

PARISH CHURCH
OF ST. LEONARD
DOWNHAM & TWISTON



**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
&
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**These meetings will be held on Sunday, 26th April, 2015 at 12.05
p.m. & 12.15 p.m., in Church, after Morning Service**

All Parishioners are eligible to attend and will be most welcome

**1. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
(THE VESTRY MEETING)**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of Meeting held on 6th April, 2014
3. Election of the Church Wardens
4. Fire exit briefing

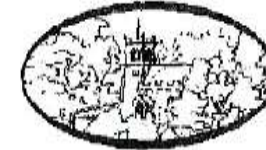
2. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th April, 2014
3. To receive the Annual Report 2014 of the Parish Church (attached)
4. To receive the Audited Accounts for the Year Ending
31st December, 2014 (to be presented at the meeting).
5. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
6. Election of the Members of the Parochial Church Council
7. Election of the Sidesmen and women
8. Chairman's Remarks
9. Any other business

PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD
DOWNHAM & TWISTON

IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF
OF DOWNHAM, ST. LEONARD
& CHRIST CHURCH CHATBURN



Priest in Charge

The Revd Canon Rodney Nicholson to October, 2014

The Revd Andy Froud from October, 2014

The Vicarage, Church Street, Clitheroe

Hon Secretary and address for correspondence

Mr T.A. McLean, Ings End, Rimington, Clitheroe BB7 4EH

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 2014**

Membership of the PCC – 2014

Ex Officio

The Lord Clitheroe DL – **Patron**

The Church Wardens Warden Emeritus – Mr Norman Lund JP
The Hon. Ralph Assheton DL, Mrs Philippa McFall, Mrs Diana Wilkins

**The Deanery Synod Representatives
(elected at the annual meeting 2011 for three years)**

Mrs Diana Wilkins. Elected 2012 for remainder of term Mrs Philippa McFall

Elected

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| The Lady Clitheroe | Mr P. Naylor |
| Mrs B. Lewis | Mrs M. Roskell |
| Mrs B. Lund (to June 2014) | Mrs K. Walmsley |
| Mr B. Lewis (Hon Treasurer) (from April) | Mr J. Whitsey Hon Treasurer (to April) |
| Mr. T. McLean (Hon Secretary) | Mrs J. Whitsey |

THE P.C.C. consults together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish. The functions of Council are to:

- Promote to the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical
- Consider matters of concern to the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest
- Make known and put into effect the provisions of the Diocesan or Deanery synod
- Give advice to the synods
- Raise matters with the synod
- Take responsibility for the financial affairs of the Church
- Take care of the Church fabric and the Church Yard

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD

WE, THE PARISHIONERS of Downham and Twiston, aim to serve God in the furtherance of His Kingdom on Earth through effective pastoral ministry

We attempt to achieve this in our contribution to the quality of life in the Parish by:

- Fostering an atmosphere of warm welcome in church
- Use of the liturgy, our material and human resources in a way which enables the whole community, including children, to worship Him
- Showing pastoral care in our neighbourhood
- Sponsorship of, and personal interest in, village activities
- Showing practical concern for mission and need outside our own Parish
- Having an ever-open and well-kept Church building

The Electoral Roll of St Leonard's Church 2014

Membership at the end of 2013 - 42 Members

Death of Mrs B. Lund – June, 2014

Membership at the end of 2014 - 41 Members

THE WEBSITE www.downhamvillage.org

THE Downham Village website continues to take in the region of 500 hits a month, many browsers spend time on the Newsletter and the St. Leonard's pages.

THE NEWSLETTER

THE PARISH Newsletter continues to promote the mission and activities of the Church. It also includes the activities at the Village Hall and other news and items of interest that occur in Downham and Twiston.

The PCC is grateful to the eight distributors who ensure that the Newsletter is delivered to all homes in the parish.

Di Braithwaite (top of Downham) , Jeanie Creedie (middle), Kirsty Walmsley (bottom end of Downham) to November 2014, Helen Addy from November 2014, Christine Naylor (West Lane), Tom McLean (Twiston Lane to Ings End), Clare Ashworth (Lowergate), Dave Awbery and Diana Wilkins (Twiston). A number of people who live up long drives get a postal service.

The PCC has been fortunate in receiving sponsorship from the Village Hall Management Committee, clubs, businesses and individuals in 2014 to assist in defraying the production costs of The Newsletter, which, with postage, runs to about £48 a month. The PCC thanks these sponsors.

