

PARISH CALENDAR—2012

January			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Sunday After Christmas	11.00a m	United Carol Service Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill		Mr & Mrs B Lewis
8th	Epiphany	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs E. Parker Mrs J Whitsey
		11.00am	Matins Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
9th	Monday	7.40 pm	History Group	Village Hall	The Downham Benevolent Society	
12th	Thursday	10.00a	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
15th	Epiphany II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn		Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd. Alan Reid	Mrs P. McFall		
19th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Raw Emotions	
22nd	Epiphany III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins		Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs A, Richardson
		11.00 am	Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill		
29th	Epiphany IV	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn		Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
		11.00 am	Assheton Sermon Revd Alan Reid Preacher: Revd Andy Froud	Mrs B. Lund		
February						
5th	Septuagesima 3rd Before Lent Education Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00am	Joint Family Service Canon Rodney Nicholson			
		7.00 pm	Candle Light Supper	Kings Centre Clitheroe	In Aid of the Children's Society	

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019

OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 440173 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman and Bookings Secretary Mr Shaun Roney—441667

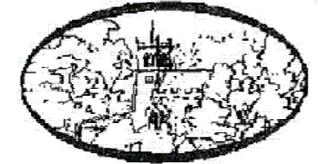
Hon. Secretary The Hon Mrs Ralph Assheton—440173



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PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2012 Issue 1 January

www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



LET ME suggest three recipes for an ongoing Happy Christmas. First, let's indeed be glad at this joyful time, remembering the angel's words to the shepherds: "I bring you Good News of great joy which will come to all the people". Whatever our age, we are meant to rejoice at Christmas. We rejoice that God so loves us that he has come amongst us. We rejoice that through Christmas - and Easter - we have a future and a hope. We rejoice that through the life which began on earth at Christmas the eventual downfall of evil and suffering is guaranteed. The child who was born was not "a good idea" or "an example" only, but a Saviour and the Son of God.

Second, let's share Jesus's birthday with hospitality. This may mean inviting someone to our home for a meal or a coffee. There are many examples of people doing this, including the warden at a local community centre who, with her husband provides Christmas dinner to anyone on their own. Our hospitality may mean welcoming a family from the Sudan or Bangladesh to our dinner table by means of a gift to Christian Aid or The Children's Society. For me, to give Jesus a present by means of a Christmas donation, is as important as to give a member of the family a gift. After all, Jesus is the one with the birthday, so he should come first in the giving list.

Third, let's remember but also explore more deeply the wonder of God giving us his own dear Son. I love all the Christmas family-type services, such as the Christingle celebration, but we run the danger of trivialising the glorious gospel. We stand spellbound by what Mary did. Practically every mother adores her baby but, great as her child may become, he or she will die one day. Mary nurtured in her womb the one who would make it possible that she herself might have eternal life. Mary carried the one who alone, by his life, death and resurrection, would conquer sin and bring in one day a renewed creation. Mary was chosen to give birth to the Son of God.

It's powerful stuff, isn't it? It's outrageous, it's revolutionary, it's mind-blowing. Christmas is not for the faint-hearted but for children - of all ages - who are prepared to be transformed by wonder.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Rodney Nicholson

Almighty God, who hast given us by thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we, being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	November	2011
COMMUNICANTS	47	621
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	261	3,,354
VISITORS	28	1,036
DONATIONS	280	7,702
HOUSE BOXES	40	209
TOTALS	609	12,301

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

David Busby who is recovering well at home

Anne Musson who similarly is recovering at home after her surgery at Blackpool Victoria

Karen Walker of Greendale who is undergoing treatment.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

27th November **Abigail May Stell**, daughter of **Simon and Trudy** of Brookside, Downham.

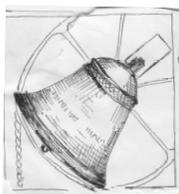
Holy Matrimony

17th December **James Brierley and Katie Brown** of Worston.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD

Wishes all Newsletter readers

A Very Happy New Year



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
Whalley Deanery Fund-raising Committee

CANDLE LIGHT SUPPER

5th FEBRUARY, 2012

at

The King Centre
Milnthorpe Avenue off
Henthorne Road
Clitheroe BB7 2LE

7.00 for 7.30 pm

Enjoy a Lasagne Supper
with delicious puddings
and vegetarian option

Bring your own wine and glasses
Soft Drinks Available
And Make a Donation
to the Society



Life's uglier side

Rodney Nicholson

OUR son-in-law, Jonathan was attacked in the Young Offenders' institute a week or so ago, where he works as a trainee forensic psychologist, trying to help the youths with their behaviour and anger problems. One offender dragged Jonathan to the floor and, although his partner immediately pressed the panic button, alerting staff who were literally outside the door, the 17-year-old kicked Jonathan's head repeatedly. Fortunately he has no permanent damage and is back at work, in a positive state of mind.

