

PARISH CALENDAR 2010

| June | | | Event | Sidesmen/ women | Altar Flowers | Church Cleaners |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3rd | Thursday | 6.00 pm | Garden Club | Meet on the Bridge | Visit Huntingdon Hall Gardens | |
| 6th | Trinity I | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Chatburn Christ Church | Lord & Lady Clitheroe | Mrs E. Parker Mrs J. Whitsey |
| | | 11.00 am | Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid | Mrs P. McFall | | |
| 10th | | 10.00 am | Coffee Club | Village Hall | | |
| 13th | Trinity II | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Mrs E. Parker | | Mr & Mrs J. Whisey |
| | | 11.00 am | Matins Canon Rodney Nicholson | Mrs B. Lund | | |
| 17th | Thursday | 7.30 pm | WI | Greendale | Bingo and Supper Evening | |
| 20th | Trinity III | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Chatburn Christ Church | Wedding Flowers | Mrs D Braithwaite Mrs J. Oldfield |
| | | 11.00 am | Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid | Mr T. McLean | | |
| 26th/ 27th | Saturday/ Sunday | 7.00 am- 7.00 pm | National Road Race Cycle Championship | | Road Closure on Sunday - see below | |
| 27th | Trinity IV | 08.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Miss R. Newton | | Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins |
| | | 11.00 am | Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre | Mrs A. Greenhill | | |
| July | | | | | | |
| 1st | Thursday | 7.30 pm | Garden Club | Visit Ings End | | |
| 4th | Trinity V | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Chatburn Christ Church | Lord & Lady Clitheroe | Hon Mrs R. Asheton Mrs J. Phillips |
| | | 11.00 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Mr T. McLean | | |

National Road Race Cycle Championships 2010 touch the Parish at Annel's Cross

Sunday 27th June is the date set for the event which will include the Elite Men and Elite Women's races, with over 300 cyclists taking part. Pendle Council's Director of Regeneration, Brian Cookson, says "This will be the biggest cycling road race in the North West since the Commonwealth Games. In fact, it's the biggest sporting event Pendle has ever seen". The route, along which **roads will be closed** on 27th from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm, starts in Barley, comes up to Annel's Cross, turns right along Wheathead Lane, right at Blacko to Roughlee, along to Happy Valley and back to Barley.

Two access roads which affect Downham and Twiston are: the closure of Pendle Road to motor vehicles, except for access, from the village Bridge to Annel's Cross for the duration of the race: and no vehicular access from Twiston Lane to the course or into Pendle Road towards Downham for the same period. A shuttle bus for spectators will run from sign-posted parking in Downham Village to Annel's Cross.

On Saturday, 26th there will be a Sportieve (race) with riders starting at intervals from 8.00 am from Barley and routed through Downham, but not entailing any road closures.

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019

OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 440173 Miss Rachel Newton—429730 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman and Bookings Secretary Mr Shaun Roney—441667

Hon. Secretary The Hon Mrs Ralph Assheton—440173

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2010 Issue 6 June



From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint



LAST week I was showing a group of children round St Paul's church. At one point, as we gathered around the font to talk about baptism, I had a sudden desire to fully include a Muslim girl who was standing there. "Muslims have great respect for Jesus," I said to her. "They honour him as a very special person." The little girl's face lit up, maybe encouraged by this affirmation of her own family and faith. She followed with interest the discussion about baptism and, a little later, when we briefly and simply acted out a wedding service, I made her one of the bridesmaids.

Relationships matter more than rules, as the current Mothers' Union News says on its front cover. It is important and enriching to have time for people and to get to know them other than superficially. Regarding my little Asian girl, of course there are differences between the Muslim and Christian Faiths. This Sunday, Trinity, we mark the central and non-negotiable Christian conviction that Jesus is fully God and fully man. But we don't need to focus on differences when meeting someone of another faith, any more than two politicians of opposing parties have to start with their disagreements. Muslims honour Jesus – maybe more than most English people do, for Jesus, to many white British, is either an irrelevance or a swear word. We can learn much through someone of another culture.

