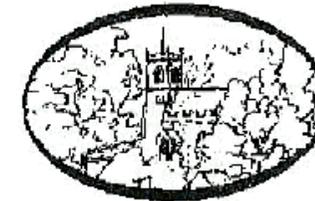


PARISH CALENDAR—2013						
May		Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners	
30	April Tue	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church		
2nd	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Club	Downham Hall		
		7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Carnivorous Plants	
5th	Easter V	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	ChristChurch Chatburn	Mrs M. Roskell	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
6th	Monday	Early May Bank Holiday				
7th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Visitation	Rishton		See page 4
12th	Sunday after Ascension	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs P. McFall	Wedding	Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis		
	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Members' Night	
19th	Whit Sunday Pentecost	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Wedding	Mrs G.Cragg Mrs K Brown
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mr B. Lewis		
	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	Members' Night	
26th	Trinity Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs C. McGrath Mrs J. Smith
		11.00am	Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill		
	Monday	Spring Bank Holiday				
June						
2nd	Trinity I	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	ChristChurch Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Lady Clitheroe Ms C. Ashworth
		11.00am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mr T. McLean		
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				

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2013 Issue 5 May

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

FORTY-two years ago I was looking for a parish in which to serve my first curacy. I visited a fairly well-heeled parish in Wakefield where the vicar had developed a popular monthly family service. He had asked a member of the congregation – a librarian – why, in her opinion, this service went so well. Her answer was interesting. “It’s because you pick up at the spiritual age where these people have left off.” In other words, these men and women had matured in their business and professional lives but, when it came to church and God, they had not grown since they were 11 years old.

My experience is similar today. When I ask wedding couples what hymns they would like, they often name school hymns, probably because they don’t know any others. This comment is not meant to be critical but simply honest. Many people’s spiritual growth was arrested when they left junior, or even infant school. Some may remember Christmas nativity plays or being in the rose queen retinue, but again it’s the linking of faith with childhood.

A similar story can be detected from talking to old people. They might give the impression that they have worshipped God in church on Sundays throughout their life but the reality may well be that the habit was practised in childhood but did not in fact survive into adult life. By this time they had girlfriends/boyfriends or were busy with work and other interests.

To be spiritually alive, everyone must discover a faith that is real for them in their 30s, 50s, 70s and which is not just a remnant of early years. By contrast, I do find today that especially young adults often know someone with a real Christian commitment. A young father, for example, who travels widely in connection with his work, told me of an interesting conversation he had had on a flight home from France with a man who was keenly involved with Christian work. Another young dad was telling me the story of a delivery driver who, through a broken marriage, had found a living faith in Christ and also, into the bargain, a new partner who shared his enthusiasm for the gospel.

Later in May we celebrate Pentecost (once called Whitsun, but today we use the bible name) when we remember that the living Spirit of God is at work calling men and women, through various means, to faith in Christ.

Rodney N. Assheton

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	March	2013
COMMUNICANTS	75	189
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	277	727
VISITORS	55	126
DONATIONS	585	1,035
HOUSE BOXES	54	54
TOTALS	971	1,942

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Karen Walker of Greendale who is undergoing treatment.
Bob Swarbrick who is making progress.
Eric Musson, Clitheroe Bellringer who helps out here at St Leonards and who is not well.

Congratulations

OUR very best wishes to **Norman and Brenda Lund** who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 22nd April and who are having a family party on 21st.

And very well done **Thomas Chadwick** who, we have just found out, has passed his Grade 5 piano exam!

Andrew Radcliffe ties the knot

ANDREW Radcliffe, one of the two Downham estate workers, was married in style to Lynda Marsh, a school teacher, on Easter Eve 30th March, with Lynda's Guide company playing a prominent part in the ceremony. The guests enjoyed refreshments in church afterwards before proceeding to the reception at Waddow Hall. The happy couple enjoyed a river cruise for their honeymoon. RN

Elsie Crane

ELSIE Crane (91), sister of the late Florence Smithies, died last month. She was born to Francis and Mary Smithies who worked on the estate – Francis in the garden and Mary as a part-time nanny – and attended the village school. She moved in Clitheroe in 1951 and from then on lived in the Bolland Prospect/Standen Road area. Elsie had two children, Barry and Julie, by her first marriage, then married the late Joseph Crane in 1976. A good cook and an accomplished pianist, with various other interests, Elsie had a number of friends who, along with her own family, will miss her. RN

Hall filming in and around the village and Back O'Thorns and an advert for Foxy Bingo.com also swelled the coffers.

