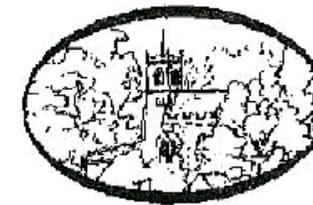


Parish Calendar 2014						
February			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd	Epiphany IV	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Lady Clitheroe Ms C. Ashworth
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Peter Shepherd	Mr T. McLean		
9th	Epiphany V	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs S. Marlow Mrs E. Parker
		11.00 am	Joint Service With Revd John Bell	Christ Church Chatburn		
12th	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Parish Meeting	Village Hall	<i>About the Post Office</i>	
13th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
16th	Septuagesima	8.30 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church Chatburn		Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P McFall		
20th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall		
23rd	2 nd before Lent Sexagesima	08.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins		Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mr B. Lewis		
		3.00 pm	Travelling Theatre	Village Hall		
24th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Construction of Stocks Reservoir</i>	
March						
2nd	Quinquagesima	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs A Holden Mrs T. Stell
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
5th			Ash Wednesday			
<p>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019</p> <p>OUR CHURCH WARDENS</p> <p>The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250</p> <p>VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</p> <p>Chairman and Bookings Secretary Mr Shaun Roney—441667 Hon Secretary The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210</p>						
		<p>www.downhamvillage.org.uk</p> <p>www.downhambanner.com</p>				

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2014 Issue 2 February

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

YOUNG creatures like to play. A recent TV programme on orphaned elephants showed the babies playing with the sanctuary staff. Apparently baby elephants trumpet and flap their ears with delight when playing. A country person knows well the sight of gambolling lambs and maybe hares boxing. Monkeys learn social skills through play as another TV series on orang-utans has shown. Orphaned through the activity of humans, ever eager for palm oil, these endangered mammals need to be taught how to play in order to survive. Not for nothing does the psalm refer to “the hills skipping like lambs” or the sea monster, Leviathan, frolicking in the sea.

A former police dog handler, whom we know, commented that he could do nothing with a puppy that wouldn't play. A play-less dog would be no good looking for drugs. Play is even more essential for a child, which makes nonsense of some parents' anxiety that their offspring should be reading by a certain age. Within reason, play now and read later. Many thoughtful adults would agree that they learnt a lot about life and interaction with others through play. Grandparents who play with their grandchildren do a wonderful job. I can think of people having a holiday in a cottage with no television, who commented: “It was good because we actually played games together”. Many silent groans are uttered when games come out at Christmas but, in fact, family games can be great fun. It's good, however, to avoid Monopoly if there are any competitive sorts in the party!

We don't exactly play in church, although there is an enjoyable and well-thought-out programme called “Godly Play” to use with children, by which little models are used to tell bible stories. But if play is seen as not far from joy and renewal, then there should be plenty of that in Christian worship. The hymn “All people that on earth do dwell” originally had the words, “him serve with mirth”, but in typically dour fashion “mirth” was changed to “fear”. Yet the 17th century Westminster Confession calls us to worship God and *enjoy* him for ever.

May our living, as well as our worshipping, be a constant delight, and let's not forget to play

Rodney Nicholson

Lord, we beseech the to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace may evermore be defended by thy mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	December	2013
COMMUNICANTS	80	698
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	349	2,742
VISITORS	12	910
DONATIONS	230	7,712
HOUSE BOXES	31	182
TOTALS	622	11,546

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Jean Whitsey, who, after a fall, is having hospital treatment.

Sandra and the family of **George Chapman**

Sonia and the family of **Valerie Hall**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jill Cragg celebrates a significant number in January and we all wish her good health and many happy returns of the day.

WELCOME

Stuart & Michelle and Olivia Winterbottom who have moved into Redsyke, Twiston. They have come from Essex; we wish them good luck in their new home.

George Chapman was a true countryman

GEORGE Chapman (80), who lived at Smithfield Farm with his wife, Sandra, died this month after a short illness. A countryman through and through, George spent his working life as a herdsman on various farms and estates in Cumbria and Cheshire before gaining a position in 1981 with the Downham estate, which then had a large dairy herd.

George was widowed in 1971 when his first wife Muriel left him with four children – Audrey, Bryan, Philip and Lorna – but on marrying Sandra three years later he became dad also to Deborah, Mandy and Tina. Four of his girls made the move to Smithfield Farm from where, after the estate sold their cattle, George did relief milking and lambing at Gisburne Park. He also helped Max Clement at Gerna with haymaking, as well as keeping his own hens, ducks and geese, together with a few sheep. He was variously known as “Turkey George” and “Chicken George”.