Last Friday and Saturday the Clitheroe churches held an event in the market place called, "On the Move". Working with a voluntary organization which provided all the equipment, led by a Warrington vicar, free hot dogs were served from 12 to 2pm, with local Christians forming a music group to provide a welcoming atmosphere". At intervals, a brief gospel message was given but the key element was the offering of unconditional hospitality. There was a queue throughout the two hours as people accepted the invitation and sat down at the tables, with friendships being renewed and conversations taking place, sometimes about faith and what it meant. A number of people received prayer.

Jesus met men and women in a relaxed setting, often over a meal. He meets us through one another, especially when we share concerns and perhaps talk about our journey in life so far. We are made for relationships, with one another and with Jesus.

Rodney Nicholson

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
Alternative collect for Trinity

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES

| | APRIL | 2010 |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| COMMUNICANTS | 63 | 192 |
| COLLECTIONS | | |
| SERVICES | 173 | 564 |
| VISITORS | 113 | 195 |
| DONATIONS | 1,217 | 2,012 |
| HOUSE BOXES | 100 | 105 |
| TOTALS | 1,603 | 2.876 |

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR:

Olive Awbrey recovering at home from her post-surgery complication.
 Elizabeth Wrigley who is recovering, in hospital, after her hip operation.
 Jean Whitsey also recovering at home after treatment to her fractured hip.
 Norman Knowles Norman is awaiting surgery.

FAREWELL

Keith & Audrey Eastham who have moved away from the Bungalow at Hey House Farm.
 Ros Chamberlain of 2, Greendale View, who has moved to Clitheroe.
 We wish you good luck in your new homes.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism
 9th May, Evie daughter of David & Lindsay Shuttleworth of Gisburn

GUIDED TOURS—BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

At 2.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month a guided tour of the Cathedral will be available for all.

There will be no need for would-be tourists to notify anyone of their intentions to attend.

Simply report to George Kirby at the Welcomers' Desk in time for the 2.00pm start.

Relevant dates for the remainder of 2010 are:

23rd June, 28th July, 25th August, 22nd September, 27th October & 24th November.

Stage Two Downham



The Company played to good audiences for their recent play 'Table Manners', the second in the trilogy of plays 'The Norman Conquests' by Alan Ayckbourn.

The strong cast of six players combined their talents to portray three somewhat dysfunctional couples thrown together for a weekend of disharmony around the dining table.

Sarah, played elegantly by Pat Bowker, interfered, complained and nagged throughout the play, her husband Reg, often the butt of her frustration and unhappiness. Brian Haworth played the bluff and hearty Reg convincingly with his weak unfunny jokes and, at other times, pensive moments when recalling his boyhood pastime of aeroplane modelling. Lesley Haworth's adept characterisation of the dowdy unattractive Annie, a hair's breadth from a weekend away with Norman, presented another contrasting character in the family melee. Norman's conquest fell flat due to Sarah's interference, although Bob Cleeve, in this popular role for the third time, did not let the audience down. Cheery and carefree, Norman justified his actions easily, expecting his family to take his philandering in their stride. Steve Cooke skillfully portrayed Tom, the 'nice but dim' vet, a frequent visitor because he is sweet on Annie but totally unable to get to the point. His part created some comic moments, the best being when he threw a punch at Norman at the dinner table. The part of Ruth, Norman's wife, was well played by Glen Purchase, ranging from clumsy short-sightedness to a rather grand and very dismissive businesswoman.

A gentle comedy, the play was directed competently by Eddie Bootle with excellent backing from the set builders, behind the scenes team and front of house.

Another success for Stage Two.

Watch out for the third of the trilogy planned for April 2011.

The autumn play '84 Charing Cross Road' will be staged from November 24-27 2010.