The Committee

The Committee met nine times in 2012. This included the AGM which was on 30th April. The committee paid tribute to member, Elizabeth Wrigley and her sterling work on the committee. A donation in her memory was made to the East Lancashire Hospice.

During the year, Philippa McFall, Fran Osborne and Joanne Wright-Phillips resigned from the committee and were thanked for all their work. The following new members were welcomed to the committee: Kim Croydon (Stage II), Judith Nixon (Twiston), Philip Naylor (Downham), Susan Carter and Julie Ascroft (Downham Pre-school) and Brian Lewis who took over the post of treasurer in the year from Joanne. Other committee members including the chairman, Shaun Roney and Hon. Secretary Olivia Assheton were all re-elected at the AGM.

Olivia Assheton, Hon. Secretary

FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB
A Leap in the Park
SURVEYING THE PALE
Sunday 28th April, 2013
Windy Hills, Chipping
10:30am – 1:00pm

Join us for a short walk and find out more about the medieval deer park at Leagram. Come and learn how to survey the remains of the ditch and bank that form the boundary. Archaeologists from English Heritage will be giving guidance and training on the day and all equipment will be provided. Please wear strong shoes or boots and warm/waterproof clothing and bring a drink and a snack.

To book your free place please call the Forest of Bowland AONB office on 01200 448000 or email cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk

We also have another geology walk on Saturday 27th April; this time taking in the quarries at Waddington Fell and Hall Hill above Whitewell. more details from ANONB 448000.

SPECTATOR

THANK YOU to Spectator fans who stopped me to say how glad they were to see me back in the Parish Newsletter. Well to be precise, it was just the one fan, and I won't mention her name as she fears reprisals! Anyway it was good to be back and after the flattering introduction from the Editor, I will write again soon. That is as soon as I have recovered from our trip to Jersey to attend the wedding of Jon's nephew Mark.

The airport was fraught with difficulties as five intrepid travellers, three large suitcases, three cabin bags, three large handbags and two wheelchairs passed through check in, security and Special Assistance (there were so many wheelchairs on our flight that I thought we had got on the one to Lourdes by mistake!) Then I poured a cup of tea all over myself and I should warn fellow sufferers of Parkinsons that balancing 2 hot paper cups of tea one on top of the other whilst pushing a wheelchair and shaking is NOT a good idea. However, there was a silver lining, as I had to have a gin and tonic on the plane so that I could use the ice as first aid on my burnt hand!!!

The wedding was lovely, the bride too gorgeous for words and the Groom, waiting nervously but very handsomely, at the altar for his life partner to arrive. Aw. This is part of the first reading from Ecclesiastes, chapter 4 verses 9-12

Two are better than one, because they have good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him that is alone when he falleth for he hath not another to help him up!

How true, and although I can't quite see Jon helping me up if I fall or visa versa without us both ending on the floor!! I thank God every day for Jon and for a loving family and supportive friends and for kind and caring neighbours.

Downham Village Hall

Annual Review 2012

Overview

As the costs of keeping the Village Hall running – particularly electricity and heating bills – continue to rise, the committee has been working hard on arranging fundraising events for the Village Hall, as well as continuing to promote it to potential outside hirers. Despite some truly appalling weather, we went ahead with ‘the Jubilee barbeque that wasn’t’. Philippa McFall and Chrissie Naylor ended up valiantly hard at work in the kitchen cooking up the burgers and sausages for the event, the awnings and tents outside having given up the ghost after a real battering. Those and delicious salads donated by many of those who came along, made for a really memorable celebration.

Other highlights of the year included the Gardens Open at Downham Hall, which raised £3,188.83 for the Village Hall and the charity for 2012, the Ribble Rivers Trust, who came along to explain their important work reviving the Ribble catchment for the benefit of wildlife.

The Village Hall committee, with a great deal of work by Philip Naylor, Harry Brown and Brian Lewis among many other villagers put on a splendid ‘Downham Abbey’ float for the Torchlight Procession which was sponsored by all the regular village groups and the Assheton Arms. It certainly went a long way to dispelling the myth that ‘nothing happens in Downham’!

