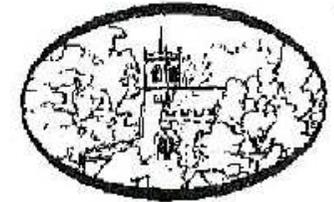


Parish Calendar 2014						
April			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd to 5th Wed to Sat			Stage 2 Downham	Village Hall	Alan Ayckbourn—Confusions	
3rd	Thursday	7.30	Garden Club	Village Hall	Small Corners	
6th	Lent V	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	NO FLOWERS	Mrs P. McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
		12 noon	Annual Church Meetings	In Church		
9th	Wednesday	7.30 pm	First Aid Course	Village Hall	Organised by WI	
10th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
12th	Saturday	10.00 am	Antique and Vintage Fair	Village Hall	In aid of Crossroads Care	
13th	Palm Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	IN LENT	Mrs G.Cragg Mrs K Brown
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
14th	Monday	6.00 pm	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall	All residents entitled to attend	
		6.30 pm	Village Hall Mgt Commtee			
15th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Holy Week visit of Bishop of Blackburn	Mr B. Lewis	Part of Bishop's tour of Clitheroe Churches	
17th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall		
18th	Good Friday	10.00 am	Good Friday Service and Procession	St Paul's Low Moor		
19th	Saturday	2.00 pm	Decorate Church			
20th	Easter Day	8.30 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church Chatburn	Mrs C. McGrath Mrs J. Smith	
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P McFall		
27th	Easter I	08.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	Lady Clitheroe Ms C. Ashworth	
		11.00 am	Easter Worship Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B. Lewis		
28th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	Christine Thistlethwaite	
May						
1st	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Jeff Hutchins - Garden Orchids	
6th	Easter II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs S. Marlow Mrs E. Parker
		11.00 am	Holy Communion	Mr T. McLean		
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 www.downhambanner.com				

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2014 Issue 4 April

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



THE other night's news featured the creation of the universe, with fresh evidence for the Big Bang theory - the vast explosion at the beginning of time which brought our world and the rest of the cosmos into being in an instant – in a flash. While this was explained, I thought of Genesis 1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". In a similar vein, on Christmas Eve

1968 the Apollo 8 astronauts, the first humans to view from space, not the sunrise but the earthrise, broadcast a message back to earth, reading with wonder the first ten verses of that same chapter of Genesis.

We are cold fish indeed if we fail to be excited by the creation and the mystery of life. The late Michael Mayne, a former Dean of Westminster wrote a book, "Learning to Dance", in 2001, to which I often turn for fascinating information about ourselves and the world we inhabit. Did you know that every atom of carbon in our bodies and every atom of iron in our blood was created in the stars and broadcast by massive explosions in space before the earth was formed?

The earth may be 4 billion years old. Reducing that to a manageable timescale, suppose the world was formed at midnight on Wednesday, then the first signs of life appeared on Thursday morning, but it took until Thursday 8pm for fish to evolve and 11.30pm for animals to be here. Only at Thursday midnight was mankind created. In other words, God went to such trouble to make the environment exactly right for us, with all of nature incredibly finely balanced.

The even greater wonder is that the Creator, our glorious God, loved this world so much that he gave his only Son to be born, to live, and die so that is people might have not only eternal life but a relationship with the heavenly Father now. In John's immortal language, the Word (another name for Jesus) became a human being and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

We shall soon be entering Holy Week and Easter when the God of the billions of galaxies (let alone stars) speaks to us through his Son hanging in agony on the cross and saying, "I love you as much as this". Our best response could be to make the words of Isaac Watts our own: "love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

Canon Rodney Nicholson

Grant we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds, do worthily deserve to be punished by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	February	2014
COMMUNICANTS	45	86
COLLECTIONS	£	
SERVICES	81	366
VISITORS	28	42
DONATIONS	440	465
HOUSE BOXES		
TOTAL	549	873

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Jean Whitsey, who, after a fall, and hospital treatment is back home and doing well.

Jean has written to us:

May I take the opportunity to thank all my friends in this Parish for all their kindnesses whilst I was in hospital and since? I had hoped to keep my 90th birthday secret, but thank you for all your good wishes, cards, gifts and visits for which I felt overwhelmed. Thanks also to those who offered and gave lifts to Jon and Linda to help them visit me.