RETIREMENT

A GOOD congregation attended the 11am service on 7th September when Canon Rodney Nicholson received many messages of thanks and good wishes on his retirement as our Priest in Charge after 11 years.. The holy communion Service ended with a presentation of a photograph album compiled by Molly Roskell, depicting both Downham itself and also events at St Leonard's in which Canon Nicholson had played a part. Rodney was pleased that the St Leonard's team went to the trouble of securing a Fair Trade album. He also received a beautiful framed photo of the church, taken by Jon Whitsey, and a cheque. Kathleen was similarly delighted with the arrangement of flowers in a basket which she was given. Sherry and biscuits rounded off the morning.

Sidesmen and Women – 2014

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mrs. A. Greenhill | Mrs B. Lund | Mrs E. Parker |
| Mr B. Lewis | Mrs P. McFall | Mr. J. Whitsey |
| Mrs B. Lewis | Mr. T.A. McLean | Mrs D. Wilkins |

The Whalley Deanery Synod

Parish Representatives: Mrs Diana Wilkins

& Mrs Philippa McFall

DEANERY Synod continues to be the forum for sharing parish news and making parochial concerns known to the diocese, and we are grateful to Philippa McFall and Diana Wilkins for representing St Leonard's.

It was good to welcome several parish representatives to the Deanery Synod from the former Bradford Diocese. There have been meetings on the subject of evangelism - one where there were group discussions, and one where Rev Paul Grey spoke about other ways of "being Church". The question of falling Church membership / attendance is not going to go away.

There was also an inspirational talk by a Territorial Army Padre who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He spoke about the efficacy of prayer and the need for enjoyment in worship.

The Finances of the Parish Church

Hon Treasurer Mr Brian Lewis.

THE INDEPENDENTLY checked accounts of the PCC for 2014 will be presented at the Annual Meeting, which will take place in Church on Sunday 26th April.

From the Parish Registers – 2014

Holy Baptism

13th July Lucy Annabelle daughter of Lee Bagnall and Nicola Musgrove

Holy Matrimony

22nd May Katie Mercer, grand daughter of Betty Mercer, and Simon England
31st May Amy Naylor of Downham and Daniel Frizzell
June Melanie Wells and Richard Innes of London
20th July Caroline Hoare and Simon Morris of Burnley
25th July Laura Ashworth and Richard Robinson, grandson of Nina Healy
1st August Jemma Thompson of Nelson and Wesley Kellow of Barrowford

Christian Funerals

January George Chapman of Smithfield Farm Downham
Valerie Hall formerly of Downham
April Billie Barker formerly of Downham
Pat Huston of North Carolina formerly interregnum Priest at Downham
June Brenda Lund PCC Member of St Leonard's for many years
June Kathleen Crewe of Manchester – interment of ashes
6 August Sheila Robinson formerly of Downham – interment of ashes
September Valerie Flanagan of Twiston

The Business of the P.C.C.

Hon Secretary Mr Tom McLean

THE PCC MET FIVE TIMES in the year 2014.

TEN members were elected at the annual meeting; five members sit ex-officio making fifteen members in total. Sadly, Mrs Brenda Lund died in June, 2014.

Attendance at PCC meetings in 2014 averaged ten members. Main business items of the Council in the year 2014 were:

1. Conclusion of discussions on reorganisation of Five Parishes in the Whalley Deanery; the three in Clitheroe and the two in our united benefice. This culminated in new arrangements, bringing together the United Benefice of Chatburn Christ Church and Downham St Leonard with Clitheroe St Mary Magdalene.
2. The Retirement of Canon Rodney Nicholson in October, 2014 and the appointment of Revd Andy Froud as Priest in Charge.
3. Arrangements for services and events including:
 - Continuation of the family services, including Mothering Sunday and Christingle, Songs of Praise Services and special services, including: the Assheton Sermon, Preacher The Venerable Michael Everitt, Archdeacon of Lancaster, the Visit of The new Diocesan Bishop in Holy Week, April. A fundraising concert in June, a late night vigil Service to mark the centenary of the start of World War One. The licensing of the new Priest in Charge on 3rd November. The Banner Service on the Good Samaritan)
4. Membership of the Wider Church through:
 - 4.1. Representation at the Whalley Deanery Synod
 - 4.2. Joint worship with Christ Church, Chatburn, St Paul's, Low Moor and Chatburn Methodist Church and St Mary Magdalene
 - 4.3. Involvement in the Whalley Deanery Fundraising Committee of the Children's Society, including a Coffee Morning at Downham in September.
5. Maintenance and Improvement of the Fabric of the Church Building.
 - 5.1. Working party on restoration/replacement of organ
 - 5.2. Safety check on memorial stones
 - 5.3. Project group on conservation of Benevolent Society Banner
 - 5.4. Cleaning Rota
 - 5.5. Storm damage to finial
6. Stewardship of the Finances of the church including:
 - 6.1. Fundraising
 - 6.2. The disbursement of our Charitable monies.
 - 6.3. Scrutiny of accounts
 - 6.4. Use of Gift Aid.
7. Promotion of Fair Trade and support of Ribble Valley Food Bank