The Building

Extensive water damage to the walls in the green room, downstairs hall and disabled toilet was ably dealt with by Dave Awbery, on a voluntary basis with materials donated by the Coffee Club and very little help from committee members. The Awberys also kindly paid for new bulbs for the planters which are being expertly maintained by Frances and Peter Eldridge who were responsible for the patriotic Jubilee displays that were much admired by all. Regular maintenance and repairs

continued and our new treasurer, Brian Lewis, reviewed bank accounts, electricity contracts and other items of expenditure to ensure that the committee were getting the best deals available. Yvonne Snowden was taken on as the village hall’s new cleaner in December.

Regular Group Meetings/Committee Sponsored Events

11 Coffee Club, 8 The Downham and Twiston History Group and a large ‘open meeting’ in September. Downham WI held ten of their regular meetings in the Village Hall as well as a quiz night in January. The Garden Club held six regular meetings, plus the Annual Show on 11th August. The Village Entertainment Group (VEG) organised a children’s party in February and a ‘Spot On’ production ‘Bane’ in March. Stage 2 Downham presented a play in April. And Strictly Murder by ~Brian Clemens in November. The Cookery Club, with the NW Game Conservancy put on a cookery demonstration by Stephanie Moon in February and Carol Palmer organised a very successful Trivia Quiz in November and the annual Parish Meeting took place in the same month.

Other Bookings

In the current economic climate, having the village hall used regularly by a range of groups for different purposes provides an absolute funding lifeline through hall hire fees. If you or any friends are planning a party or celebration in the coming year – please consider/suggest the village hall as a venue. The charges are extremely reasonable compared to many other comparable venues – and, of course, you are supporting an important local community resource.

The public sector continued to support the village hall, with hirers in the year including Ribble Valley BC Ranger Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner elections and our local councillor Gary Scott. There was a welcome rise in the number of private bookings for parties and wedding receptions and other users included Mary Hall for a Macmillan Cancer fundraiser, the Mormons and the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Use of the car park for the Secret of Crickley

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS of the Parish Church took place after morning service on Sunday, 7th April. At the Vestry Meeting the Churchwardens were elected for the ensuing year. The Wardens were thanked by the Vicar Canon Nicholson for their work. Wardens for 2013/14 are The Hon Ralph Assheton, Mrs Philippa McFall and, for Twiston, Mrs Diana Wilkins.

At the annual meeting of parishioners the Annual Report of the Parish Church (enclosed with the April Newsletter) was adopted. The annual accounts for 2012 were presented by the Hon Treasurer, Mr Jon Whitsey. Mr Whitsey pointed out that the church was solvent at this time but that in the year under report expenditure would have exceeded income by about £2,000 had it not been for receipt of a film company’s fee. He urged regular contributors to review their donations.

The Parochial Church Council members, sidesmen and women, all of whom had indicated that they were willing to stand for another year, were re-elected. The meeting heard that one or two more sidesmen would be more than helpful especially in holiday periods. (Volunteers please speak to a warden or any PCC member.

Forties’ Night

CHATBURN’S next concert on Friday 17th May at 7.30pm takes a wartime theme with Sounds 18 Big Band performing the music of Glenn Miller and others. There will be a Vera Lynn style singalong, Churchill will be making speeches and professional Lindey Hop Dancers will provide exciting times. Special newsreel footage of the Dambusters raid which took place 70 years to the night will appear on the screen. Tickets are £8, available from Rodney Nicholson.

Christian Aid Week - 12th to 18th May

THE week begins with a Coffee Morning On Saturday 11th. 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon at United Reformed Church Clitheroe. The red envelopes will come through your door again, (in Twiston with this Newsletter).

We are all among the wealthy of the world, the top 8%. We have a roof over our heads, water on tap, enough food and clothing, spare change in our pockets. Let us all make a really meaningful contribution this year towards feeding the one in eight going to bed hungry. Taxpayers completing the Gift-aid slip add 25% to their gift at no extra cost to themselves. Please take the trouble to fill it in. We will try to collect all envelopes personally. Or you can put them through my door, 18, Old Well Hall,, or leave them in Church.