Rosie's corner

Kathleen Nicholson

SO THIS is Christmas! Such a jumble of impressions I've got. I mean, how is a little one like me expected to understand why a tree should be brought into the house! There's lots of coloured balls and glittery things on it as well. No squirrels though. That's a pity. I might have stood a chance of catching one indoors.

But then there's so much other much stuff around as well: cards hung on the walls, parcels wrapped up waiting beneath the tree. (I think there's one for me!!) What else? Oh yes, there are robins, a man dressed up in a funny red outfit, reindeer, snow, candles – well I'm sure you get the picture, and probably you're all busy with these preparations yourselves, making mince pies and puddings and lots of other good things for the feast.

Best of all there's a new born baby, and I keep hearing VicR and others talking about God coming to earth as a human being. How can this be? Oh, the mystery of it all! I would be surprised if any one of you dear readers can really take it in. No matter, go ahead and burn the candles, use the best sheets and get out the fine china. Because there's no doubt about it - Christmas is special!

Just to add to the fun I've been learning some tricks at puppy school. I can now sit, lie down and stand to order, and McK has taught me how to spin around! Not sure what the point of that is, but it seems to keep people amused, so why should I worry?

So have a wonderful time. Look out for the snowdrops appearing in January. They'll fill you with hope of the springtime to come. Oh, I almost forgot - please remember to feed the birds. But don't worry about the squirrels. It's the season for cold weather so they should all be tucked up in their nests, fast asleep. Ah, peace on earth at last!

Rosie' rules – 4) *“Be happy, have fun. Life may not be tied up with a bow, but it's still a gift.”* - Regina Brett – aged 90

Gareth, a “saint” for our time

Rodney Nicholson

GARETH Malone is a shining star who does a wonderful job creating a community choir with people who never thought they could sing or who maybe thought of a singing career but never developed the idea. The slightly-built, bespectacled young man who has made a name for himself on television has visited schools, the working-class London suburb of South Oxhey and more recently the wives and partners of army personnel serving in Afghanistan.

Singing and music are not only for the professionals and the gifted but are a gift of God to every human being. The creation itself sings the praise of its Maker, who has made us for himself and given us lungs and lips to respond with song. As John Bell, the author, broadcaster and hymn-writer has said, teachers of a past generation who told children that they could not sing, misled them grievously, for we can all sing.

Forces' wives and girl friends who said, “I've no voice”, found themselves singing at the Royal Albert Hall in front of the Queen at last month's Festival of Remembrance, and produced huge applause for their contribution. Gareth got working-class men from South Oxhey in sing in the pubs, as well as with the whole choir at an outdoor festival. He encouraged children, who could, to sing solos and encouraged others with personal tuition. He came at just the right time for one widower, who became a leading light in Gareth's choir where he even met his second wife.

From Canon Nicholson

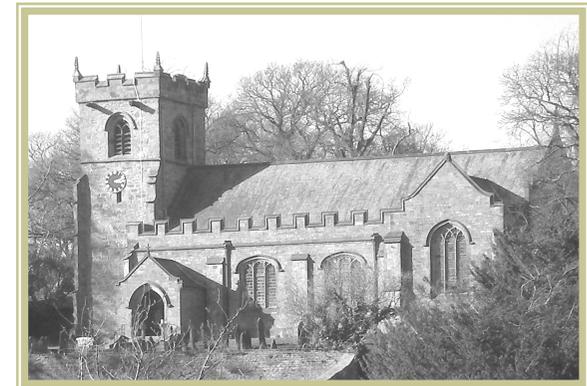
New Year Realism

FIREWORKS will go off in London and across the world. We wish each other a happy new year and some will sing Auld Lang Syne and hold new year parties, which is all fine. Anything which brings people together in innocent fun and enjoyment is good. But of course we know that problems facing the country and the world in December are still there in January. The huge issue of climate change does not pass away because it is now 2012. Young people out of work are still unemployed, no matter how many “Happy New Years” we say. Problems are real, And, yes, calling them a challenge does not make them any less of a problem. But there is abundant Good News. We have life itself and all our human potential. And we have Jesus Christ who is “the same yesterday, today and for ever”.

Wedding joys and tribulations

ST LEONARD'S was packed last Saturday for the candlelit wedding of James Brierley and Katie Browne of Worston. Close family members flew in from Chile and Australia and there were guests from Milan and Paris too, plus a fair contingent from Ilkley, and members of the Assheton family. With bell ringers in full peal and the choir in full voice, the service went with a swing, particularly in the singing of “Good King Wenceslas” and “O come, all ye faithful”. There were moments of reflection too, such as in the reading of an extract from “The Velveteen Rabbit” about how we become real through being hurt – a theme picked up in the address.

The experience of being hurt occurred all too soon when Katie's daughter, Alice (8) fell while dancing some six hours later on the wooden floor of Worston House, breaking her right arm. Katie's sister Lucy, from Norfolk, drove her to the Royal Blackburn Hospital, with Katie herself following later and staying the night there. She was comfortable but the bed provided did not exactly belong to a bridal suite! Mother and daughter returned later on the Sunday, with Alice having her arm in a pot but being very resilient about the event.