Stage Two Downham



members invite you

to join them for
AN EVENING WALK

[approx. 5 miles]

Tuesday 29 June 2010

starting at 7pm.

Meet outside Assheton Arms

Otis pays a visit

Rodney Nicholson

WE ENJOYED the company of our former Guide Dog puppy, Otis, at the end of April, who is now a full trained, working dog. Kathleen and Richard met him and his master, Mark, at Lancaster station, Otis having helped him across two railway stations already - Derby and Crewe. They returned him to the same spot four days later.

Mark, together with other blind people, had enjoyed his long weekend near Penrith, walking, cycling and canoeing. We assume that cycling meant being on a tandem behind a sighted cyclist and canoeing, likewise, being behind a leader, but it is excellent that such opportunities are available for able-bodied blind people. And full marks to those who lead such weekends.

Mark, who teaches social work students in Nottingham, enjoyed the weekend so much that he is going on another one in Whitehaven in September, when Otis will visit us again.

Today's technology can be a real boon to blind people. Instead of the old, cumbersome Braille, Mark used a digital diary to retrieve information, and a blind lady in the group was able to find her reserved seat on the train, by using a digital box which she carried. Disabled people are blessed by such modern aids.

First car in Downham

Rodney Nicholson

I WAS talking to George Sharpe recently whose grandfather, also called George, drove the first motor car in Downham. Born into a farming family at Beadlam Rigg, George became the coachman for a doctor in Helmsley, then served as a domestic/coachman for a gentleman.

He moved to Downham in 1901 to be a domestic/coachman for the present Lord Clitheroe's great grandfather, Sir Ralph Assheton, upon whose death in 1907 he continued his employment with Lord Clitheroe's grandfather, Ralph. In 1912 Sir Ralph Assheton sent him to the Midlands to learn how to drive a car, after which he drove the family's first motor vehicle – a Vauxhall Landulette, with a soft roof, bought for £740 – back to Downham Hall.

He worked at the Hall for 36 years, dying in 1936 at the age of 64. His wife, Mary Ellen, accompanied him on the move to Downham but their family of four sons and three daughters were all born during their time at the coachman's house in Top Row. They were all good singers, having learnt the art while singing around the family piano. They also took part in church life and sang in the choir. Kit, the father of the present George Sharpe, and others rang the bells. When grandfather George died, Mary Ellen moved down to the bottom of the hill, where she lived until she was 93. She died in about 1968 and was buried in the churchyard.

All the Sharpe children moved away from Downham when they grew up and got married. Kit, for example, had enough points to acquire a council house in Chatburn. Always a good singer, he sang with Whalley Singers until he was nearly 90.

Use your legs - be content!

I OFTEN talk to a 78-year-old man whom I know well as a leading member of another church. He is sprightly and fit - a condition which no doubt is partly due to his walking wherever possible. People have health problems for various reasons, which often are not their fault. Their condition may be inherited from one of their parents, or it may be a result of bad practices at work, such as a car mechanic lying, without protection, on the garage floor when he was a young man.

Equally, however, there are factors over which we do have control, and taking exercise is one of them. Some children seem to be taken everywhere by car but the result may be that they develop into over-weight adults, whose life-expectancy could be reduced. Paradoxically, living in the country can lead to less exercise, since nowhere is in walking distance

I myself was pretty hopeless at sport in my school days, although I did some cross country running. I wouldn't mind guessing, however, that some of my fellow pupils who gained victory on the rugby field would have difficulty now in running upstairs, two steps at a time, which is something I do quite naturally. I'm sure there's a place for going to the gym, and some activities are recommended by a doctor but, in general, walking (including walking upstairs, not using a lift), gardening, cycling and swimming are just as effective - and they're free. It is said that a mother with a toddler rarely needs the gym - she gets quite enough exercise as it is.