My sincere thanks to you all. Jean Whitsey

MAUNDY SERVICE

H.M. THE Queen is to visit Blackburn Cathedral for the first time for the Royal Maundy Service. The Queen will be accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh at the service on 17 April. She will be carrying out the annual tradition of handing out 88 coins, one for each year of her age, to men and women aged over 70 from Lancashire. The Queen last visited Blackburn in May 2006.

Every year since the thirteenth century, the monarch visits a cathedral or abbey to give out special coins on Maundy Thursday in recognition of people's service to their community and church.

The Bishop of Blackburn, the Rt Rev Julian Henderson, who was appointed in October, said it was wonderful in his first year in the diocese to be able to welcome the Queen. He said: "Normally people visit Her Majesty to receive honours, so it is symbolic that this is the only occasion that the Queen travels to make an award."

SPECTATOR

I AM sooooo excited... our wonderful new ground floor bedroom is ready, yeah, and I really could cry as I think about the difference it will make to our quality of life. Most importantly, we can stay in our beloved home and not be forced to leave through ill health, disability or old age, which let's face it are bad enough on their own!!! If I was at the Oscars, I would run up on stage, hog the microphone, ignore shouts of "get her off" and, with a tear in my eye I would thank the Estate, Tom, Marshal Peters, Lynn from RV Council and Sue from Occupational Health, who have worked hard to turn a dream into reality. I would thank family, friends and neighbours who supported us when we felt disheartened about things not moving at the speed we hoped for and got excited for us when they did.

I would also like to thank the array of wonderful, professional, hardworking and often funny workmen who came into our lives, brightened it then left again. I am missing them already..but not the vats of tea and coffee I made for all except the self sufficient painter who brought his own kettle and tea bags...ooh...bet he was in the Brownies! There was the quiet Tiler who worked Saturday and Sunday to get the job done and it turned out he was a kareoke fan AND had a jukebox, cool or what? and why did Jon shout "no!" When I told him about it!?

There was the gentlemanly plasterer who turned his van around in Chatburn to offer me a lift when he saw me at the bus stop. His face was a picture when I said, "Oh good, you're going to Skipton then?" There was the lovely plumber who made me sit on the toilet so he could get it at the right height for me and the lovely joiner who did over and above to make fittings for my curtains and fix a mirror. The same joiner looked at me aghast when he very kindly filled our log basket with wood off cuts and Jon tried to bring a piece back because it was too big for our stove! It was a toss up who got to Jon first to hit him with the aforementioned wood! Last but not least, there was THE BOSS, the 'old school' gentleman, who organised and kept things going, who remembered doing some work for Jon's dad and who chuckled every time I called him MR Ireland, aw bless

Yes we've had lots of laughs and survived major building work over Christmas, a 60th, a 90th, a decline in health and a mother in law who is determined to test the patience of her overworked Guardian Angel!....So three cheers for our old horror room now renamed, The Rocky Horror room. God bless her and long may we reign in her... Hip hip Hoorah, hip hip Hoorah, hip hip Hoorah.



VEG Village Entertainment Group

Thursday 27th March 2014 7.00 pm
At Downham Village Hall

Dansformation Presents

“Northumbriana”

(a contemporary dance and music composition) followed by a 30 minute ceilidh
Suitable for ages 14+. £6 adult £4 concessions

Please support professional theatre locally.

Use it or loose it! Tickets 440146 and 440925 BL AG

Stage Two Downham



From Wednesday April 2nd until Saturday April 5th, Stage Two will be presenting their production of 'Confusions' by Alan Ayckbourn. This is a set of five interlinked one-act plays, which are all very different, but definitely comedy with more serious undertones!

We are again, offering a meal deal at the Assheton Arms, which was very popular in November. The meal deal is £22 including a ticket and can be booked through the restaurant on 01200 441227. If however you would like tickets without the meal, please call in at the Clitheroe Tourist Information or phone Fran on 01200 423301.

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 has a suite of dedicated 50th anniversary pages, which will be updated throughout the year with news about events and activities. Visit www.forestofbowland.com/50years or contact the AONB team on 01200 448000.



