

Parish Calendar - 2014

May			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Jeff Hutchins - Garden Orchids	
4th	Easter II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs S. Marlow Mrs E. Parker
		11.00 am	Holy Communion St Mary's Clergy	Mr T. McLean		
8th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
11th	Easter III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs E. Parker	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick	
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B. Lund		
13th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Whalley Deanery Visitation	Blackburn Cathedral	Wardens and PCC members are invited	
15th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Members' Night	
18th	Easter IV	8.30 am	Holy Communion	Christ Church Chatburn	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis	
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P McFall		
19th	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	Jenny Palmer—Pendle Family	
25th	Easter V	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs D. Wilkins	Mrs A Holden Mrs T. Stell	
		11.00 am	Family Service Canon Rodney Nicholson	Mrs B. Lewis		
27th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church		
31st	Saturday	2.00 pm	Naylor/Frizell Wedding	St Leonard's		

June

1st	Easter VI	8.30 am	Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson	Christ Church Chatburn	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey	
		11.00 am	Holy Communion St Mary's Clergy	Mr T. McLean		
2nd	Monday	6.30pm	Village Hall Management	Village Hall		
5th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Chairman's Walk	

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

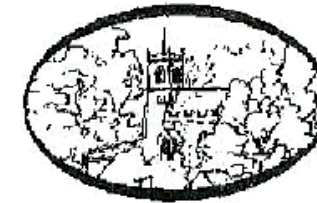
Hon Secretary The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210

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PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2014 Issue 5 May

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

THERE'S a well known saying, "Kick one and they all limp", meaning that many people in a village or small community are related, so that if you hurt one, you hurt the others. I first met the expression in my old parish in Blackburn but I have heard it equally applied to parts of my present parishes. It shows that villages are not so unique as residents think they are. People are in many ways the same the world over. It would not surprise me if the "Kick one" saying were known in Barnard Castle and Barrow-in-Furness.

Similarly there's the old chestnut, "If you can see Pendle Hill, it's going to rain; if you can't, it is raining". I have heard that one used elsewhere. It's probably used in the Welsh valleys and the Cumbrian fells.

More foolish is the notion that people in the south are unfriendly whereas we northerners abound with the milk of human kindness. There are kind people and selfish people wherever you go. We have experienced great help from Londoners who are supposed to be so aloof and any vicar in a southern town will tell of great kindness in his or her parish. Today we call this "stereotyping" which many of us so easily do, only to realise our mistake.

Yesterday I was in the company of a chauffeur driving the funeral limousine which transported family members and myself to and from the crematorium. It was only when we got chatting, just before he dropped me off, that he revealed his continuing sadness at the death of his wife from cancer a year ago, after over forty years of happy marriage. The new life which he was trying to carve out had included walking with friends around Stonyhurst a few days earlier. We briefly rub shoulders with people, unaware of their pain.

Whoever we are, wherever we live, whatever our background, we have something of the light of Christ in us. We are beautiful in the sight of God but we are also sinners and need a saviour. Jesus died to bring all people to himself. He rose from the dead so that his new life might be available to all. Rather than say, "The people of this parish have *this* characteristic" it is truer to say, "People round here are all the same: they are loved by the heavenly Father and need to find their peace and joy in him".

Rodney Nicholson

Welcoming the six parishes

THIS Sunday, 27th April, a service of welcome is being held at St Mary's, Gisburn at 6.30pm to welcome the six parishes from the former Bradford diocese. Bishop Julian will preach, and all are welcome.

RN

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	March	2014
COMMUNICANTS	61	147
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	109	475
VISITORS	44	86
DONATIONS	790	1,255
HOUSE BOXES	-	-
TOTAL	943	1,816

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Norman Lund who is recovering at home after a period in hospital following a fall which fractured two bones in his foot.

Jean Whitsey who is recovering and has been out and about again.

The Family of the Late **Billy Barker**

INVITATION TO MARRIAGE SERVICE

Philip and Christine hope that Parishioners will join the families of Amy and Dan on the occasion of their marriage in St Leonard's church at 2.00 pm on Saturday, 31st May.