Some people love their cars. The motor vehicle becomes their pride and joy. If they loved their two legs, their two wheels or their garden spades rather more, they might enjoy better health and look forward to a longer life. Motorists can feel comfortable as they pass walkers or cyclists who may be expending effort, but there's no health benefit in the car seat

Eating and drinking wisely, and not smoking, are equally significant. Huge disparities in life expectancy exist between different parts of the country, and usually the prevalence of smoking and poor diet are major factors. Not worrying also has a huge health advantage. Happy people, generally, are healthy people. Linked with that, singing and, for that matter, dancing are good for you, as is worshipping God in church on Sunday. That really is true. Some American insurance companies have been known to offer churchgoers a reduction in their premium. We are spiritual beings, made by God, and joyful worship directly affects the condition of our bodies. Come to church - it's good for your health!

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MAJOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UNDERWAY



At Monday's meeting a delighted Village Hall Management Committee announced that grants totalling nearly £16,000 have been successfully applied for to help carry out a major improvement project at The Village Hall. £13,500 towards the project has been confirmed by the Lancashire Environmental Fund; Ribble Valley Borough Council and the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership have contributed £1,200 and a further grant of £1,200 has been offered by The Downham Trust.

Work on the project has just started and will include the installation of double glazed windows to the main hall, roof insulation, re-pointing areas of the exterior and repainting the interior throughout, as well as the creation of new outdoor spaces and planting, suitable for photography for events such as weddings. In addition, the snooker room will be transformed into a new 'games' and presentation room, with a large screen as an additional facility for hall hirers and users.

Said village hall committee chairman, Shaun Roney: "We are very grateful to all the organisations and charities who have contributed to this major project – without their help we simply wouldn't have been able to move forward. We believe that with all the improvements that are being made, the Hall will become an even more attractive venue for weddings, events and parties, bringing more business to the village as well as really giving a much needed boost to what is already a well-used and loved community building".

The Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) is a partnership between SITA UK Ltd, Lancashire County Council, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside and Community Futures. The Fund is financed by Landfill Tax donations from SITA UK Ltd and Neales Waste Management, together with a contribution from Lancashire County Council.



DOWNHAM HALL GARDENS OPEN

This year on 24th and 25th July, in aid of Village Hall funds and Crossroads Care—Ribble Valley, by kind invitation of Lord and Lady Clitheroe.

The Gardens opening coincides with The Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership's mass participation event, the *LETS DO IT WEEKEND*, which is to mark the start of the two-year countdown to the opening of the 2012 Olympic Games. Sports clubs will be opening their doors for taster sessions at the weekend and there will also be arts events across Ribble Valley.

The Village Hall Committee will be glad of any offer of help with the Gardens open event, including prizes for the Tombola. Books and discs or tapes for the book stall will be gratefully received at the Lidgett or Estate Office, or ask any committee member to collect.

THE PARISH CHURCH

FAMILY SERVICES

THERE WERE two family services in May. The baptism of Evie, daughter of David and Lindsay (ne Creighton) Shuttleworth, was central to the service on the 9th. The church always has a really good atmosphere, when couples who married here return for the baptism of their children, and this was no exception, with a really good family feel to it proud great-grandfather and equally proud grandmother, leading the Downham family and friends in support of the newest member of the Church.

On Whitsun Day, 23rd May, the family service, led by Revd Anne Hardacre, had a Pentecostal theme.

The June Family Service will be on 27th at 11.00 am.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

COLLECTIONS in Downham and Twiston amounted to £222. We are grateful to our collectors Jill Cragg, Diana Braithwaite and Eileen Parker for their committed work.

CROSS BAY WALK



THIS year's walk across Morecambe Bay, arranged by Derek Hartley for The Leprosy Mission, is on Saturday June 19th. Please contact Rodney Nicholson for further details

GARDEN CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S WALK. This was on Thursday 6th May starting from the bridge at Downham at 7.00pm. Half the membership of the club set off, suitably wrapped up against a chilly but dry evening, up the village and then over Downham Green. Continuing towards Hey House farm and then down the drive and across Twiston Lane by the Camping Barn, on to the rear of New Close. Then we continued on level terrain over sheep-cropped lawn-meadows to pass the scrape and on to Downham Brook. We then joined the other half of the membership at Greendale for a very pleasant supper.