For twelve years he and Sandra fostered teenage girls, some for up to four years, usually for reasons of illness at their home or because their mother/grandmother needed a break. Some of the girls continued to keep in touch, having appreciated both the beauty of Downham and the Chapmans’ kindness. We remember George with affection and feel for his family in their loss.

SPECTATOR “A short one due to accidents, special birthdays, building work and a general falling to bits!”

Well ...that will teach me not to speak too soon... I said in the previous Spectator that I would be praying for 2014 to be kinder than 2013 and guess what? I am already hoping 2015 will hurry up and get here. At this rate, I will be running out of years before the March edition!

Anyway, I will not burden you with Whitsey woes but I can tell you that I have found the secret to happiness and fulfilment... For less than twenty pounds, you can pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and sing, sing, sing... YES its a KARAOKE MACHINE.!!!

Its the best thing for chasing those blues away and you cannot be sad when you sing. I feel much happier after an hours singing at the top of my voice and it is good exercise for my throat. Jon however seems to be not as cheerful as usual and is spending a lot more time with headphones on or in another room pretending to be busy! Our friends Lyn and Mick are visiting this weekend and Lyn has been gargling in preparation...poor thing will need more than a few gargling sessions, she makes even ME sound great, yes, roll on weekend. I should maybe warn the neighbours though or send round a chocolate cake and earmuffs!

There are lots of biblical quotes on the joys of music " Is anyone among you in trouble (suffering)? Let him pray. Is anyone happy, (cheerful) let them sing" James 5:13 Funny that, I have noticed recently, well, since I brought home the karaoke machine, that Jon seems to be praying a lot more nowadays, at least with his head down and in his hands, that's what I thought he was doing! Tut!

PS many many thanks for the unbelievable offers of help and support that the family have received since mum had her accidents. we are all so very, very grateful. Thank you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I thought that only photographs were airbrushed; apparently not. As I read last months Newsletter about Mandela, it made me think that reading this and other press reports the young people of this country will think that he was a saint. Let us not forget that he was a member of the ANC in 1961 when they initiated guerrilla attacks against not only the Government facilities but also against black people, who they accused of collaborating with the government (I am old enough to remember this) He condoned violence through being married to Winnie Mandela who was convicted of murder and was also connected with killings and tortures committed by her bodyguards and she also condoned "burning necklaces(burning tyres placed around peoples' necks), and even when divorced, remained friends. The government may have been guilty of killing black people but the ANC were guilty of killing their own people as well as whites. They say that people mellow with age and perhaps this is part of what happened to him in later life.

Carol Palmer

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Horse and Bamboo Company

Little Red Riding Hood

suitable for age 4+

Sunday 23rd February 2014 at 3.00 pm

Tickets

£6.00 Adult £4.00 Child/Concessions
£17.00 Family Ticket

available in person from
Chatburn Library Tue, Thurs or Sat.
or contact

01200 440146 or 01200 440925
or text 07812 984763 to reserve

VEG

Village Entertainment Group

Advance notice for your diaries on
Thursday 27th 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

Downham Band

This fragment of Downham History is from an article in an undated booklet about Francis Duckworth (1862-1941), a local man who wrote the hymn tune Rimington, and others. From one date and some other evidence in the full article it looks as if we are in about 1879.

HALF the members came from Twiston and Rimington there were not enough in Downham to make up the number, Describing the first night when they received their instruments Mr Duckworth wrote: “Fancy twenty four country youths full of vigour and excitement in possession of these instruments (of torture shall I say). I well remember it was a clear and frosty night, with the moon at the full. Oh dear! Oh dear! What unearthly noises! Each one trying to outdo the other in volume. It was acknowledged that I came out on top that night, having the bass trombone. You could hear echoes in all directions. It was marvellous; the echo, I mean, not the music. I don’t suppose there would be more than six or seven in all the twenty four who even knew the notes or had any idea of music, but they were all keen to a man and eager to learn, and willing to learn and these are the conditions for making good progress”. A good tutor was secured from Sabden (Mr John Smithies), who was very long suffering, and he had need to be. The bandroom was one of the cottages leading up to the Chapel, where full rehearsals took place every Saturday night. The Rimington and Twiston section had yet to find a room for practice during the week. Luckily, there was a derelict farmhouse called “The Hollins” situated about half-way between the two places. This old homestead had been unoccupied for many years. I was one of a deputation to wait upon the farmer, and we had no difficulty. He consented at once to let us have it rent free if we could make it answer our purpose. This condition, as you may imagine, was gladly accepted.