WELCOME & Good Luck in your new homes

Stewart Cutis from Cumbria, who has moved into Lowergate Farm House with **Mackey**, a 7 month old collie who he is training as a therapeutic dog.

Fay Weatherall, from Harrogate and **Sue Brooks** of Baildon have moved in at 2, Pendle Cottage, Twiston. They are business partners who are planning to take over the Lock Stop Cafe, at Greenbenfield, Barnoldswick.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK. 11th -17th May

Diane, Diana, and Jill will soon be calling on you in Downham and Twiston, swinging the familiar red bag of envelopes.



Work goes on all the time in all parts of the world: still in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake; still in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan; still in India after Cyclone Phailin; helping to repair roads, rebuild homes, providing food, water purification tablets, shelter.

And Christian Aid works in more than a dozen countries where conflict drives poverty, helping to provide life-saving emergency supplies to people fleeing violence, building peace through advocacy and dialogue, helping communities recover after the tide of war has passed, and trying to ensure the voices of those who have suffered are heard, in the interests of a just and lasting peace. Individually we feel helpless in the face of so much suffering, so many disasters; we want to look away. But TOGETHER we can make a difference. CHRISTIAN AID WEEK is an opportunity for us all

J.C

TWO ANNUAL MEETINGS IN APRIL

THE PARISH CHURCH

THE Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held at St. Leonards Church, Downham, after the Communion Service and coffee, at 12.15pm on Sunday, 6th April.

At the Vestry Meeting, opened by Canon Rodney Nicholson, the apologies for absence were read and accepted as were the minutes of the last meeting. The Church Wardens were re-elected unanimously.

The same apologies were read and accepted for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, with the minutes of the last meeting. The annual report of the Parish Church, circulated with the April Newsletter, was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

Mr Jonathon Whitsey presented the audited accounts, which were adopted by the meeting. He thanked the auditors for their help and support and Messrs Adams and Co, of Clitheroe were re-elected Auditors for the ensuing year. Jon announced that, due to ill health, he was resigning his post of Treasurer after fifteen years service. The full meeting added their good wishes and thanks for loyal service.

Members to the PCC were re-elected with the exception of Mrs Carolyn McGrath who had resigned and Mr Brian Lewis who was newly elected. Mrs Diana Wilkins and Mrs Philippa McFall will continue as the Deanery Synod representatives. The Sidesmen and women were re-elected en bloc and thanked for their work over the year.

In the chairman's remarks Canon Nicholson explained he was retiring in September as Priest in Charge and Rev. Andy Froud from St. Marys was taking over, Mr Froud will be part of the vicars rota starting in the summer. Lord Clitheroe, Patron, thanked Canon Nicholson for his work for St. Leonards and wished him well.

Mrs Brenda Lund on behalf of her husband, Norman, Warden Emeritus, who was in hospital after a fall, thanked all the officials and visiting clergy for all their work in supporting Canon Nicholson and worship at St Leonard's. The meeting sent Norman best wishes for a speedy recovery.

THE VILLAGE HALL

THE Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall took place on Monday, 14th April. The Annual Review (circulated with the April Newsletter) was adopted unanimously. The Officers and committee were re-elected, with the exception of Mrs Judy Nixon who stepped down and Dr Dave Awbery who was elected for the first time. The Hon Treasurer presented the annual accounts and his budget for the ensuing year. These were unanimously adopted.

Plans for the Gardens Open 12th and 13th July were confirmed. Requests for raffle and other Prizes, cakes and help with some stalls were made. A Village Sports and Jacob's join picnic on the Hall Lawns on August 16th was also confirmed—more details in a future Newsletter.

A working party to try, again, to sort out the damp problem on the outside wall of the oldest part of the building was arranged. A tidy up has been organised for 4th May, at 10.00 am—if anyone has an hour to spare they will be most welcome.

