

PARISH CALENDAR 2009

| October | | | Event | Sidesmen/women | Altar Flowers | Church Cleaners |
|------------------|---------------|----------|--|---|---|--|
| 1 st | Thursday | 7.30 pm | Garden Club | Village Hall | <i>Scilly Isles & Cornish Gardens</i> | |
| 3 rd | Saturday | 2.00 pm | Decorate Church | | | |
| 4 th | Trinity XVII | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Chatburn Christ Church | Harvest Festival | Mrs E. Parker Mrs J. Whitsey |
| | | 11.00 am | Family Service Harvest Festival Canon Rodney Nicholson | Mrs B. Lewis Mrs A. Greenhill | | |
| | | 2.30 pm | Nelson Arion Choir | Church | | |
| 8 th | Thursday | 10.00 am | Coffee Club | Village Hall | | |
| 11 th | Trinity XVIII | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Miss R. Newton | | Mrs V. Hall Mrs L. Whitsey |
| | | 11.00 am | Matins Revd Alan Reid | Mrs B. Lund | | |
| 15 th | Thursday | 7.30 pm | W.I. | Village Hall | <i>AGM</i> | |
| 16 th | Friday | 7.00 pm | Timebank Quiz | Assheton Arms | | |
| 18 th | Trinity XIX | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Chatburn Christ Church | | Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs J. Oldfield |
| | | 11.00 am | Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid | Mrs P. McFall | | |
| 25 th | Trinity XX | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Mrs D. Wilkins | | Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins |
| | | 11.00 am | United Service Archdeacon of Blackburn | Chatburn Christ Church | | |
| 29 th | Thursday | | Loon Music Theatre Mimi | Village Hall | <i>Family Entertainment</i> | |
| 30 th | Friday | 10.00 am | Children's Music Event | Village Hall | <i>Workshop with instruments</i> | |
| November | | | | | | |
| 1 st | Trinity XXI | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Canon Rodney Nicholson | Chatburn Christ Church | Lord & Lady Clitheroe | Hon Mrs O. Assheton Mrs |
| | | 11.00 am | Holy Communion Revd. Anne Hardacre | Mrs B. Lund | | |

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Canon Rodney Nicholson – 458019

OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 440173 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 Olivia Assheton—440173

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2009 Issue 10—OCTOBER

From Canon Rodney Nicholson

Viewpoint

I SPENT an amazing week in Leicestershire recently on a mission arranged by the local churches. I was one of over a hundred Christians from all over the country taking part in "Walk National Forest", although the only walking was in the former mining town of Coalville where my particular team of six men and four women was based. I admit that I did not particularly want to go, when the time for the mission arrived, because I have more than enough to do here, but this annual activity is hugely rewarding.

Having a week given over to talking about Jesus makes a change from the many other issues demanding attention. Working in pairs rather than alone, which is the method Jesus encouraged, brought fresh encouragement, as did the partnership with the three local churches who were behind the mission. And we really did see signs of God touching people's lives. The team members were superb, all having different gifts and with different stories of how God had become real to them.

The men slept in one of the churches while the women enjoyed hospitality in church members' homes. But the church – belonging to the Pentecostal tradition – was carpeted and well appointed, being a former working-men's club. The days began with breakfast at 7.15 am then the team meeting at 8am, when the ladies and some of the church members joined us for worship, prayer, bible study and planning. The day's activities might include door-to-door visiting with a questionnaire about faith, going into schools or running a Christian puppet show at the playgroup.

Events such as a men's curry night or ladies' film night, with one team member speaking and another giving a testimony, followed, along with visiting pubs to get alongside people and share something of the gospel where appropriate. The local churches had acquired a double-fronted empty shop in the pedestrianised shopping precinct, which was decorated for the week and made a place of welcome with free tea/coffee/cakes served, provided and served by church members. Many informal conversations about faith took place, and some people returned several times. The week encouraged the three local churches, two Pentecostal and one Anglican, to work together more closely. Everyone needs Jesus, and this was one way of making him known

Rodney Nicholson

ALMIGHTY GOD, who callest Luke the physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist, and the Physician of the soul; May it please thee, that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES

| | AUGUST | 2009 |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| COMMUNICANTS | 53 | 318 |
| COLLECTIONS | | |
| SERVICES | 418 | 2,508 |
| VISITORS | 180 | 956 |
| DONATIONS | 175 | 6,157 |
| HOUSE BOXES | 37 | 133 |
| TOTALS | 810 | 9,754 |

WELCOME TO THE PARISH...