Now the game began! On investigation we were delighted to find a small bedroom which boasted a fire-grate. Unfortunately, this room was filled with rushes which had been there for many years. But we soon got to work to clear them out, and out they came although we were all as black as colliers through having to carry them in our arms. When they were all removed we found the floor in a very bad condition, but with a good supply of lump sugar cases it was not long before that difficulty was overcome. Then we had a music stand to make and the bedroom window to board up, this not having seen any glass for many years. Two paraffin lamps turned up from somewhere. Thus many hands make light work, and we were amply rewarded later on. We had some good times, and, were it possible, would be glad to go through it all again.

Mr Duckworth added that he was only in the band for four months as he had to leave his native village, but that this short experience gave him a love for brass bands which has never left him.

VISIT OF JOHN BELL

Rodney Nicholson

CHATBURN has a scoop this month in the person of the Revd John Bell, the internationally-known author, song-writer and broadcaster, who is linked with the Iona community, off the west coast of Scotland. John Bell speaks in a fascinating way and is well worth listening to. He will give four sessions on Saturday 8th February, two before lunch (10am to 12.30pm) and two after lunch, 2 – 4.30pm, with coffee/tea breaks in the middle. The morning will centre on the relevance of the bible’s message for today and the afternoon more musical.

Soup and sandwiches are available for those who book (via Rodney Nicholson on 458019). No charge is made for any part of the day, lunch included, but there will be a plate for donations. On the Sunday, 9th February, John Bell will preach at a united service at 11am in Christ Church.

Valerie Hall lived life to the full

VALERIE Hall (Val) will be remembered as one who loved Downham, loved her school children, loved her animals and indeed loved life. Full of fun, she involved herself with most aspects of village life: the W.I., Gardening Club, village productions and St Leonard’s church, where she was a worshipper and PCC member. We were sorry when her mental condition required her to leave Downham four years ago in order to receive nursing care.

Brought up in Wilpshire, Valerie (72) came here in about 1967 as assistant teacher at Downham school, later succeeding May Barton as head. When the school closed, Val was redeployed to Pendle junior school, transferring eventually to Waddington and West Bradford school. On marrying Bob from Downham Road, Chatburn, she moved from Top Row to Brookside. They enjoyed a happy marriage, though without children, and were a familiar sight in their land rover, into which they would pack their dogs and rabbits for a weekend away. It was a great sadness when Bob died suddenly on Christmas Day some years ago.

Many former pupils will remember Valerie with fondness as a popular teacher, who at the same time stood no nonsense. She had her own style which could include bringing Sam, her border terrier, to school and sending a child to the post office for some mint imperials! Walks in the local countryside were a highlight.

Val’s memory lives on through a chestnut tree which began life in a tub at her home but now stands proudly on Hare Green. She will also be remembered by the people she helped through WRVS and Age Concern. We are all glad that Valerie had some part in our lives, and remember her sister Sonia, along with other members of her family, at this time.

VILLAGE MEETING TO DISCUSS DOWNHAM POST OFFICE

SINCE Keith and Margaret left there has been much discussion about the future of the Post Office/shop/tea room. A number of people have contacted Ingham and Yorke with proposals. Now that the legal situation has been clarified, and preliminary discussions held with RVBC it seems like a good time to discover the aspirations of residents.

There will be a village meeting at Downham Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 12th February to discuss the future of the Post Office. This will not involve looking at any individual bid or proposal, but to get feedback on what villagers and parishioners would like to see in advance of any further action. The Estate will be putting forward some thoughts to help the discussion.

RCA

THE PARISH CHURCH

MEMBERS of Downham Church Choir and friends enjoyed an evening of Carols, mulled wine and mince pies at the home of Mr & Mrs Steve & Diana Wilkins in Twiston on Sunday 22nd December. Parishioners of Twiston had been invited in to join the fun and £75.00 was raised for this years charity, The Army Benevolent Fund.

Christmas Eve saw the choir with even more friends singing door to door in Downham. The singers would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome and generosity, and of course drinks and mince pies, making £275.00 for the same charity.

Canon Rodney Nicholson welcomed a full congregation to the Annual Nine Lessons and Carol Service on Sunday morning, 29th December at 11.00 am at St. Leonards Church, Downham.

