

PARISH CALENDAR—2013						
January		Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners	
6th		8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>ChristChurch Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
10th	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
13th	1st Sunday after Epiphany	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins		Mr & Mrs B Lewis
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
17th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall		
20th	2nd Sunday After Epiphany	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>Christ Church Chatburn</b>		Mrs A. Holden Mrs T. Stell
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P. McFall		
27th	Septuagesima Assheton Sermon	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00am	Matins Revd Alan Reid Canon David Galilee	Mr B. Lewis		
February						
6th	Sexagesima 2nd before Lent	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	<b>ChristChurch Chatburn</b>	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs A Richardson
		11.00am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis		
<b>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE</b> – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019 <b>OUR CHURCH WARDENS</b> The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250 <b>VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b> <b>Chairman and Bookings Secretary</b> Mr Shaun Roney—441667 <b>Hon Secretary</b> The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210						
		<a href="http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk">www.downhamvillage.org.uk</a>				

**THIS MONTH THE NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN SPONSORED**  
by Adams and Co, Accountants, York Street, Clitheroe

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

### DOWNHAM & TWISTON



# newsletter

2013 Issue 1 January

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

**T**HE DEATH of nurse Jacintha Saldanha was one massive and completely unnecessary tragedy. It wasn't as though she had given the Duchess a wrong and potentially life-threatening injection. She had simply been taken off-guard by a hoax phone call. To deprive her children of their mother for such a comparatively trivial reason was out of all proportion to her mistake. Life is sacred and God-given, so that taking a life, including one's own, is always wrong. The suicidal person may be so distraught that they are not in control of their actions but the act of taking one's life is still a sin - a greater sin than that of being misled by a phone call.

Nurse Jacintha may have had a depressive condition which was sparked off by the hoax. If not, it is hard to understand how someone, who was after all receiving counselling for the incident, could act so drastically, to the grief of those she loved. She must have been in emotional agony.

It would be a pity if the tragedy led people to over-react against practical jokes. I was initially rather amused at the absurdity of someone imitating the Queen and penetrating the security systems which must be excellent at a hospital that treats royalty. If I ring the Royal Blackburn hospital to ask about "Mrs Jones", I am not treated to any medical details.

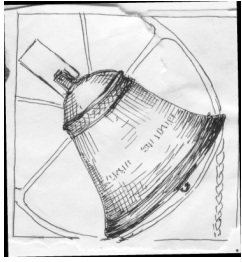
Just suppose, for example, a joker pretending to be the Pope rang the Archbishop of Canterbury to ask what he thought of those who voted against his Women Bishops' measure, he would not expect to be taken seriously. If by some chance he were believed, and his ruse led to a depressive clergyman jumping into the Thames, I really don't think that the prankster would be guilty of the good man's death.

I once received a notice of a parking fine from Strathclyde police when I had not left Blackburn on the day in question. I replied in a jokey way saying in effect, "Don't be silly", and heard no more about it.

We feel for the nurse's grief-stricken family this Christmas. We hope that Jesus, the light of the world, may shine in their darkness in some small way. As we glimpse the glory of God's coming to earth in order to enable us to go to heaven, we can also say, "When some things go wrong in our life, let's keep them in proportion". Some issues are major but others, which we worry about, are not.

I wish you a peaceful and stress-free Christmas.

*Robey N. N. N.*



Bell by Michael McFall 2000

RING out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light :  
The year is dying in the night ;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow ;  
The year is going, let him go ;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more ;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife ;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times ;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite ;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease ;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold ;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand ;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be

Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1850

### ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES

	November	2012
<b>COMMUNICANTS</b>	43	539
<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	£	£
SERVICES	334	2,522
VISITORS	29	774
DONATIONS	325	10,775
HOUSE BOXES		184
<b>TOTALS</b>	688	14,255

### OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

**Jaqueline** and the family of  
**Nicholas Assheton**

**Karen Walker** of Greendale who is  
undergoing treatment.

**Bob Swarbrick** who is making progress.

### ALTAR FLOWERS—2013

THE 2013 Flower list is hanging at the  
back of church. If you would like to  
arrange flowers on the altar to mark an  
anniversary or to commemorate a loved-  
one fill in your name in the date of your  
choice. If you would like to sponsor the  
flowers but not arrange them, please  
speak to Philippa on 441484



A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR READERS

### EQUAL RIGHTS FOR GAY PEOPLE

Rodney Nicholson

**S**OMETIMES Christian owners of guest house/bed and breakfast accommodation hit the news for denying a double-bedded room to a couple of gay men. To give them such a room would run counter to their Christian faith. At least two couples have taken the proprietors to court - which seems a pretty callous thing to do - and have won damages for discrimination.