50th Anniversary Awards Launched

The Forest of Bowland AONB turns 50 this year. Plans for the Golden Anniversary include a special awards ceremony designed to recognise and celebrate the work of some of the many groups, businesses and individuals whose dedication and skills contribute to the Forest of Bowland's unique sense of place, its landscape, wildlife and communities – true Bowland champions.

Categories include: farming for conservation; outstanding volunteer; vibrant community; biodiversity; sustainable tourism and traditional boundaries. In addition, the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition organisers will run a "Bowland's Best Kept Village" category, open to Bowland villages in both Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Applications, which can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party, can be submitted from 7th April. Both paper and online forms will be available a short time before this. The closing date for applications will be Friday 29th August and winning awards will be presented at a special 50th Anniversary dinner on 1st November. For more information contact the AONB team as above.

TWO ANNUAL MEETINGS IN APRIL

THE PARISH CHURCH

TWO short meetings will take place at 12 noon after the morning service on Sunday, 6th April. The first is the Vestry Meeting, at which the Church Wardens are elected for the ensuing year.

The Second is the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, at which the annual report and accounts of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year 2013 will be received, discussed and questions answered. Elections of the PCC and Sidesmen and women also take place at this meeting. All parishioners are entitled to attend and those on the electoral roll to vote. This is the AGM of your parish church. TM

VILLAGE HALL

THE Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will take place on Monday, 14th April at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall. All residents of Downham and Twiston are entitled and welcome to attend. The Committee and Officers will be elected and the Annual Review of activities and accomplishments in the year 2013 will be discussed. Please support your village hall. OA

Music and Produce in Chatburn

CLIVE Greenwood, as well as organising brilliant concerts at Christ Church, is also working with Roy Porter to provide a parallel series at Chatburn Methodist Church. The first of these is on Friday 11th April at 7.30pm when the Burwain Singers will give a concert. Tickets (£7, including light refreshments) are available from Roy Porters.

Then the following day, Saturday 12th, there will be a Produce and Craft Show in Christ Church from 2 to 4pm, with Vintage Afternoon Tea (tea and finger sandwiches and "divine" cakes) with Eric Ainsworth on the piano. Entry is free but the tea costs £5. All the local produce and crafts are available to buy, with proceeds for the church development fund.

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS—TWISTON

Anyone in Twiston requiring white refuse bags for their cardboard and paper please contact Carol Palmer 01200 445293

IN AID OF CROSSROADS
CARE RIBBLE VALLEY

DOWNHAM VILLAGE
HALL

Light Refreshments
Available



ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE
FAIR

SATURDAY 12th APRIL
10.00 to 4.00

Admission £1 including
Raffle Ticket

**DON'T FORGET
PUBLIC COURSE**



Downham Village
Hall

Wednesday 9th April 7.30 pm

See last month Newsletter for full information Anyone interested
please ring 01200 440925 to book

THE PARISH CHURCH

Bishop visits Downham

THE Bishop of Blackburn, the Rt Revd Julian Henderson, will give a talk in St Leonard's on Tuesday, April 15th at 7.30pm as part of his spending Holy Week in the Clitheroe parishes. Bishop Julian is making a great impact as a delightful, deeply Christian man and an excellent preacher. The week's programme of 7.30pm services includes: Monday 14th, Chatburn; Wednesday 16th, St James; Maundy Thursday, St Paul's; Good Friday at 10am, St Paul's; and Saturday (Easter Eve), St Mary Magdalene's – service to include Confirmation.

Mothering Sunday

MOTHERING Sunday is celebrated with a themed family service at 11am. Although we think traditionally of mothers, we can extend our appreciation to all who act as mothers – and that can include grandparents and fathers, where the mother is no longer there. We may also remember the child-carers, of whom there are perhaps 160,000 in the country, who bear the main responsibility for looking after a disabled parent, or in some cases one who drinks too much.

Last month I met an infants' school head-teacher from Preston who told me that she had had 27 children at risk in her school, one of whom was a six-year-old girl who was looking after her mother and two siblings aged 3 and 4. She expected them to be removed to foster care, but it would all be very disturbing for the children. The Children's Society supports these child-carers where it can.