The readers of the familiar lessons were Keith Hall, Dan Fritzell, Alan Spensley, Rowan Greenhill, Philippa McFall, Frances Eldridge, John Faraday, Ralph Assheton and Canon Nicholson.

Everyone enjoyed singing the well known carols, the organist, in fine form, was James Robinson. The collection will go towards the music and fabric in St. Leonards Church. DB

FLOWER LIST

THE Flower list for 2014 is hanging up at the back of the church. If you would like to do the Altar Flowers (or have them done for you) please make an entry on the list.

GARDEN CLUB

NOTE for our diaries: Garden Club reopens on Thursday, 6th March!



DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

ON Thursday, 16th January members of the History Group joined the WI (for one night only) were made most welcome by the President, Frances Garner, and sang Jerusalem. The occasion was the presentation by Harriet Roberts, the fundraiser for Child Action North West, a speaker whom the Group were keen to hear and who had been very quickly booked by the WI.

A fantastic story-teller Harriet brought the whole history to life by weaving several strands together: the discovery of an incredible and in many ways unlikely survivor-archive, in that every record was preserved in the cellar of the building at Langho. The history of the orphanage - much of it from that archive and also on an old film and clips from a modern TV documentary, using the words of former residents of the home, the functions and activities of the successor organisation, and the modern fund raising events based on those of a hundred years ago. These last include an annual revival of ideas of the founder, James Dixon. Especially interesting was his give a pound day. This where he asked rich people to donate a pound and the less well-off to give a pound, in weight, of sugar, flour or other useful commodity for the running of the home.

Harriet brought along books and cards and other items for sale to raise funds for the Charity.

The next meeting of the Group will be on Monday, 24th February, at 7.30 pm at the Downham Village Hall, when the presentation is by Ken Geddes and centres on the Construction of The Stocks Reservoir. (opened 1932)..

President Frances Garner welcomed guests from Downham History Group to the January meeting, when the speaker was Harriet Roberts.



Frances also welcomed John Wrigley and members of Stage 2 Drama Group who joined us, not only to listen to Harriet but also to view the memorial clock presented by Downham WI in memory of John's wife, Elizabeth, who died suddenly two years ago. Elizabeth, Liz to her friends and family, was a very special lady. She had been a member of Downham WI since 1988, served on the committee, acted as a delegate, won prizes and indeed cups at our WI annual show and authored a challenging article in the national WI magazine.

But her talents didn't end there - she was the founder of the History group and a very active member of Stage 2, so it was very appropriate that both were represented.

All these talents are mentioned in the lovely plaque at the back of the hall, which John has presented. A fitting tribute to a charming and much loved lady.

In her fascinating talk about the Buried Treasure of James Dixon, Harriet told how James had been a founder member of the Blackburn Orphanage in 1881, when it was called the 'Ragged School'.

James Dixon moved to Blackburn from Scotland in the 1880s seeking work as a joiner. He was so shocked and moved by the deprivation in the area that, along with a colleague Thomas Walkden, he set up a Ragged School. He also put his life savings into building the foundation for a Boys' Orphanage swiftly followed by a Girls' Orphanage. Children came from towns across the region and were not necessarily true orphans but the victims of overcrowded homes, neglect and abuse caused by drink problems and family breakdown.

The 'buried treasure' found in the cellars of the orphanage consisted of the pupils records and painted a vivid picture of social

history over 120 years.

The orphanage provided sport, recreation and skills as well as bed and board, it closed in 1990.

When publicity of the archive discovery was aired, former pupils came forward to tell their stories of happy times spent there.

Charity events called 'Pound Days' based on details found in the archives now help to fund Child Action Northwest, which provides assistance for many children and their families today.

For those who would like to know more a book entitled James Dixon's Children by Melanie Warren, is available plus more information about Child Action Northwest on www.canw.org.uk

Readers may be interested in the First Aid classes that are being arranged and are open to non members, please contact Julie Parker 424989.

Our Next meeting will be on 20th February at 7.30 pm the Speaker: Carol Johnson 'JAM JUST AS IT SHOULD BE' *Competition: Recipe for a jam No Sales Table: JAR TOMBOLA*

COFFEE CLUB

COFFEE Club was suspended in January and changed to a lunch to follow the funeral and burial of Valerie Hall.



Our next meeting is on 13th February at the usual time, 10.00 am. We hope to see you all then.