PETER AND FRANCES ELDRIDGE WHO HAVE MOVED INTO LYNDENE COTTAGE, BROOKSIDE, DOWNHAM

THE POWER OF A SIMPLE GIFT Operation Christmas Child

'LOVE in a shoebox' time is with us again, writes Derek Hardacre. Last year the combined churches of Downham, Chatburn & St. Paul's Clitheroe, made up over 150 filled shoe boxes for children in need, in Eastern Europe & Africa.

Can you help to better this total for this year? This simple act of your generosity may be the only gift a child will receive for the whole year. When you consider the areas that the shoeboxes go, where there is poverty, war & natural disasters, it shows that someone in the world cares & that they haven't been forgotten. All you need to do is to get a leaflet from St. Leonard's or Christchurch Chatburn, a shoebox, cover it with Christmas paper, have fun filling it with the appropriate presents & leave it in Church before **18th November for ANNE & DEREK** to pick up. Don't forget to include £2.50 for post & processing. Thank you. There are leaflets at the back of church. DH



STORIES FROM THE NATIONAL FOREST MISSION

Rodney Nicholson

A YOUNG Christian mother invited her friends, none of whom were committed Christians, to a wine and cheese evening. She added that there would be a short presentation from team members. After 40 minutes of socialising, the host asked everyone to sit down, while the three team members spoke about their faith for just three minutes each. The gathering resumed their eating, drinking and chatting, with guests staying until about 10.30pm. Among the general conversation I got talking to two young mothers about why God allowed suffering. They seemed to want to know what I thought. Kath, the host, told me later that one of them, had used tarot cards and crystals, which had led her to say, "For goodness sake, Charlotte, why don't you drop this nonsense and try the real thing – faith in God himself?"

My talk at the Wednesday evening healing service included the suggestion that anyone with a grievance should let go of that burden so as to be healed of whatever was gnawing away inside them. Next day one lady apparently said that she was going to make peace with someone, so as to receive peace within herself.

Twice during the week, two team members accompanied the local Youth for Christ workers for an "Any Questions" opportunity at the local college. They simply had a stand in the corridor from 12 to 2pm, offered sweets, and invited questions. A boy and a girl got taking seriously about faith and came back later to say that they had committed their lives to Christ.

BOOK AID

WHILE on holiday recently, Eva and Andrew Radcliffe came across the Book Aid bookshop in Barnard Castle. Book Aid is a 21-year-old charity which sends Christian books to poor countries, especially in Africa, where the church is growing rapidly but where literature is in short supply.

People are welcome to donate new and used Christian books, which are collected by a network of carriers. Of the 10 tons of books received every week, not all are suitable for shipping overseas, so the remainder are sold in the five Book Aid shops, of which Barnard Castle is one. These shops make money for Book Aid's work.

A copy of the Book Aid leaflet is available in church.

PUPPY SHARING

WE are not having another Guide Dog puppy at the vicarage for the time being but are sharing another walker's puppy. Carlton, as the 15-week-old Labrador is called, comes to us for Saturday and Sunday, allowing his walker to work at the weekend. He's a lovely dog – actually easier to handle than our puppy, Otis – so we look forward to his weekly visits.



STAGE TWO DOWNHAM

Elizabeth Wrigley



THE ALAN Bennett farce 'Habeas Corpus' is the choice for our autumn play, to be staged from 25-28 November 2009, producer Fran Osborne.

The word 'farce' sometimes proves to be off-putting but this one is a witty piece of work with a large cast of 11 players using a 'minimal' set. Some well known Stage Two players and some newcomers will bring the best out of this play.

We have found in recent years that our audience attendance is always greater when we perform comedy despite having presented some more challenging dramas.