The next Committee Meeting is to be on 2nd June at 6.30 pm.

SPECTATOR

SOMETIMES I have an idea for the Spectator and they are always the best pieces I write. They just flow and I laugh even before I can get the words down. We'll this isn't one of those, sorry, my mind is a blank and I am hoping for inspiration as I go along or to get to the end having blagged my way through and fooled you into thinking you have read something interesting!

I am a bit shocked that this is for May's magazine already and I'm sure this is the fastest year of my life so far, and Billy Connelly said since turning 60, his life goes, "should aud acquaintance be forgot"....."happy birthday to you"...."we wish you a Merry Christmas"...."should aud acquaintance !!!" . I know just what he means.

I did think I could possibly write the whole piece on Rodney, our lovely Vicar who, in an unprovoked and surprising attack called me "outrageous" in his sermon recently. And even though he qualified this by saying Jesus could sometimes be outrageous, this was only a comfort to me until I looked up the meaning of outrageous on Google.. "shockingly bad, excessive, disgraceful, abhorrent, heinous...etc etc" Tut..Well! I think Jesus would be with me on this one when I say this is a bit of a slur and I think Rodney should Google the meaning of 'slander' Hmm! "I think he might have got the wrong word" said my wonderful husband, trying to live by the very intelligent saying I told him about recently, and here it is for other husbands information, "happy wife = happy life" unhappy wife = not worth thinking about!" Anyway, wrong word, reminded me of the brilliant comedian Peter Kay when he did a sketch on misheard song lyrics. The one in question was "We are Family" by Sister Sledge who sang "just let me say for the record" but which sounds an awful lot like "just let me STAPLE THE VICAR".....now THATS a good idea!
(only kidding Rodney x)

20 years of women priests

IN 1992 the Church of England after years of argument passed the historic vote which opened the priesthood to women. Then in 1994 the first women priests were ordained. A great supporter of women priests and women bishops, Bishop Julian is leading the celebrations of this great event, with a service of joy in Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday 24th May at 11am to be followed by a picnic in the cathedral grounds. He and twenty others from the diocese are also taking part in a celebratory walk in London from Westminster Abbey to St Paul's Cathedral.
RN

COFFEE CLUB

WE had another busy coffee club in April (how time flies) it doesn't seem five minutes since we were planning our Christmas party and here we are now well into Spring. We've welcomed a few new faces this year and as always extend a warm invitation to any Downham and Twiston residents, young and not so young, to come along and sample what's on offer, from a right good natter, jigsaws, books and not forgetting June and Edith's famous bring and buy stall (you just might pick up a treasure) Carole and I try to vary the cakes on offer and you wouldn't believe the planning that goes into the final decisions! There's one other member of the team who is indispensable, especially when it comes to using a dishcloth, thank you Brian I've trained you well!! Our next meeting is on the 8th of May at the usual time of 10 o'clock, looking forward to seeing you all.
BL



BILLY BARKER 1921—2014

BILLY, formerly of the White House Downham and Greendale, Chatburn has died in a Great Harwood Nursing Home (after apparently recovering from a sudden illness last year which saw him hospitalised for fifteen weeks) at the age of 92. His family had come to Downham in 1840.

Billy was born in a cottage behind Bridge Road Chatburn where the family lived after Thomas, his father, married Edith Duckworth at Christ Church, Chatburn. Billy, mischievously, used to say "born behind the Chatburn chip shop". The family moved to Brookside, Downham in 1926. Billy's father died at the age of 43 leaving Edith with only ten shillings and three pence a week to bring up the family. She supplemented this by running a shop from her Downham home at Brookside.

Billy went to the new Ribblesdale School in Clitheroe in 1933. When he left school Billy worked at his uncle's grocery store in Kendall Street, Clitheroe for four shillings and sixpence a six-day week—plus his dinners. He began to drive for his uncle's shop at 17, then improved his prospects when he started to work for Holgate's Hauliers of Chatburn.