I believe, however, that it is wrong to accuse the justice system of being anti-Christian. The judges said nothing to malign the Christian faith of the accused but rather affirmed their sincerity. The issue was that of discrimination. Equality legislation protects the rights of gay people, as of other minority groups, and that includes freedom of religion. The Christian faith has a clear protection under law, so that it is a mistake to speak of Christians being persecuted in this country, unlike other places where the persecution is horrific.

The problem comes when guest house owners say, "This is our home and we will not allow certain behaviour to take place". Obviously they can refuse to allow smoking or excessive noise or bad language or misuse of their property. The issue is discrimination. If they are running a business and making money, then it's a different matter from having personal friends to stay.

We now enter the stormy waters of same-sex marriage, which most churches currently oppose but which David Cameron thinks is a great idea. I myself support the changes which allow the love and commitment of a gay or lesbian couple to be fully recognised. Some of the nicest men you could choose to meet are gay. The removal of homosexuals from the ranks of writers, musicians, artists, nurses, clergy and many more professions would leave huge gaps. Those in a loving, caring, same-sex relationship are rarely the perpetrators of abuse against children. They have suffered cruel discrimination down the years so that, thank God, we are more understanding today. The African Church tends to be hostile towards homosexuals, yet a leader of the stature of Desmond Tutu appeals against such vilifying.

Yet marriage, as opposed to civil partnership, is a sticking point. Can we re-invent what Jesus and others have taken for granted as necessarily being a union of man and woman? The Church in general says no, yet many Christians - and a majority of others, I guess - think otherwise. The issue will not go away. We are going to need a great deal of sensitivity and wisdom.

### North American shootings

**F**OLLOWING the Connecticut school murders of 20 children and six teachers, I was interested in the comment of an American visitor to Chatburn church, attending a funeral that week, who said, "I don't like guns." He had no realistic hope that his country would significantly introduce tighter gun control but thought the tragedy might lead to a ban on automatic weapons. We need the prophet Micah's vision of turning swords into ploughshares.

### New year hope?

**A** CHANGE of year does not in itself bring hope. Someone I know who has just been diagnosed with bowel cancer does not experience a change in his condition just because the calendar has moved from 2012 to 2013. The new year may, however, make us more aware of our vulnerability and lead us to appreciate one another more gratefully. And it is a new year of grace in which we can trust in God's love and faithfulness.

**THE DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL  
SEEKS A PART-TIME CLEANER**

Between 2 and 4 hours a week to fit in with Village Hall events. Applicants must be flexible about this.

£7.50 an hour.

Any enquires or to apply please ring or email Committee member Tom McLean on 445471. tom@ingsend.co.uk

**The Children's Society**

Whalley Deanery Fund Raising Committee

**Candlelight Supper**

**The Kings Centre**

Millthorne Avenue off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE

on

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2013**

**7.00 for 7.30 p.m.**

**Christmas games: pleasure or pain**

**Rodney Nicholson**

THESE thoughts were sparked off by reading an article on The Telegraph on line about the unpopularity of family games at Christmas. The storybook picture, the writer suggests, of mother, father and children happily playing board games together is not borne out by reality. Men, she says, don't want to play; children squabble; and the question, "Who'd like a game of Scrabble?" receives a stony silence.

I beg to disagree. Yes, there are times when one is tempted to arrive late so as to miss the games but be there in time for the food! Yes, some games can show people up and make them feel stupid. If children are playing, it's good to devise some way that stops the bright ones always winning. And Monopoly is definitely not designed to foster harmony among friends. Normally gentle people can be distinctly "ratty" at being regularly forced to pay £550 for landing on The Angel, Islington or bankrupted by landing on Mayfair where they will be charged up to £2000.