David Cameron has called a Hunger Summit in London on Saturday 8th June, and a week later will host the G8 world leaders in Northern Ireland. IF...we provide aid to help the poor feed themselves- IF...taxes are paid in poor countries-IF....land is used for food and not fuel- IF...companies and governments are more transparent- IF.... enough people call for a fairer food system for all, global leaders will have to pay attention and take action. A coach will be travelling to London from Clitheroe on 8th June, local people can add their voices to this call. Find out more at christianaid.org.uk/if

THE PARISH CHURCH

SONGS OF PRAISE

YOU still have time to let Anne or Kirsteen know which of your favourite hymns you would like to sing on 28th April. There will be no 8.30 am service at Downham or Chatburn on 28th.

Our next Family Service will be on 28th May, at 11.00 am.

LENT APPEAL

THANKS to all who responded to the TOGETHER LANCASHIRE appeal for contributions to the food bank which was published in the March edition of the Newsletter. Thanks also to Brian and Barbara who delivered our contributions to the depot in Burnley.

Clitheroe Christians in Partnership is launching a Ribbles Valley Food Bank in July and ask that we support the Salvation Army food appeal in the meantime.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

THE Coffee Morning organised by the Whalley Deanery Fundraising Committee of the Children's Society, at Browsholme Hall raised £360 for the Society's work.

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Robert Parker for opening their home and Garden for this event and to all helpers and those who donated cakes and items for the Raffle and Bric-a-brac.stall. PMcF

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION

THE Visitation for newly elected Churchwardens in the Accrington and Whalley Deaneries will take place on Tuesday, 7th May, at 7.30 pm at Rishton St Peter and St Paul.

PCC members are invited also to support their Wardens at this induction service.



VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT

THE Annual Report of the Village Hall Management Committee is included in this Newsletter and will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting on 22nd April at 6.30 pm. Report of the meeting next Month.

HISTORY GROUP

MEMBERS' Night planned for Monday, 15th April, has been postponed to Monday 20th May, when we will review projects in hand and plan a programme for work and speaker topics for the coming year.

ROAD REPAIRS

LCC Highways department have given advance notice of planned road resurfacing work on Downham Road between Green Lane (to Rimington) and Ribblesdale Lane (in Chatburn). This will just be "surface dressing", so not much digging up will be done. The work is due to happen sometime in the next 3 months. RCA

GARDEN CLUB

ON Thursday, 4th April, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, members were given a presentation and talk by Tim Smith on "Antiquarian Gardens". He showed old implements and gardening paraphernalia collected over the years. He showed slides on colour combinations not only in planting but also in the use of artefacts including scrap items to enhance and add personal interest to planting schemes. Members were invited to inspect books and items he had brought along. refreshments were served and the raffle—as good as ever— was drawn.

Our next meeting is on 2nd May at 7.30 when the topic is Carnivorous Plants, a talk by Alan Leyland,

The last Newsletter enclosed the programme and Annual Show details for 2013 and mentioned new Show classes for Children—a copy of which will be enclosed in the Next Newsletter. As usual, additional copies of the schedules and entry forms will be available in July on the table in church. CA



COFFEE CLUB

GOOD to see everyone again after last month's cancellation. We were pleased to have a generous donation of lovely cupcakes from Carole, they looked so pretty on the counter. How nice it is to have 'new' residents calling in to see us and have a cuppa, a good way to meet everyone in a relaxed atmosphere and they will always be made welcome. The Bring & Buy was popular as usual thanks to our stalwart sales-girls Edith and June.

Don't forget that next month's meeting is a week early and is on 2nd May at Downham Hall by kind invitation of Olivia, I am sure we will all enjoy that! Hope to see you there.



EARLY publication of the Newsletter because of Print Department holidays means two WI reports next month.



THE SAGA OF NOGGIN THE NOG

SUNDAY'S production of Noggin the Nog was enjoyed by almost a hundred children, parents and grand-parents. The cast of four was very versatile and interchanged their characters with great skill and humour. They kept everyone thoroughly entertained and the appearance of an enormous green (friendly) dragon caused great excitement amongst the children, some of whom sat on the floor and could almost smell its breath! Mums and Dads of a certain age had a very nostalgic experience and the afternoon was a huge success. BL

Thanks to VEG (village entertainment group for the arrangements

oooOooo

Did you go to Downham Youth Group?

Downham youth group will be re-opening its doors for one night only to celebrate

Derrick Smith's 80th birthday on Saturday 8th June 2013

Derrick has said no presents please but donations to Downham Village Hall are invited.

More Details next month

oooOooo