Billy had known Elsie since childhood and were married in 1943 at the Methodist Chapel at Chatburn. Billy had joined the RAF in 1942, serving in Europe and, after the end of the war with Germany, in the far east. He wrote to his wife every day.

After the war Billy and Elsie lived at 48, Downham Road, Chatburn and Billy started driving a cement tanker for the Ribblesdale Cement Works. In 1959 Billy's mother died and her cottage where she had the shop was demolished. Also in 1959 Billy and Elsie moved into the Greendale Cafe and Guest House on Downham Road and Billy continued to work for the cement works and Elsie to run a catering business and bring up their family, Robin, Brenda and Billy.

After 16 years at Greendale, catering for large events and opening for teas and taking in guests, they retired to the White House in Downham in 1975. They both remained active throughout their retirement years, Elsie at the WI and Billy secretary of the Downham Village Hall for many years, delivering meals on wheels together for some years and appearing as extras in the TV series Born and Bred. They took part enthusiastically in village events.

Elsie died in September, 2011 and Billy reluctantly moved from Downham to be nearer his family in Great Harwood in November where he had a Warden-assisted flat. After his illness he returned to a nursing home in September, 2013, where he was well looked-after. He will be sadly missed by his family Brenda and Billy, his seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Billy's Funeral service will be at 2.00 pm on Friday, 2nd May at Downham St Leonard, prior to interment at Martin Top Chapel.

Summer Festival

BISHOP Julian invites people from across the diocese to a great Summer Festival on 21st and 22nd June, Saturday and Sunday at Arnold KEQM School, Lytham. On Saturday there are events throughout the day from 10 for 10.30am through until 9pm, including an open air Eucharist, Salvation Army band, Christian Clown Roy Bain, a ceilidh and a youth event. On the Sunday Pilgrim Praise – a celebration service – will be held at 5pm.

Morecambe Bay Walk

ON 14th May there is the annual walk across Morecambe Bay for the Leprosy Mission, this year led by Cedric Robinson, the Queen's guide and taking a different route. See the notice in church for details or ring Nick Calland on (01925) 790751.

THE PARISH CHURCH

Mothering Sunday

MOTHERING Sunday on 30th March was an enjoyable occasion with about 25 in the congregation and half a dozen children. Everyone received a small bunch of daffodils and coffee was served after the service.

As usual Revd Anne Hardacre spoke inspiringly, mentioning all those who care for children, as well as mothers. **PMcF.**

Bishop's visit

WE had an inspiring Holy Week with the Bishop of Blackburn, Bishop Julian, speaking every evening in all five of our churches—except for Good Friday when he preached to a packed congregation in St Paul's in the morning. Geoffrey Hitchen, Roy Porter and Andrew Hall provided a splendid musical trio to lead the worship in St Leonard's on the Tuesday before Easter. Bishop Julian referred to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness, unaware, until Lord and Lady Clitheroe enlightened him, that that very scene is depicted in the east window.

Bishop Julian came across as a warm, unassuming and very approachable man of God who preaches the gospel without apology wherever he goes. The diocese is enormously blessed to have him, as we are with our two suffragan Bishops, John and Geoff – of Burnley and Lancaster. Sadly Bishop John retires in July. **RN**

WHALLEY DEANERY

PRIMARY VISITATION—2014

PCC members are requested to attend the Primary Visitation for the Admission of Churchwardens in the Cathedral and Parish Church of Blackburn St Mary the Virgin, with St Paul on Tuesday 13 May 2014 at 7.30

At this Primary Visitation there will also be the formal Diocesan welcome by the Bishop of Blackburn, to the seven Bradford parishes of Hurst Green and Mitton, Waddington, West Bradford, Gisburn, Bolton-by-

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GARDEN CLUB

WHAT a wonderful evening it turned out to be at Chatburn Methodist Chapel, on Thursday! At 7.15 we had no speaker, at 7-20 we had a "volunteer" that gave us a very interesting, nostalgic, and amusing talk. Mr Roy Porter was the gentleman who took us down memory lane with "50 Years a Butcher". What a lovely wander we had, starting with all the butchers' shops there were in Clitheroe 50 years since, (including all the names of the butchers) to how many were still in the same business now. Then he went on to talk about how the demand for meat had changed, also the way butchering and health & safety have altered over the years. We had a very informative talk given in a wonderful, amusing way. Roy is celebrating not only 50 years a butcher, but also on the same premises!

