


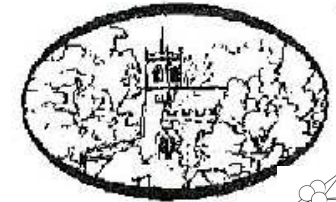


Parish Calendar 2013						
December			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Advent Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	<b>No</b>	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B Lewis		
5th	Thursday	7.00 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Christmas Dinner</i>	
6th	Friday	7.30 pm	Victorian Concert	<i>Christ Church Chatburn</i>		
8th	Advent II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	<b>Flowers</b>	Mrs A Holden Mrs T. Stell
		10.50 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
12th	Thursday	12 noon	Coffee Club	Village Hall	<i>Christmas Lunch</i>	
		6.30 pm	WI	Calf's Head	<i>Christmas Outing</i>	
15th	Advent III	8.30 am	Holy Communion	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	<b>in</b>	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
21st	Saturday	2.00pm	Decorate Church			
22nd	Advent IV	08.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	<b>Advent</b>	Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs F. Eldridge
		11.00 am	Family Service and Baptism Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs A Greenhill		
		7.00 pm	Carol Singing at Twiston	Lower Smithyfold		
24th	Tuesday	3.00 pm	Christingle Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs A Greenhill Mrs B. Lewis		
		6.30 pm	Carol Singing at Downham	<i>Singers meet at Downham PO</i>		
25th	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P. McFall		
29th	Sunday after Christmas	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>		Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00 am	Nine Lessons and Carols Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr B. Lewis		
<b>January 2014</b>						
5th	The Epiphany	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Peter Shepherd	Mr T. McLean		
<p><b>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE</b> – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019</p> <p><b>OUR CHURCH WARDENS</b></p> <p>The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250</p> <p><b>VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>Chairman and Bookings Secretary</b> Mr Shaun Roney—441667</p>						
		www.downhamvillage.org.uk www.downhambanner.com				

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



# newsletter

2013 Issue 12 December



From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

IN MY last parish I had a very gifted and generous youth leader, whom I'll call Sue. She was a firmly committed Christian. She had definite views, which is no bad thing. She was also "always right". Sue just seemed to know what was happening before anyone else did, and her confident manner made you reluctant to argue with her, unless you really knew better she did which normally you didn't.

One Christmas, however, we had a good-humoured argument at the youth fellowship because I insisted we had done one thing the previous year, whereas she was equally insistent that we had done something else. The issue itself was trivial but on this occasion I knew I was right and was not prepared to give way. After all, truth is truth. The young people began by siding with Sue, then one by one they agreed with me, and Sue herself gave way.

The episode made Kathleen and me wonder whether at other times we had accepted Sue's word whereas, in fact, she may have been wrong. It's easy to follow a strong leader. Unless you are really sure of your ground, it's safer to believe someone who "knows" than to disagree and maybe spoil a relationship. Vicars need to strike that balance between, on the one hand, giving a good lead and, on the other, browbeating people who know less than they do on a particular matter. That is one reason why we omit verse 3 from "Once in royal David's city" because it suggests that children should be "mild". Mildness is not a virtue. We should ask questions and stick to our guns, whilst accepting that we may just possibly, on rare occasions, be mistaken.

We have just celebrated Christ the King Sunday. Though King of all, Jesus never dominated people but took the form of a servant. Though the world was made through him, he was willing to be manhandled and be fastened to the cross in shame and agony. He let one woman argue with him, another touch him and from another he asked for a drink. He called his disciples friends, not servants. He was the King of glory but also the donkey-riding King of humility. May Christ, and no one else, be our king, and may we share his kingly attitude.

*Rodney Nicholson*

THE CLERGY, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, CHURCH WARDENS AND CHOIR WISH ALL OUR NEWSLETTER READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS



ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	October	2013
COMMUNICANTS	48	574
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	203	2,241
VISITORS	66	888
DONATIONS	265	6,587
HOUSE BOXES	9	145
TOTALS	543	9,861

### OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

**Bob Swarbrick** who is making progress.

### FAREWELL

We say good bye to **Peter and Heidi Henshaw-Snowden, Niall, Hugo and Felix** who are going from Ash Tree Cottage, Top Row, Downham to West Bradford very soon.