Yet board games can really be fun and a welcome change from just watching television. Our family were great games players, particularly on holiday and at Christmas, and for years of my childhood I played games such as Ludo, Snakes and Ladders, Happy Families (and a version called Counties), Snap and Lexicon every Wednesday after tea at granny's. A storybook childhood, perhaps, though everything was not perfect.

Kathleen has bought our daughter, Rachel and her husband, Jonathan, a 1960s board game called "Go" for Christmas. She got it on Ebay. A favourite of mine, the game takes you round the world buying tickets, exchanging currency and collecting souvenirs. Her reason for buying it is that Rachel and Jonathan play board games with a group of friends at their church in York, with whom they also go walking. This may say something about the preferences of young Christian adults, who would rather play games and go walking than spend time in the pubs and clubs. But quite a few young couples I meet say that they no longer want to spend time drinking, even if they ever did.

Our Lord is a Lord of fun and innocent pleasure, of which family games can be a memorable part. A puppy that will not play is no use as a police dog. Children and adults who have lost their playfulness are missing a quality which is warm and human.

**Joy to the World**

CLITHEROE Christians in Partnership through the musical director Steuart Kellington arranged a superb celebration of Christmas at Trinity Methodist Church last Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, entitled Joy to the World. Carols, orchestral and choral pieces, dance, drama and the spoken world all highlighted the wonder of God's coming to earth.

**The Hon Nicholas Assheton 1934—2012**

LORD Clitheroe's brother, Nicholas Assheton, was born 23rd May, 1934. After School and National Service, he read History at Christ Church, Oxford and joined a firm of stockbrokers Montagu, Loeble and Stanley where he became a senior partner. In the late eighties (after the big bang) the firm was taken over and he became an executive director of Coutts Bank, subsequently its Vice Chairman. On his retirement he became Treasurer to HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and remained so until her death.

He was a Trustee of numerous estates including Downham, and was involved with many charities, He was also much involved with Church House and was Chief Volunteer Steward of Westminster Abbey.

He married Jacqueline Harris, daughter of Air Chief Marshall "Bomber" Harris, 29th February, 1960 and they have three children and a number of grandchildren.

Nicholas Assheton was Lord of the Manor of Slaidburn, and enjoyed his many happy visits to Lancashire, when he stayed with the family at Downham, the place where he had spent the larger part of his childhood.

He died as the result of a fall, on 27th November, 2012. The funeral at St Margaret's, Westminster on 10th December was taken by the Very Revd Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster and the Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales were represented, amongst many others.

**STAGE 2 DOWNHAM**

STRICTLY Murder' by Brian Clemens, with all its intriguing twists, turned out well for Stage Two Downham back in November, for all manner of reasons. Firstly actors and backstage crew worked incredibly well together - it was a real team effort. Secondly we were well looked after by the Village Hall caretaker - thank you Shaun and, last but not least, the audience was appreciative and very supportive of our efforts. So a big thank you to everyone and to all of you who came to see the play. I hope you will come again and help to make our future productions as successful.



Stage Two Downham will be putting on their next play at the end of April 2013 and we would be delighted if you would like to be involved in any way with the production. If you have never done amateur dramatics, but you are interested in having a go, why not get in touch. If you have skills that you could share, let us know and if you are experienced on the stage, we need you! We are a friendly group and always welcome newcomers, giving support if needed.

Give me a ring: Fran Osborne 01200 423301

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

**CAROL SINGING AT TWISTON**

By kind invitation of Twiston Church Warden Diana and husband Steve, Twiston residents assembled at Smithyfold to greet the Choir on Sunday evening 16th December for hearty Carol Singing. The choir and friends led the company in all the old favourites and Steve and Diana provided seasonal, mulled refreshments,

**CAROLS ROUND DOWNHAM**

**THE St Leonard's Choir and friends will be Carol singing around Downham as usual on Christmas Eve. Singers are meeting at the Post Office at 6.30 pm. Singers would appreciate a call on 441277 or 440615 if you are going to be out—its very exhausting singing to empty houses! DB**

**ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND NINE LESSONS**

JOIN the St Leonard's congregation, at 11.00 am on the First Sunday after Christmas, for this annual joint service, together with the congregations from Chatburn and Low Moor.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

OUR Christmas Family Service, The Christingle, will be on Christmas Eve at 3.00 pm. We will be decorating Church and making Christingles for the service on Saturday, 23rd from 2.30 pm for about an hour - all welcome to help!

