**Parish Calendar 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Sidesmen/ women</th>
<th>Altar Flowers</th>
<th>Church Cleaners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td><strong>Epiphany</strong></td>
<td>8.30 am Holy Communion</td>
<td>Lord &amp; Lady Clitheroe</td>
<td>Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Canon Rodney Nicholson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.00 am Holy Communion</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Canon Peter Shepherd</td>
<td>Mr T. McLean</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>10.00 am Coffee Club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Epiphany I</td>
<td>8.30 am Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Canon Rodney Nicholson</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.50 am Matins</td>
<td>Mrs E. Parker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Revd Anne Hardacre</td>
<td>Mrs B. Lund</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>6.30 pm Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>7.30 pm WI &amp; History Group</td>
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<td>Village Hall</td>
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<td>19th</td>
<td>Epiphany II</td>
<td>8.30 am Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Canon Rodney Nicholson</td>
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<td>11.00 am Holy Communion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Canon Peter Shepherd</td>
<td>Mr B. Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td><strong>Asheton Sermon</strong></td>
<td>08.30 am Holy Communion</td>
<td>Mrs D. Wilkins</td>
<td>Mrs C. McGrath Mrs J. Smith</td>
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<td>Canon Rodney Nicholson</td>
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<td>11.00 am Matins</td>
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<td>Revd Alan Reid</td>
<td>Mr B. Lewis</td>
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<td>The Ven Michael Everitt</td>
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<td>7.00 pm Candlelight Supper</td>
<td>Kings Centre</td>
<td>In Aid of Children's Society</td>
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<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td><strong>Epiphany IV</strong></td>
<td>8.30 am Holy Communion</td>
<td>Canon Peter Shepherd</td>
<td>Mr T. McLean</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christ Church Chatburn</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11.00 am Holy Communion</td>
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**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**

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**PARISH OF ST. LEONARD**

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON**

**newsletter**

2014 Issue 1 January

**From Canon Rodney Nicholson**

**Viewpoint**

Let's make a resolution for the Christmas/New Year period: no negative talk about Christmas becoming too commercialised or people forgetting the true meaning of Christmas or any other dreary and time-worn comments. Let's simply enjoy the festival without any need to complain. After all, one aspect of the true meaning is that we are good news people, passing on, at least in spirit, the Good News, or glad tidings, which the angel brought to the shepherds in the fields above Bethlehem. But there's not much good news in the complaints department.

We have a wonderful God. If we really believe that, out of his love for us, he became a human being, born in a manger, then we do not lose our excitement at this lovely season as the years pass by. The question is, “Do we really believe?”. A small group of us listened to The Messiah in Blackburn Cathedral recently. Sung by the Blackburn Music Society it was a superb performance. During the interval, however, I got talking to a choir man who enthused about The Messiah, but admitted that he liked the great oratorio purely for the music and singing. He had no faith in the Lord by whom it was inspired. That seemed to take the heart out of the great piece.

The same applies to Christmas. It will be just a matter of food and alcohol, festivity, money and, to a degree, pointlessness unless we have a living faith in Christ the Lord of all. Of course, you can have a good and generous time without any faith, but the depth and continuing joy comes from kneeling before the Babe of Bethlehem and making him the focus of our lives. “O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel”.

We can be glad that the true meaning is apparent in Clitheroe in many ways: the crib by the castle, Andy Froud’s St Nicholas night Walking Nativity on December 6th and all the carol/Christingle services. There’s also abundant good will - seen, for example, in local support for the Salvation Army toy appeal. Our Lord was born in poverty. We in turn respond to those who have real needs - maybe lacking the means to heat their home. Here at St Leonard’s we especially support the Food Bank and The Children’s Society. All this ensures that blessed Christmas which I hope you will enjoy.

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Rother N. M.
MERCIFUL Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it being enlightened by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain the light of everlasting life.

WINTER HELP
From Councillor Gary Scott

Ribble Valley Borough Council has secured funding to help residents of Downham and Twiston this Winter. There is support for the over 65s who are in need of boiler repairs. The over 70s can receive a bag of rock salt delivered free to their home. Also you may request help to switch your energy supplier to save on fuel bills. Please contact the housing team on 01200 425111 for further advice.

POLICE CONTACT
If any resident needs to contact their local Police Officer/Station the details are below.
Clitheroe Police Station 01200 443344
PC Tony Walsh 0752 806 6450
Lancashire Police Non-Emergency 101
tony.walsh@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

SPECTATOR
It seems very strange writing January’s Spectator in December, and although I don’t make new year resolutions, I think I am going to pray very hard for a bit of respite please in the new year, from the almost biblical proportion size curses that have befallen us in 2013!

In the last 2 months alone, we have had illnesses, stress, friends diagnosed with cancer, a loved one in intensive care following an accident, met a seemingly very nice indecisive elderly couple who decided to hit our car when my daughters were on their way home after visiting us and then tell the insurance that it wasn’t their fault so we stand to lose a ridiculously high excess and our no claims bonus! Then I spent most of yesterday in the Accident and Emergency after Mum was blown off the steps outside her house by the wind…”please no more …I give in!!!!”