### WELCOME

**To Richard and Rachael Palmer** who are now moving into Hill Foot Barn, Twiston a return to the corner of Lancashire which is the historic home of Richard's family .

We wish both families much happiness in their new homes.

### THANKYOU Di

**Diana and Geoff Braithwaite** took over responsibility for the Poppy Day Collection from Diana's father, Ken Taylor, forty years ago. Diana who carried on the collection after Geoff died has now signalled that she is to retire having completed the 2013 collecting around Downham. Great service to a great charity.

### DOWNHAM BANNER

Unfortunately and disappointingly the Heritage Lottery fund has been unable to support the application of the Downham Banner Group for the conservation of the Benevolent Society's One hundred and twenty five-year old ceremonial banner. The Fund cited great competition as the reason there being many worthwhile applicants in this period. The banner group now has to decide what to do next.



## GENEROUS PEOPLE

**Rodney Nicholson**

WHEN Typhoon Haiyan devastated parts of the Philippines a fortnight ago, public generosity soon outstripped what the government promised. The government increased its aid to £20m but the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC - which includes organisations like Christian Aid, Tear Fund, Oxfam and Cafod) has so far raised £50m. It seemed reasonable to expect that Children in Need, falling in the same week, would not get as much as last year, but in fact the appeal set a new record of £31 million.

When it is alleged that this is a selfish and heartless age, these facts are worth remembering. Yes, some people are selfish - perhaps through being brought up that way - but many others are happy to give. For the year 2011-2012, individuals in this country gave a total of £9,300,000,000 (£9.3bn) to charity although, taking account of inflation, it was the lowest annual figure since the survey began in 2004/5. But it is still a significant amount of money.

My own policy is to think the best of people and it usually works. Of course we are all sinners with a good deal of self-centeredness but John's Gospel says that Jesus, the true light, gives light to everyone. Jesus himself looked for goodness in people, rather than trying to put people down.

### A great Christian Remembered

**Rodney Nicholson**

HE DIED 50 years ago in Oxford - the author of the timeless Narnia novels. Clive Staples Lewis (64), known to his friends as Jack, or to the world as C.S.Lewis, changed the Christian world and still causes fascination. Tragedy twice struck the life of the Oxford professor of English Literature. His devoted mother died when he was 10, causing his father to send him to a cruel boarding school where, as he wrote later, the only gentleness was "the affection" of some sixth formers to their juniors (or fags). Then, later in life, Joy, his wife for only one year, died of cancer. As she was a divorcee, they could not then be married in a Church of England parish church.

A former atheist, CS Lewis became convinced that only through believing in God could a person make sense of the world, but he was not yet a Christian. On a double-decker bus in Oxford he felt sure that Jesus Christ was God's Son, who brought life in all its fullness. He felt that a light had been switched on, and from that moment he used his great powers of thought and creative writing to promote the Christian faith - in all its vitality, colour and joy.

One of his famous sayings was: "Aim for the world and you don't get it; aim for heaven and you do get it - and the world thrown in as well."

### DOWNHAM STAGE 2



**The Ghost Train** by Arnold Ridley was Stage Two's November production staged over four nights from Wednesday 20th November to Saturday 23rd November at the Village Hall. The play delighted packed houses each night. A great favourite, this play dates from about 1925 and the large cast handled quite long stretches of dialogue very well indeed. The special effects sound, lighting and smoke were quite spectacular.

The novelty idea of an early dinner at the Assheton Arms on a combined ticket attracted no fewer than thirty playgoers each night and received favourable reviews from many customers.

## SPECTATOR

was up to my eyes in wrapping paper, wondering whether I had bought the right things and thinking that next Christmas I will just give everyone money in a card!



Our youngest daughter, Lucy, stayed recently and has asked her intended for an old Bible. She has quite a collection and her favourite is one from our beloved and still greatly missed Len Crag. Jon has a leather bound one that he got for Christmas from his parents when he was about 5yrs old and wanted to be like his father. One year, Jon and his two siblings had a large Leggo set as their main present to share..what?!..if me and my 3 sisters and brother had been given it, we would have killed each other rather than play together. I put this down to our not having much in the way of material things and a what's mine is mine mentality, rather than latent homicidal tendencies! Jon also had a competition with his sister to see who could keep their Black Magic chocolates the longest (weird!) He was the winner as he kept one chocolate until the following Christmas (weird and strange).

