegetables to make the point that the creation is full of variety.

The collection raised £154 for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal: for ducks in Bangladesh and an agricultural project in Tanzania. Combined with the efforts at Chatburn and Low Moor, the three parishes have sent over £700.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Remembrance Sunday

DOWNHAM hosts the district British Legion Remembrance Service this year at 10.50am, which has the added significance of falling on November 11th. Remembrance Sunday has become increasingly popular in recent years – in some ways, second only to Christmas. No doubt the conflict and casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have brought home the reality of war, bringing heart-break to many families – of all nationalities. Remembrance, however, must involve more than an annual observance and wearing a poppy. It must include having the peace and harmony in our own hearts which ultimately only Christ can bring, and also being actively and generously involved in relieving human suffering.

Filling a shoebox too is another example of practical kindness, since many of the children receiving this Christmas gift, will know first hand about conflict. RN

ST LEONARD'S DAY

As has become the custom over the last few years we will mark the day with a gentle hour or two's tidying jobs around the Church on Saturday 10th November. In particular this will enable us to ensure that our war graves are tidy and marked in advance of the Sunday service. Do drop in for a cup of coffee and help for a few minutes between 10 and 12 noon. RCA

Operation Christmas Child

THE POWER of a simple gift: once again Anne and Derek are collecting shoeboxes filled with simple gifts for children in need. Pick up a leaflet from church or ring 429341.

They also have a DVD to lend, or see www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk for more information. Last date for filled boxes; Sunday 18th November. RN

VILLAGE HALL



ON Monday 15th October when the subject was the NW Sound Archive members had an interesting introduction to the archive and its organisation. This was illustrated by extracts from their many recordings some much more affecting than a written record or report. Afterwards the merits of recording history in this way were discussed and examples of issues such as progress in farming, rural depopulation were put forward as possible areas for future recordings.

June Weaver will talk on Monday, 3rd December at 7.30 pm. Her presentation is called 'Tales from my Family History' and is based on her 19th and 20th century ancestors the Chews, Pyes and Simpsons, who grew up around Gisburn & Grindleton.

Her book 'A Bakers Dozen' was published in 2009 and is in Clitheroe library. GC

GARDEN CLUB

THE Garden Club Members had a quite hilarious evening for their October meeting. "Mad Pam" came to talk to us about what she, along with various friends and relatives, got up to once she had retired. The first thing she did was to start riding horses again, the last time having been when she was a child. Having got the hang of riding again she and a friend took themselves off to be cowgirls on a ranch in America. They had a wonderful time, camping out and eating beans. So much so that they decided they would go back very soon. However, a new venture beckoned. Being quite a religious person as well as a horse rider Pam had heard of a walking & cycling pilgrimage, so she decided that was the next project. This project was The Camino de Santiago, over 800 miles of walking and cycling! However, common sense returned and she only did half that distance this time. Pam is already making plans to become a cowgirl again.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 1st November at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. The Topic is Folk Lore and Wild Flowers. CA



COFFEE CLUB

Firstly I must thank everyone who helped me at Coffee Club this month when Dave was not well enough to come and put out all the 'stalls'. We did manage to get the Bring & Buy in its normal place but unfortunately the Books had to be left downstairs on the chairs (too heavy to carry upstairs!). However our book-lovers were as obliging as ever and went down there to have a browse. I felt very guilty that our lovely members had to 'sing for their supper' and the washing up was done in no time at all. There is always a cheerful atmosphere at our meetings and this month was no exception. Our next meeting will be on November 8th, when I hope all will be back to normal! See you then



W.I.

MEMBERS enjoyed a cosy meeting in September. They were joined by invited guests from Great Harwood and Hurst Green W.I.s. The speaker was Trish Bugeja who talked about her fascination with 'Faberge' style eggs. From a day spent decorating an egg, over twenty years ago, Trish went on to develop her skills and creating the most extraordinary finished pieces. The skill employed and the range of finished eggs was truly breathtaking. The talk and display was extremely interesting and we were all in awe of her ability and patience.

IN October the A.G.M. got off to a sad start. After the singing of 'Jerusalem' there was one minutes silence for Eunice Hook, a long standing member of Downham W.I., who recently died. Eunice was a member of Downham W.I. for 47 years. She was a stalwart member of the committee for many years, contributing so much behind the scenes, but never taking office. She was a great fundraiser through the selling of raffle tickets and the contribution of prizes. For many years Eunice had cooked the supper for the AGMs, which was always delicious. Eunice spent many years devotedly caring for her late husband Donald, she had very many talents and she will be greatly missed.

Our AGM was attended by County Advisor, Ann Royle, who informed us about the many new W.I.'s that are opening in Lancashire, recently in Accrington, Lytham and Liverpool, some already outgrowing their premises!

Mrs Julie Parker looks forward to another year as president and new members were welcomed onto the newly elected committee. Mrs Olive Awbery mentioned the continuing need to raise funds for the village hall and how very fortunate Downham village hall has been in the past, in receiving grants.

The next meeting will be Thursday, 15th October at 7.30 at **Greendale Restaurant**. Anne and Gordon Sharp will be presenting 'An Evening with Spellbound' which will be a programme of short films. AK