Rehearsals are now under way and we look forward to seeing you in November

LOON MUSIC WITH THEATRE MIMI

Village Entertainment Group

Thursday 29th October (family event) 7.00 pm at the Village Hall

FIVE musicians and two miming clown artistes travel hysterically, beautifully and magically around the world almost literally for 80 minutes. From a tandem bike ride through Paris to a late train in Siberia, they travel the world offering their tender comical observations as they go. If you enjoy great comedy and equally

great music then it's the show for you.
Tickets Adult £6 Child £3.50 Family £15

A music workshop

will follow up the performance on

Friday 30th October from 10:00am until 12:00 noon

Making and learning to play a selection of recycled instruments e.g. Kazoo out of plastic pipes, Xylophone out of wood, Flute out of old hose pipe. The workshop includes composing and playing on instruments and can include a short performance.

Tickets £3.50 per child including refreshment.

Maximum 15 children so book early to avoid disappointment.

Free Hand Theatre will perform "Who's been sitting in my chair?"

(for everyone who can count to 3 especially if you're aged 3-7) on 15th November at 3.00 pm. A playful and musical interpretation of a well known tale with porridge and bears and one-two-three chairs. Tickets £3.50 for children 6 and £15.00 for a family.

Tickets for all above shows from: Angie Greenhill 01200 440146

Barbara Lewis 01200 440925 Downham Post Office and Chatburn Library

HISTORY GROUP

The idea of a 'local history group' has come up on several occasions over recent years. Now we plan to put words into actions with an inaugural meeting in November or early December [date, time and venue in next month's newsletter].

Anyone with an interest in local or family history will be welcome, as are ideas for how we can organise and run the history group.

Please express interest to Elizabeth Wrigley [01200 423005 between 6 & 7pm] or email e.wrigley@btopenworld.com or just turn up at the first meeting.

Remember the Angels

THIS Newsletter comes out at Michaelmas when we celebrate St Michael and all angels. Angels may or may not have wings but their presence is spoken of throughout the Bible as God's special agents or messengers. Many Old Testament characters, such as Elijah and Elisha were helped at critical times by angels. Jesus's birth was heralded by angels and he was strengthened by them during his temptation. The first Christians were at times supported by an angelic presence. In all sorts of ways, unnoticed by us, the angels are giving their assistance. They serve God on earth and they worship him more intimately than we do. We are not using empty words but expressing a deep and glorious truth when we say at Communion: "with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven".



DOWNHAM CALENDAR—2010



ONLY 85 Days to the Christmas Post deadline!

Get your Downham Calendar the ideal Christmas Gift.

Sold in Aid of Downham Village Hall

The Downham Village Hall & St Leonard's Church Downham
Present

A Concert for Harvest

with

The Nelson Arion Male
Voice Choir

at

St Leonard's Church Downham

Sunday, 4th October at 2.30 pm

Tickets £5 inc refreshments from Downham Post Office

or ring Eileen on 01200 445401

THE PARISH CHURCH

FAMILY SERVICE - Harvest appeal

HARVEST Thanksgiving will be celebrated with a Family Service on Sunday 4th October, with an opportunity to support the Bishop's Harvest Appeal which this year is for the Philippines and Nepal.

Two-thirds of the money will go to a Christian Aid project in the Philippines enabling farmers to become self-sufficient by switching to organic methods, including wormeries (cutting out expensive chemicals). One-third will support a project in Nepal, run by the organisation "Practical Action", training people to set up plant nurseries for self-reliance. An envelope will come with next month's magazine.

Some foods and other gifts are also welcome for the Blackburn Refugee/Asylum Seekers' project, namely: rice, tea, coffee, sugar, toiletries, nappies and baby wipes.

Our next Family Service will be the Christingle on 6th December at 11 am.

HARVEST CONCERT

featuring Nelson Arion Choir will be sung In Church, Sunday afternoon, after the Parish Harvest Festival in the morning, on 4th October at 2.30 pm. Proceeds to Downham Village Hall and St. Leonard's Parish Church.