I thought I had come up with the perfect present last year when I got the idea from a magazine to do an advent calender. I hung gifts of all shapes and sizes from a tinsel coat hanger with numbers from 1 to 24, the order of which I had carefully thought out. It all went a bit pear-shaped however when Lucy said that some of her presents had dropped off and numbers got mixed up, so she had opened some before she should. My middle daughter Vicky thought she would open them in any order and my eldest Zoe saved them all to opened on Christmas day! (is it me?!) We did have a laugh though when my sister in law tried to pack her advent present to take back to Jersey and had to leave half her clothes behind. Then, when I gave my brother in law his very small box of cufflinks he said "what...Frances gets all that and I only get this,"? he said as he tucked the little box easily into his pocket and not having to leave any of his clothes behind to fit his Christmas present in! ...."In fact I thought this had fallen off hers!!" ( He's a right comedian my lovely brother in law).

Anyway, before Lucy went back home, Jon gave her his treasured Bible because he wanted to pass it on to someone who would appreciate it and that really is what the spirit of Christmas is all about..caring and sharing with others, being grateful for what we have, spreading a little happiness where we can. Merry Christmas to one and all.

## VEG Village Entertainment Group

**A**CTION Transport Theatre performed "Static" on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Village Hall. The professional performers were very accomplished in their field of mime, physical theatre and dance. Rebellious radios, secret sweets and accidental adventures kept the concentration of children and accompanying adults through innovative theatre.

Future Dates for your diaries Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 3pm Horse and Bamboo Company will perform Little Red Riding Hood suitable for age 4+ and on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 7.00 pm Dansformation will perform "Northumbriana" (a contemporary dance and music composition) followed by a 30 minute ceilidh. Suitable for ages 14+. Please support professional theatre locally. **Use it or loose it!** BL AG

## Shoebboxes

*Anne Hardacre writes:*

THANK YOU to everyone who helped us send 53 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child, full of little gifts for children abroad who otherwise would get nothing for Christmas.

## Make a Joyful Noise for the Leprosy Mission.

*Anne Hardacre writes:*

WE ARE hoping to sing 100 hymns on Sunday 19th January, beginning at 2pm, at Christ Church Chatburn.

Come and join us or just come and listen. Sponsor forms for the Leprosy Mission will be available after Christmas for those willing to collect some sponsors. More details from me, Anne, on 429341.

## Tree festival

THIS year's Christmas Tree festival is at St Mary Magdalene's from Friday to Sunday 13th to 15th December. St Paul's is entering a tree as usual, with Cynthia Nanson already busy.

## St Nicholas night

THE REVD Andy Froud is planning another spectacular St Nicholas night celebration on Friday 6th December, starting with mulled wine and mince pies in St Mary's at 5pm. There is then a Walking Nativity - dress 'Biblical' - with carols at the town crib and Santa Dash.

## Victorian concert at Chatburn

A VICTORIAN Christmas Concert will be staged at Christ Church Chatburn at 7.30 pm on 6th December.

The award winning Red Rosettes will present songs that represent the events the church has witnessed over the past 175 years, plus special Christmas songs and a sing-along carol session in the candlelit church.

Stage Two Drama Group are also taking part, as are some church members.

Tickets are now available at £8 from Roy Porter Butchers Chatburn, or from the vicarage. A pre-concert meal deal available at the Brown Cow in Chatburn at a reduced price of £11.95 for a three course Christmas dinner upon production of concert tickets. All proceeds will go towards the development fund of the church.

Victorian dress is optional.

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

**THE ORGAN**



**B**EHIND the scenes work continues to investigate the best way to improve the condition of our organ. Rather than a general overhaul of the existing, apparently technically unexciting instrument; there is a chance that we may be able to replace the innards of our machine with the better innards of another. While investigations continue it has been decided to hold off serious attempts to employ a full time organist. We are very grateful for the hard work of Robert Tattershall, James Robinson and Mrs Brewer over the last few months. But we may be occasionally short handed in the new year. In preparation for the period when the organ is out of action for refurbishment we will have a few services with recorded music rather than live accompaniment. RCA

**CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS**

**Decorating Church**

**W**E are doing this on Sunday 21st at 2.00 pm—all are welcome to help. This is in preparation for the Family Service and Baptism on 22nd.