Christ abandoned

"Jesus was crucified not in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves." George McLeod, founder of the Iona community,

DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

AT OUR next meeting on Monday, 24th March at 7.30, the speaker will be Roger Frost and his subject, Monasterial Wealth in East Lancashire. The April meeting on 28th of the month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall will be a talk by Christine Thistlethwaite, on life over the centuries in Rimington around Lower Gills Farm.

GARDEN CLUB

ON the 6th of the month the gardening club held its first meeting of the year along with the AGM. As promised, the AGM lasted about 10 minutes, June, our treasurer of 22 years retired, but Jason Addy very kindly offered to carry on the good works. Edith also retired from the raffle duties but the reins were quickly taken up by Barbara and Karen. The retirees and the newcomers were given a resounding round of applause

The speaker this month was Phil Dunnett from Ribblesdale Nurseries. Phil and his wife Angela brought along a fantastic display of alpinas. He then told us all about the differences between true alpinas and their cousins, which suffer in the cold weather.

A very enjoyable evening, including a six-prize raffle, was had by all. The April meeting will be at the Methodist chapel in Chatburn, where we will be having a slide show and talk on "Small Corners". As mentioned at the AGM, the annual programme will be available and the subs for 2014 collected. CA



Earlier than usual publication date for the Newsletter means that there will be two reports of WI activity in the next Newsletter.

COFFEE CLUB

SPRING CAME to the Coffee morning on 13th March. Over twenty members came to sample the wonderful coffee, cakes and general bonhomie. On offer were: marmalade cake, chocolate cake, cream buns and ginger cake—among others. These, together with books, jigsaws and bric-a-brac, daffodils and spring blossom on the tables, and service with a smile from June, Edith, Brian and Carole, (Not Barbara who was skiving) plus all the wonderful company, made it a lovely Spring morning. We next meet on Thursday 10th April at 10.00 am. CA



VILLAGE HALL

Games afternoon

THE Village Hall Management Committee is planning a Games Afternoon for all ages at the village hall and we're looking for your suggestions on board games that don't take too long to play. If you have a favourite game please let us know what it is, and if you can lend it to us for the afternoon, even better. Sue Hinder T:01200 440912 E:sue.hinder@hotmail.co.uk

DOWNHAM BANNER

THE Banner Group, naturally disappointed at the decision of The Heritage Lottery Fund to turn down their application for the conservation of the Downham Benevolent Society Banner of 1885, has met to consider the comments of the Fund. Members have agreed that we resubmit taking account of these comments.



The Newsletter has been sponsored, this month, by Downham Women's Institute

ERINUS ALPINUS, also known as the Fairy Foxglove, has been established in the stone walls of Downham village for some considerable time – certainly for over 140 years. But no-one seems to know exactly when it was established here or exactly who introduced it.

Flowering in April and May it is suited to our stone walls, as the plant does not like to be waterlogged. *Erinus alpinus albus* – the white version – can be seen on the walls of Lidget House: elsewhere the more commonly found purple flowers flourish on walls in Downham, Chatburn and Twiston.

In the Downham Gazette, November 1889 edition, the vicar, Rev Stocks, remarks that the plant was not as rare in 1889 as it was when he discovered it in the vicarage garden in 1872 – 'a very small tuft on a wall in my garden.' He employed the skills of a botanist who declared that it was a 'rare stranger' and could not find it in the botanical books in his possession at the time. A specimen was sent to Kew Gardens, where testimony to its rareness was also declared, although it had been seen on the banks of the river Yore in Yorkshire, near Tanfield. By 1889, however, it had spread 'all over the district' and was 'in almost every garden in our village.'

A correspondent of the old magazine, 'Tom', suggested that it might have been brought by the Romans, whose road from Ribchester to Elslack passed close by. The plant was apparently to be found growing in the ruins of Hadrian's Wall. Despite romantic tales of Romans bringing the plant to the district, merit goes to Richard Assheton although 'Roman' is reasonably near the truth: it seems the plant does not come from the Alps but is believed to have come from the Dolomites in Italy. The family story is that 'Great-Uncle Dickie' brought the plant back from Italy in the 19th century. Richard Assheton, great uncle of Lord Clitheroe, travelled widely with his brother Ralph in the 1880s, but it must have been an earlier Richard Assheton, one generation before this, who brought the plant home for it to have been established by 1872 in the vicarage garden.

From research by Elizabeth Wrigley