Our next meeting, on Thursday, 3rd June, is a visit to Huntingdon Hall Gardens, Dutton—by kind invitation of Mrs Sharman Ashcroft. Our bus leaves the bridge at 6.00 pm. CA

COOKERY CLUB

The next cookery club demonstration will be at 6.00 pm on Monday 7th June (with many thanks to the History Group for kindly changing their date!). We will be welcoming Steven Smith who is chef at the refurbished and reopened Freemasons Arms in Wiswell - perhaps some of you have been?



His main theme will be getting the most out of Spring veg (but there will also be some sort of 'mains'). He is also thinking up two main dishes to demonstrate - one simple supper and one more complex 'dinner party' type affair.

Please let Olivia know if you and/or any friends would like to come along - it will be the usual £10 for a ticket to include a glass of wine or soft drink. OA

HARRY MOYAGA CONCERT

THIS was a well attended Saturday evening with quite a number of enthusiasts present. The band was led by Harry who moved here from South Africa in 2001, he has definitely brought the African culture to the band. Five saxophonists, drummer, keyboard player and electric guitar, all combined to a great evenings entertainment. AG

HISTORY GROUP

THE group had a good attendance for the April meeting when the general topic for the evening was the village school.



We talked about school days at Downham School with the help of Betty Mercer and George Sharp, who both shared their memories of school life from the 1920s when Betty started school at the age of three, through to the 1940s when George left the school to go to Ribblesdale. All joined in with various memories of school days at differing eras.

This was followed by a short talk on the history of Downham School from the earliest known school to the closure of the Main Street school in 1985. The talk included references to some of the head teachers and their families. Several school photographs were displayed, ranging from the 1880s to the 1980s. It is 25 years since the school closed and we are planning to put a piece together about Downham School.

Jenny Palmer updated the group on her research into the history of Twiston Mill. She will continue to work on this project and will include a piece in our first newsletter which we are beginning to compile. We welcome any questions or subjects on local history for our newsletter, which we are hoping to circulate with the parish newsletter.

At the next meeting on Monday 14th June, the subject will be family history and an update on the compilation of the newsletter. Please join us at 7.30pm in the Village Hall [downstairs room]. EW

WI

FOOD labelling can sometimes be deceptive, especially on meat. The country of origin is not always what you think and meat produced in other countries, but processed in this country, can be labelled as British meat. This subject will be debated at the WI Annual General Meeting in Cardiff in June 2010. The WI is hoping to make labels on chicken, meat and fish much clearer.

Guest speaker Marion McDonald, a farmer's wife with nine children, explained how she had educated herself through the WI and after becoming a representative of Associated Countrywomen of the World, she has travelled to conferences in Iceland, Austria and many more countries. The ACWW works to give women access to a clean water supply where that is not available, as it is taken for granted by most of us. Women are also encouraged to start up small businesses, and these are just two of the things that help women in the third world. Julie Parker described a visit by Downham members to Hurst Green WI's Recycled Fashion Show, which raised money for Cancer Research and Help for Heroes. Christine Newhouse encouraged members to enter the WI Area Show in July and all entry forms must be returned to her at the June Meeting.

The next meeting of Downham WI will take place at the Greendale restaurant, when a Bingo Evening and Supper will be held, at 7.30 pm on Thursday 17th June 2010. JN

COFFEE CLUB

MAY'S Coffee Club was well attended and a jolly time was had by all, thanks to the generous supply of delicious cakes, provided by some of our members: thank you ladies. A special thanks to Carol and Lyn for running the stalls in the absence of June and Edie. Our next meeting is on 10th June, when we hope that Olive and Dave will be able to come along too. BL