**CAROL SINGING**

**Sunday 22nd December** Residents of Twiston are again cordially invited to join Steve and Diana Wilkins at Smithy Fold Barn at any time after 6.30 for 7.00 pm Carollers are assembling at the Downham PO at 6.30 pm.

**Christmas Eve** Carol Singing round Downham starting at 6.30 pm at the Post Office. Kirsteen says "Please give my phone number (440615) for anyone NOT wanting us to sing on Christmas eve and please note she has an answer phone so you can leave a message anytime! This year we are collecting for Philip Naylor's charity The Army Benevolent Fund."

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

**T**HIS is at 3.00 pm on Christmas Eve for children of all ages and their families.

**ST LEONARD' DAY TIDY**

**M**ANY thanks to those who braved the drizzle on 9<sup>th</sup> November to help with odd jobs around Church. As well as being able to clean out the organ loft and vestry, replace a number of broken light bulbs, check for wood worm; it was an opportunity to carry out a stock check of church property and generally sort out a number of small jobs that never seem to get done. RCA

**DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP**

**D**ESPITE the disappointing news that the Heritage Lottery fund had not been able to support the grant application for the Downham Banner conservation, the November meeting of the group was a visit to the Manchester People's Museum to see the conservation department. The Head Conservator, Vivian Lochhead, met the group and showed the Conservation department including examples of Banners which were currently undergoing treatment. She explained the processes that are used and answered questions. The group had time to visit some of the exhibition areas also which show off Banners, Labour History, NHS, Women's participation, General Strike, Miners' Strike and much more.

The visit ended with a Tea and cake in the Left Bank Cafe. Thanks are due to Edwin Jackson for organising and sponsoring the transport for the trip. More information at [www.phm.org.uk](http://www.phm.org.uk) Our next meeting will be 16th January when the WI has invited us to join with them at their regular meeting (Thursday, 16th at 7.30 pm), at which Harriet Roberts will be speaking about the Blackburn Orphanage.

**COFFEE CLUB**

**I**T WAS almost standing room only at our last coffee club meeting. The winter sun brought a record number of members out to sample our latest batch of baking, thanks Molly for your delicious sponge cake. Everyone had a good old natter and June and Edith were kept busy as usual, thank you ladies, you deserve your day off next month. We're really looking forward to our Christmas soup and sandwich lunch and hope as many members as possible can come. It's on the 19th of December at 12 noon, fingers crossed that the weather will be kind, BL

**GARDEN CLUB**

**M**EMBERS were given a detailed and interesting presentation on Wild Orchids By Dr Irene Ridge at their 7th November meeting at the Village Hall. The much-travelled Irene had been searching out and photographing wild orchids all over the world from South America to New Zealand and many parts of Europe. The British searches extended from Scotland to Cornwall. Her story was told in a matter of fact way, but on reflection her travels add up to a tremendous life-times achievement .

Members then enjoyed refreshments and the raffle.

Carol announced next month's excitement—The Christmas Party -this year at the Village Hall on Thursday, 5th December at 7.00 pm. CA



**D**OWNHAM W.I.'s November Meeting took place in Chatburn Methodist Chapel. Members enjoyed an excellent and engrossing talk by Sheena Byrom, a local author and mid-wife. Sheena talked about her early life growing up in Clitheroe and Great Harwood and then went on to talk about her career, as a very successful mid-wife, in this area of Lancashire. Sheena is a published author, her book is called 'Catching Babies', and she proved to be a natural story teller. A speaker not to be missed!



It was Frances Garner's first meeting as the new W.I. president and Christine Newhouse continues, doing a sterling job, as secretary.

We would like to thank those who turned up to weed the Village Hall car park. Also thanks to Olive Awbery and Eileen Parker for cooking and preparing the lunch for volunteers.

Susan Whittaker gave a report on the Bingo Night in November, when over £200 pounds was raised towards the W.I. Denman Bursary. Many thanks go to Rosemary Norgrove for organising it.

Julie Parker gave a report on a 'Dance Taster Day' that she and others attended at Barton Village Hall.

The next meeting will be Downham W.I.'s Christmas outing at 'The Calf's Head', Worston, 6.30 for 7.00 pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. AK