FROM my perspective the year began in November with your tremendous welcome to the parishes of St Leonards Downham and Christ Church Chatburn. I am privileged that my task as Priest-in-charge, has been passed on to me from Canon Rodney Nicholson whose hard work and energetic ministry in this parish will be long-remembered and treasured. I am grateful to him and to Bishop Julian and our patron for their gift.

St Leonard's is and will continue to be a traditional church: tradition (if I remember my schoolboy Latin correctly) is something which is handed on. The challenge for us is to ensure that traditions are passed on to future generations. Although not technically worship and before I took office, I have many fond memories of last summer's concert with the A Capella Singers: I hope that St Leonard's can be used for more such events in future.

Christmas and Easter have both seen healthy congregations, although I hope that next year we will be able to mark Holy Week better than we have this year (although perhaps not as spectacularly as last year with the presence of Bishop Julian)

How to meet the challenge? Firstly that means celebrating our strengths: we have a prayerful, loyal and devoted congregation here. Sadly, of course, since the last annual meeting we have lost Brenda Lund, a wonderful servant of this church for many years but whose memory I know will be inspirational to us for years to come. Jill Cragg has moved to be closer to her family and again I know that we will miss her presence, wisdom and work.

We have a wonderful musical tradition at Downham and we give thanks to God for our team of gifted organists and our dedicated choir. The PCC continues to work hard at finding a way of ensuring that is the case as the current organ comes towards the end of its working life. We have an extraordinarily lovely and well-maintained building and we give thanks for the work of our churchwardens and team of cleaners.

Secondly, that means recognising the challenge. Joining St Mary Magdalene with St Leonard's makes sense, as both are broadly traditional Anglican churches: however unlike St Paul's, St Mary's has an early morning communion and when our parish curate leaves it will be impossible to maintain two early morning eucharists. From the beginning of May we will move our early morning eucharist to a later midweek time: Wednesdays at 10 am: I hope that this will prove to be something that is attractive to more people.

I have valued and enjoyed coming to worship at St Leonard's - I hope that in the months and years to come we will be able to welcome many more new friends.

Yours in Christ, Andy

OUR church choir has had another busy year, supporting the varying styles of worship and needs of our different clergy. It has been our pleasure to join in the musical celebrations of weddings, funerals, baptisms and weekly services. It was an added pleasure to be able to join in the licensing ceremony of Rev Andy Froud as our new priest in charge. Carol Singing around Downham and Twiston was again very successful this year with £200 being sent via the Red Cross to the Ebola appeal for Africa – a lovely letter was received from the Red Cross and is on display on the church notice board if you have not seen it already. Added thanks must be given to Di & Stephen Wilkins for the annual hosting of carols in Twiston – it is lovely to gather people together in a single venue and definitely beats trailing around on a cold, wet winter's night! Thank you, as ever, to all our members and supporters, we could not manage without you! As ever, any new members would be most welcome – just ask!

The congregation is grateful to our Rota of Organists who accompanied our regular worship throughout the year. James Robinson, Janet Ismail, Robert Tattersall and Simon Emery.

The Fabric of the Church Building

Church Warden, The Hon. Ralph Assheton

SPRING storms brought down the cross on the eastern end of the roof. Thankfully the falling debris just missed Bishop Whitsey's grave and caused no damage. Quotes have now been received for repairs which will be undertaken in the summer.

Only limited progress was made on the organ restoration project as the huge cost and slightly un-sympathetic aesthetics of the proposed second hand instrument dampened the enthusiasm of the sub group. It was decided to look again at the option of an electronic instrument.

Repair work was carried out on the tower louvers to prevent jackdaws nesting amongst the bells and to a box grave behind the church.

The St Leonard's Day cleaning party tidied the stones marking the burial sites of the ashes of the departed and cut back the Lime tree suckers.

After many years of diligent winding, John Roskell handed over his clock winding duties to Daniel Frizzel. The PCC gratefully thanked John for his diligent time keeping.

The Downham Banner group is reapplying for a Lottery Heritage grant for the conservation of the Downham Benevolent Society banner of 1885.