……Now that is where I broke off to go up to the village hall for the delicious Christmas soup and sandwich “do” (normally known as coffee morning) and just when I thought it was safe, I gave a thank you speech that makes Bridget Jones seem like a much in demand after dinner speaker! Argh!

They do say what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger, so Jon and I are thinking of joining the Circus next time it hits town. Anyway, I cannot start the new year with a grim Spectator so I thought I would, like the song, “Accentuate the positives and eliminate the negatives, latch on to the affirmatives and don’t mess with Mr In-between”. Sorry I got a bit carried away then! So, we can’t change ill health and death but we can make each day count, and so what if the accident which was not our fault is going to cost us, at least nobody was hurt (“except my bank balance” I can hear Jon muttering). My lovely mother in law is still with us, in spite of her Mary Poppins imitation! and I found again how wonderful my next door neighbours are when they zoomed me up to rescue Mum and brought me home from the hospital. Who cares about a speech that missed bits out, at least I stood up and did it…gulp. Yes, life is still good and I’m still standing (and laughing) This is Linda Whitsey for stand up Downham….feeling very positive actually. Happy New Year

“What day is it?” “It’s today,” squeaked Piglet. “My favourite day,” said Pooh.
DIOCESE NEWS

The diocese newsletter *The See* is always available from the table in church. In addition the diocese website [www.blackburn.anglican.org/news.asp](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/news.asp) has been augmented by a YouTube Channel launched on October 9th. It's been a busy few months for the Diocese. You’ll find all the latest news on the Diocese website.

YouTube channel

Talking of YouTube, the new channel for the Diocese has got off to a great start. If you haven’t had a look yet, please do so and don’t forget to subscribe to the channel while you are logged in, and you will then be the first to know when future videos are uploaded.

Bishop Julian’s Deanery Days

In December, Bishop Julian completed 10 of his ‘Deanery Days’ that were planned for before Christmas, with four more to go. There have been good turnouts for the ‘Meet the Bishop’ evenings on each day which include a question and answer session. We hope to feature recorded excerpts of a Deanery evening soon on the Diocese YouTube channel; useful for anyone who couldn’t attend. The local media have followed the Bishop around the Diocese during the Deanery Days. See it on Clitheroe Advertiser’s website also.

Welcoming Bishop Julian

Sixteen of us from Downham, Chatburn and St Paul’s went to St James last month to see and hear the new Bishop of Blackburn, Bishop Julian. Over tea before the meeting, attended by Deanery Synod members, we had the pleasure of meeting his wife Heather too.

The Bishop said that he had visited both the previous Bishops of Blackburn, Alan Chesters and Nicholas Reade, to hear their views of the diocese. He told how he had been appointed to a daunting job but believed he had been given good advice in being told: ‘Just be yourself’.

Bishop Julian had come to Christ as a teenager through the teacher, now a Reader, whom he had asked to preach at his consecration service in York Minster. In choosing him, Bishop Julian was deliberately honouring the place of Readers and lay ministry in today’s Church.

Epiphany

In a sense, Christmas runs itself. Other festivals need more emphasis because they too are special, lovely and important.

Epiphany on Sunday January 5th, to be taken by Canon Peter Shepherd, celebrates the journey of the wise men and the glorious truth that Jesus is the light of the world for all people. “Wise men still seek him.”

NELSON MANDELA STILL SPEAKS

Many of us have been aware of Nelson Mandela all our lives. I remember my father’s outrage when he was given life imprisonment on Robben Island in 1964. It was the white South African authorities’ big mistake. You cannot stifle the voice of freedom, and from his prison cell Mandela evoked passion, loyalty and the hope that one day the evil apartheid system would be overthrown.

We now know more of the degrading cruelty of the apartheid system which led black people to be forcibly removed from their homes, made to live in squalid townships and humiliated in all sorts of ways. As a child Archbishop Desmond Tutu heard a white shop girl call his father, "boy". At Sharpeville in 1960 white South African police shot dead 69 black demonstrators - mainly in the back - and injured over 180 - one among other atrocities Nelson Mandela grew in stature during his 27 years in prison and emerged as a reconciler, determined to forgive those who had ill-treated him. He became the first president of the new multi-racial South Africa in 1994 and soon afterwards received the Nobel Peace Prize which he generously shared with his former opponent, F.W. de Clerk. As the world pays tribute to this great leader, we thank God for his endurance.

Put in a good word for MPs

I never share the low opinion of MPs which many seem to have. It is not the view of Leslie Griffiths, a Methodist minister and life peer, who sits in the House of Lords with the Labour Party. He said that whilst, as in all professions, there are some corrupt people, most he found - of all parties - were doing a conscientious job.

As a body MPs are viewed with distaste but when we actually meet one, he or she is usually a very approachable person with a desire to do their best. As Christians we pray for God’s kingdom to come, for which, in Britain, the elected government has a special part.