**ASSHETON SERMON 2013**

THIS will be preached by Canon David Galilee on Sunday, 27th January, 2013 at the 11.00 morning service.

**VILLAGE HALL**



JUNE Weaver, who has spent many years researching her family, the Chews, Pyes and Simpsons, and who grew up around Gisburn & Grindleton. gave a very lively, attention-grabbling and appealing talk. Her stories of the earlier years of the twentieth century, brought her terrific collection of contemporary photographs to life.

We look forward to her return later next year. when she is to tell us about the Bashall Eves murder. of seventy five years ago.

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



**TREE SAFETY**

THE Estate is carrying out a survey of roadside trees to ensure that they are as safe as possible. In addition to some branch removal some may need felling. Once this is complete work will move on to inspect trees near houses, footpaths and public open spaces. RCA

**THE ASSHETON ARMS**

AN application has been made to RVBC for some work on the exterior of the pub. The plan includes the building of new ladies and disabled WCs adjoining the gents at the rear of the building. Also the parking and seating area at the front will be marginally altered in order to make better and more attractive use of the space available.

RCA

**GARDEN CLUB**

DEAR CAROLE, Garden Club members are really lucky to have your talent and flair when it comes to organising a party. Members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the Club's Christmas Dinner on Thursday, 6th December at Greendale Restaurant. A great choice of delicious courses with all the trimmings on the tables made for a great atmosphere.

Able assisted by Elf (Molly) and Father Christmas (Lyn). your pink Sugar Plump Fairy was hilarious. A fresh method of sorting out the raffle, which was too complex for mere members to understand, gave everyone a prize. Everyone joins in wishing you a very happy retirement and we note that you will have much more time to devote to Garden Club matters. Thanks very much for a great evening.



**COFFEE CLUB**

THERE was a very pre-festive atmosphere at Coffee Club this month. The weather was crisp and white on the hills and hedges and the Village Hall was warm, does any Village Hall in the land have better views? If this sounds rather poetic it was probably fuelled by the glass of sherry, the mince pies and the usual coffee and cakes. There was also a lovely tin of chocolates left open for everyone to enjoy, brought by Betty. There were some absences due to appointments and winter chills but nevertheless a very busy morning and very cheerful.



Can I ask if you could kindly bring any unwanted Christmas gifts for the Bring & Buy next meeting, the stall needs an injection of new goods for 2013.

The next meeting will be Thursday 10th January 2013, how time flies!

OAwb

As another year is coming to an end W.I. members, like everyone else, are looking forward to Christmas. Many members took part in Christmas celebrations by attending a meal at the Calf's Head at Worston. Members enjoyed, as always with the Calf's Head, a delicious three course meal. Entertainment was provided by 'The Hapi Butterflies', a quartet. The 'Hapi' is not a spelling mistake but the first letter of each of their Christian names. The medley of Christmas poems, songs and carols they performed were extremely entertaining and everyone enjoyed joining in with their favourite carols at the end.



We have Barbara Lewis to thank for organising such a wonderful evening. Barbara had made lovely place name cards, which also included the food we had ordered—a good idea for those of us who can't remember what we did last week, never mind what we ordered three months ago!

Some of our members were unable to attend due to ill health and we hope they get well soon.

As the year comes towards its end, we remember some of the marvellous members we have lost this year, and who are sadly missed. Rose Lambert, Eunice Hook and Elizabeth Wrigley contributed an enormous amount to the W.I., over many years of membership and our thoughts are with their families this Christmas.

In the new year we have many speakers and events to look forward to. Our first meeting of 2013 will be in Downham Village Hall on Thursday 17th January at 7.30, when the speaker is Karen Corless with a 'Valentine Cupcakes Demonstration'. You can make one of your own for £1.

The competition is 'A favourite teacup' and the Sales Table: Christmas overhang. Also in January is the W.I. Quiz, venue to be announced. To find out about these and other future events ring 01200 446620. Downham W.I. wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. A.K.