DOWNHAM AND TWISTON TIME AND EQUIPMENT BANK

THE TIME Bank meeting was held at the Assheton Arms on 14th September. We changed the name to reflect more what we were about. The Time and Equipment Bank activities are increasing as people remember that it's there to use. Some of the activities recently have been gardening, companionship, emotional therapy, wheelchair maintenance, lifts, cooking for a dinner party! and taking all the bookings for the 50th Anniversary Party at the Village Hall (thanks Betty). We also planned the Pie and Peas Quiz Night which will be held at the Assheton Arms on Friday 16 October. Book with Betty – all welcome! SH

DOWNHAM PARISH MEETING

SPEEDING traffic was the major item of concern at the Parish Meeting. Sadly a planned meeting with the Police in mid September has had to be postponed, but this remains at the top of the agenda. District Councillor Gary Scott is also pushing this forward as an issue for Downham and Chatburn.

Following the Parish meeting a new litter bin has been provided by RVBC, to be located near the bridge. This will hopefully reduce the problem of blown rubbish from overflowing bins.

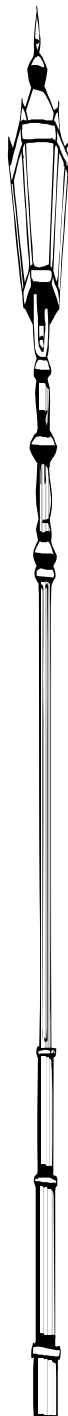
RVBC have also indicated that they will consider favourably the application for a dog waste bin. There is still some work to do, to agree a site for said bin, who will empty it etc. Hopefully we should have a bin in place within the next few months.

The Chairman, The Hon Ralph Assheton and Hon Secretary to the meeting, Mrs Diana Braithwaite, were both re-elected.

STREET LIGHTING

LCC are trying to save energy and money by tweaking the way in which all 150,000 street lights in the county are used. Lighting currently costs about £6 million per year, or roughly £40 per lamp.

Within the next few weeks all 14 of the street lamps in Downham have new bits fitted that will dim the amount of light between 10pm and 6am. The lamp posts will not be altered. This work is part of the regular 4 yearly maintenance programme, so gradually the whole county will copy Downham!. The change should save about 30% of the energy bill, so about £12 per lamp per year, or £168 per year altogether. RCA



COFFEE CLUB

IT WAS hard to believe that it were only just into September when the rain was streaming down and it was downright chilly, but this did not prevent our stalwart members from coming to the Coffee Club and enjoying a hot drink and cakes. The Bring & Buy stall was surprisingly busy. Being a week earlier than usual it means that the next Coffee Club will be in five weeks time on the 8th October. All holidays will perhaps be out of the way by then, so 'see you there!' O.Awb



COOKERY CLUB

THE Cookery Club demonstration which was organised for Wednesday 16th September did not, for reasons beyond the control of the club, take place. Our next, which is likely to be early November will be detailed in the November Newsletter OA



BROOK SIDE BARN OPENING Wednesday 7th October

WORK ON converting Flatt Barn (renamed Brook Side Barn) was completed almost a year ago, just in time for the recession to really hit! Over the last few months two of the four offices have been successfully let to Marshal Peters Associates (Chartered Building Surveyors) and DNA IT Solutions Ltd.

In order for parishioners to meet their new "neighbours", and to have a chance to look round the offices, there will be an open evening on Wed 7th October from 6pm till 8pm. All parishioners are warmly invited to drop in. RCA

GARDEN CLUB

AT THE September meeting of the club 21 members watched and listened to a presentation by Brian Unsworth entitled Following the Badger Trail. In his talk Brian said that he had spent the best part of his spare time, in all weather, for twelve years with camera in hides in a wood near Burnley observing and photographing the animals. The results of his efforts were interesting, amusing and very informative.



The meeting ended with drawing the raffle with five winners carrying off books, bulbs and wine.

The next meeting at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall on 1st October will be a talk and illustrated presentation by Stuart and Anita Kellington, on Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, including the Eden Project and Tresco Gardens. CA

WI

THE next meeting is at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall on Thursday, 15th October. The Annual General Meeting.

'THE WAY WE WERE'

WI evening on Friday, 20th November at Downham Village Hall



We will open at 6.30pm with a glass of hot fruit punch and at 7.30pm a slide show, a plated supper at 8pm and then around 8.45 pm, a film show of cine footage in and around the Ribble Valley area, some captured about 70 years ago.

Tickets £7.50 from any WI member or from 01200 445401 Eileen Parker AS