**THE PARISH CHURCH
Christmas Arrangements**

OUR Family service this Christmas will be the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 3.00 pm.



Carol singing round the village is 6:30pm from the post office-all proceeds to Asthma UK. Anyone not needing us to sing is asked to let Kirsteen know (01200) 440615

Midnight Communion will be at Chatburn, Christ Church at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Communion at 11.00 am at St Leonards.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, 1st January at 11.00 am

NOVEMBER FAMILY SERVICE

WE had a full church on Advent Sunday, November 27th, for the baptism of Abigail May Stell, daughter of Simon and Trudy of Brookside. There had been particular rejoicing over Abigail's arrival, so it was with real joy that we sang "Father, I will sing your praises..." We lit the first Advent candle and sang Advent and other popular hymns and songs. Children took part in the talk, which focused on the Advent promise that one day Jesus will return to bring peace to the whole creation.

ASSHETON SERMON



THIS year the Assheton Sermon will be given by the Revd Andy Froud, Vicar of St Mary Magdalene, Clitheroe. In 2012 the nearest Sunday to the anniversary falls on 29th January. We look forward to welcoming Andy Froud and members of the Prayer Book Society, who have also been invited, to Matins at 11.00 am., the 331st anniversary

THE VILLAGE HALL

THE Committee has been working hard to improve the heating system which was getting rather elderly. Earlier first aid included installation of some electric heaters. The award of a Grant from the Lancashire Environmental Fund saw the installation and commissioning of the last phase, a new boiler. Fortunately, this was ready on the first night of the Downham—Stage 2, play. It is reported to be warmer. The improvement, one in a now long series of changes over the past few years, should lead to a more comfortable and convenient venue for our village events and, hopefully, to increased lettings to outside groups and private events'



STAGE TWO DOWNHAM

STAGE Two Downham treated their audience to a play with a difference this time. With the two main characters – Helene Hanff and Frank Doel – engaging in a correspondence that continued for twenty years, the dialogue had to be sharp to keep the audience's interest for the duration of the play. The parts were a huge undertaking for Susie Windle and Paul McGowan who both played their roles with conviction. Helene Hanff, an American script writer and Frank Doel, a London book-shop proprietor, built up a rapport through their letters which remained platonic but gradually developed an edge of fondness.

The main players were well supported by a cast of largely silent players with the odd bit of dialogue here and there. The shop assistants blended perfectly into the background making the busy little bookshop a pleasing contrast to the American's untidy apartment. Every character was well played, with three newcomers – Paul McGowan, Megan Hirst and Isaac Tranmer - making first appearances for Stage Two.

All of the action took place on a 'split' set with contrasting lighting and relevant sound

effects playing an important part. The set reflected the hard work of the set builders and set dressers. Not least of all, the costumes took the play through the necessary twenty year time scale.

Another good play from Stage Two with producer Fran Osborne at the helm.

DOWNHAM & TWISTON GARDEN CLUB



THE CLUB enjoyed its Christmas Party on Thursday, 1st December at the Greendale Restaurant. A delicious multi-course meal was enjoyed against a background of beautifully decorated tables and jolly good company. Raffle time was introduced by Santa's helper "Elf and Safety " assisted by Rudolf. Santa and helpers handed out a prize for every one, in the now well-established tradition. Chairman Shaun Roney thanked Carole Ashworth for her hard work in organising the event.

The garden club enters a two month hibernation now until the March Meeting— full details of the programme in a later Newsletter,

Downham & Twiston Time Bank

THE Time Bank is still here. It's not used very often but when it is, it's extremely useful. For those who are new to the idea, the Time Bank is a scheme where people help each other out in all sorts of ways such as pet care, computer assistance, moving furniture, car lifts, etc. At a meeting on 7th December, members agreed that the leaflet be re-circulated in the new year, reminding people of what is available and how to use it. SH

Downham & Twiston History Group

THE Group meets next on Thursday, 9th January at the Village Hall at 7.30pm when the topic will be the Downham Benevolent Society 1789 to 1906. EW

W.I.

ON Thursday, 8th December. Members and friends of Downham WI enjoyed their Christmas party with a 4-course meal at Greendale restaurant. After the meal a game of bingo and carols rounded off the evening.



Jane Gill-Wilson, a writer from Chatburn, is the speaker at THE next meeting on the 19th January on the topic 'Raw Emotions' and on 30th January 2012, Downham will send three teams to the Federation Quiz.

Newcomers are welcome at all our meetings. EW

COFFEE CLUB

IT IS not easy to drag yourself away from the fire on a nasty wet morning, but thankfully our jolly members came just the same (could it have been the lure of the sherry?). Business was brisk as always and everyone was looking forward to their own particular arrangements for Christmas. This year has certainly flown and it seems incredible that the next Coffee Club will be in 2012.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday January 12th (snow and ice permitting!) O Awb.