Our many congratulations and thanks go to Roy and also to Daphne for thinking of Roy and of course (more important) for the delicious homemade cakes which, with tea, were our refreshments at the end of the evening.

The Garden Club programme and Show Schedule is enclosed in this Newsletter. Our next meeting, on Thursday, 1st May, at 7.30 pm will be back in Downham Village Hall, with the speaker being Mr Jeff Hutchings who will be giving us a talk on Garden Orchids. **CA**



DOWNHAM AND TWISTON HISTORY GROUP March Meeting

ROGER Frost from Briercliffe gave us a whistle-stop tour of some of the medieval monasteries of Lancashire and Yorkshire, with special reference to Whalley Abbey. His enthusiasm conveyed insights into the daily life of the Cistercian monks at Whalley, living, as they did, behind walls built to impede the invading Scots. With details taken from the Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1531-2, he demonstrated the wealth the monks accumulated from the production of wool and grain on their farms and granges, as well as from tithes that were paid to them and how this wealth was finally confiscated and, to a large extent, dissipated by Henry VIII. Roger's latest book 'The Calder' is available from W.H. Smith's. **JP**

OUR April Meeting on 28th in the Village Hall, will be a mix of historical farming fact, family anecdotes and poetry. When Christine Thistlethwaite joins us at 7.30pm

On 19th May at 7.30 at the Village Hall the meeting will be a talk and the Launch of our own Jenny Palmer's book *Whipps, Watsons and Bulcocks—a Pendle Family History, 1560-1960.*



The WI First Aid course on Wednesday 9th March was very well taught by Eric Lee of Lancashire Red Cross, who combined a direct style with humour and audience participation to revise unconsciousness (breathing and not breathing) including shock, heart attack, stroke and coma. He also introduced many people to the defibrillation machine and stimulated members to think about locating one in the Village.

Rhyme or Reason March Meeting

THE reason – Downham WI's 94th Birthday Party.

Actually there is no rhyme or reason for our choice of theme : three years ago we had a



Chinese night, last year a Lancashire night and after the cloth caps and witches outfits thought it would be nice to 'dress up' hence 'Venice night'. The members and guests looked very stylish and Venetian wearing beautiful and varied masks.

To keep with the theme, Tim, from Country Kitchen, Waddington served up a delicious Lasagne with salad and new potatoes followed by assorted puddings.

The rhyme(s) were tales of 'Doris and Elsie' two feisty Lancashire housewives. Written and performed by Anne Wareing and Kath Eccleston, who, from executing little sketches for family and friends, have gone on to publish books in aid of Derian House. **C.N**

DOWNHAM W.I. enjoyed an excellent talk at the April Meeting by Gail Newsham. Gail who played football in her younger years has researched the forgotten history of the Dick, Kerr Ladies football club, who were the most successful Women's British Football team. At a time when men went to the First World War the women had to go into the factories and onto the land to do the men's' jobs, it opened up many opportunities for young working class women, Dick, Kerr was an ammunition factory in Preston. The munitions factories had large numbers of women so sporting activities were organised for them in their spare time and many factories formed ladies football teams. The Dick, Kerr Ladies were the most successful and Gail has rescued their story from being forgotten altogether. The ladies attracted large crowds of male and female supporters and were enormously successful at raising money for the boys at the front. Gail's talk was moving and interesting and can be highly recommended as an important part of womens' social history.

Julie Parker gave a report on the Spring Council meeting at Southport. Susan Whittaker gave a report on the recent First Aid course in the Village Hall.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 15th May which will be Members Night and is a resolutions meeting. **A.K**