We should pray for our MPs rather than carp at them. We could even send an encouraging note. Those who are judged as no good need not be re-elected. Over pay, an independent body, not the MPs themselves, recommends the 11% increase. We can so easily slide into envy, blame and criticism. Justice may demand a place for these but we need to be valued and encouraged. We are much more in tune with Christ the Prince of Peace if we try to build up rather than sneer and put down.

Archbishop tackles energy companies

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, invited the bosses of the Big Six energy companies to a private meeting in mid-December. He said that energy companies must “behave with generosity and not merely to maximise opportunity” and that they had a huge responsibility to serve society. The meeting comes after the Most Rev Justin Welby said he understood why people felt above-inflation price rises were inexplicable and called on the companies to act with generosity. Four of the Big Six suppliers are believed to be sending their most senior UK executives, in contrast to a recent Commons select committee hearing where just one, E.on chief executive Tony Cocker, attended to face MPs.

A spokesman from Npower told Utility Week: “While energy is not the usual territory for religious leaders, it is important from a poverty point of view which is their territory, so it is right to talk.”

Source: Daily Telegraph online
ON 1st December a ring-round was quickly arranged cascading from the Warden to the pews that Communion would be in on 5th December at 7.00 pm. A brightly decorated hall with beautifully decked out tables welcomed members and guests. A delicious (with lots of previously ordered choices) three course meal provided by Tim of the Country Pantry at Waddington was followed by an entertaining distribution of the RAFFLE. Everyone was a winner, with the Christmas Fairy, Father Christmas and Elf-an-Safety in attendance. Chairman Shaun Roney thanked Carol and her helpers for a superb evening. The next meeting is on 6th March, at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.

Shaun had obviously been given some notice, the heating was on! A cosy atmosphere two whole rows of congregation, good singing led by choir members at the front and comfortable seats all added to give a very positive feel to the service.

Rodney Nicholson officiated and preached and remarked that the change had given us a different form of worship which was more personal that that felt in the lofty, traditional setting, of St Leonard.

All was mended and back to normal by the next week and our Matins was not just as warm but what we prefer in the C of E at Downham.

Christingle Service

This will be on Christmas Eve at 3.00 pm.

Christmas arrangements are detailed in the December Newsletter.

Downham and Twiston History Group

The next meeting, Thursday, 16th at 7.30 pm, at the Downham Village Hall where Harriet Roberts will be speaking on the Blackburn Orphanage, is at the kind invitation of the Downham WI at their regular meeting for January.

Coffee Club

Coffee Club members had a change in their routine for the Christmas meeting. On 19th December from 12.00 to about 2 pm a Soup and Sandwich Lunch was served by Club Leaders Barbara and Brian and helpers. Tables and Hall were seasonally decorated and the competition was won by Shaun Roney. An amusing vote of thanks to the organisers and helpers was proposed by Linda Whitney this was seconded by all present.

The January meeting will be back to normal at 10.00 am on 9th.

Vegetable Entertainment Group

Future Dates for your diaries Sunday 23rd February 2014 3pm The Horse and Bamboo Company will perform Little Red Riding Hood suitable for age 4+ and 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 lose it!

The Children’s Society

Whalley Deanery Fund Raising Committee

Candlelight Supper

The Kings Centre

Millthorne Avenue off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE

Sunday 26th January, 2014

7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

BRING A BOTTLE OF WINE (and your glasses)

Soft Drinks available

Vegetarian Option available

Selection of Salads

Delicious Puddings

ENTERTAINMENT BY THE ARDENETTES

See them on utube

Why not come along and enjoy the evening Support the Society by making a donation at the Supper.

There were gales of laughter when the members and friends of Downham WI got together for their Christmas Party held at the Call’s Head, Worston.

Following a delicious meal Betsy the Scullery Maid, otherwise known as Joanne Halilwell, arrived in costume and character to tell tales of her mistress and master, her boyfriend, Thomas and of the ‘new rage’ of a Victorian Christmas tree, stockings filled with oranges and nuts, and more.

All seen from the perspective of a lowly scullery maid, Betsy proved very entertaining, to finish she was joined by Philippa, Daphne, Susan and Peter to sing a tongue twisting version of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Joanne was thanked by President Frances Garner.

During the enjoyable evening the Competitions Cup was presented to Susan Whittaker then closed with the singing of Jerusalem and Christmas carols.

The January meeting will be held on 16th at 7.30 pm in Downham Village Hall and the speaker is Harriet Roberts ‘the Buried Treasure of James Dixon – the Blackburn Orphanage’. This is the meeting to which the History Group has been invited as our guests. The competition is ‘an old document’ and there will be a trade table with a vintage theme.

The Ardenettes are a group of three best friends. Jade, Soprano, Jessica, Mezzo and Laura, Alto. They became friends when they were all involved in Pendle Hippodrome Theatre in Colne and have been part of the Arden Youth Choir, hence their name. They all attend St Mary’s College in Blackburn where they are studying Performing Arts. The Ardenettes sing a wide range of songs varying from Classical to songs made popular by such artists as Rihanna and Adele, plus songs from the musicals.

THE ARDENETTES