

Parish Calendar 2014						
December			Event	Sidesmen & women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
4th	Thursday	7.30pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Christmas Dinner	
7th	Advent II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Christ Church Chatburn	NO FLOWERS	Mrs G.Cragg
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean		
		6.30 pm	Advent Carol Service	Blackburn Cathedral		
8th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Chatburn Methodist Church		
11th	Thursday	6.30 pm	WI	Calf's Head	Christmas Party	
14th	Advent III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs D. Wilkins	IN	Lady Clitheroe Ms C. Raw
		11.00 am	Matins Revd Andrew Whitehead	Mrs B. Lewis		
		7.00 pm	Carols at Twiston	Lower Smithyfold		
19th	Friday	12.30	Coffee Club	Village Hall	Christmas Lunch	
21st	Advent III	8.30 am	Holy Communion Revd Andrew Whitehead	Christ Church Chatburn	ADVENT	Mrs S. Marlow Mrs E. Parker
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid	Mrs P. McFall		
22nd	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful noise	Chatburn Methodist Church		
23rd	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Decorate Church	All Welcome		
24th	Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Christingle Revd Andy Froud	Mrs A. Greenhill	Collection in Aid of The Children's Society	
		6.30 pm	Carol Singing	Downham	Meet at Downham Post Office Collection in aid of EBOLA appeal	
		11.30 pm	Holy Communion	Christ Church Chatburn		
25th	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mr B. Lewis		
28th	Christmas I	8.30 am	Holy Communion	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.00 am	Carol Service	Mrs A. Greenhill		
Collection in aid of EBOLA appeal						
January, 2015						
4th	Christmas II	8.30 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Christ Church Chatburn	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
		11.00 am	Holy Communion	Mr T. McLean		

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Revd Andy Froud—01200 423317

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

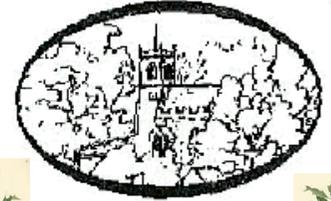
www.downhamvillage.org.uk

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2014 Issue 12 December



From The Revd Andy Froud

Dear Friends

“It will all end in tears” Just one of the phrases that I resolved not to learn from my mother but I have started to repeat despite myself as I get older. Why do we think that it will all end in tears? Experience I guess. We can see that things will end badly: roller skating indoors, that desperate crush, that unsuitable job. And it is experience that teaches us.

I would like to think that I have learnt something over 20 years of ordained ministry: the only thing that springs to mind is my habit of putting my cycle helmet before leaving someone's house. It has saved me a lot of injuries over the years.

I hope I've learnt some other things too. But in a way I think Christians are called to unlearn what we think we know.

Christmas is a time for remembering the completely surprising way in which God chose to fulfil the prophecies of over 2,000 years in the birth of a son, in a stable in the backwoods of the Roman Empire.

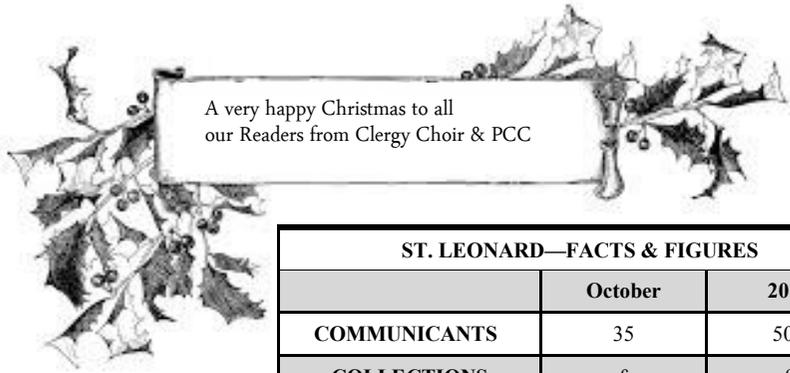
I remember a Parochial Church Council many years ago where a gentleman wanted to raise the matter of children singing a song during communion: I assumed he was going to complain and really wanted to stop him before he could say any more: “I know it wasn't very good and the choir would have been much better...” But before I could say any more he said “I would just like to say that it was the most beautiful thing I have ever heard”.



People are constantly capable of surprising us but at Christmas we remember that in the midst of the despair of poverty and powerlessness is the surprising hope of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Let's try and put aside the cynicism of adults this Christmas and seek to rediscover the joy of the Christ-child

Yours in Christ

Andy Froud



A very happy Christmas to all our Readers from Clergy Choir & PCC

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	October	2014
COMMUNICANTS	35	502
COLLECTIONS	£	£
SERVICES	201	2,140
VISITORS	4	499
DONATIONS	271	8,858
HOUSE BOXES	-	34
TOTAL	476	11,531

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

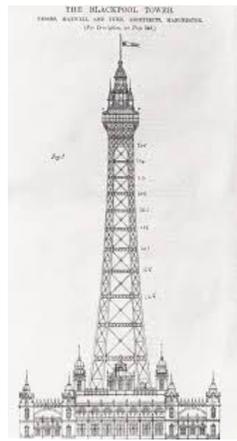
The Work of the Children’s Society and all affected by the EBOLA crisis.

A Grand Night Out

Andy Froud



OFF set 55 of us from Downham, Grindleton, Whalley, Chatburn and Clitheroe in our specially rented Hodson's Coach in high hopes to be part of the Diocese of Blackburn's "Light in Darkness" event at Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Disastrously, the name of the Archbishop of York had attracted over 2000 when only 1500 had been anticipated and we, with about three other coach loads of people, were turned away into the outer darkness of Blackpool promenade on a wet, cold and windswept night. As if that was not enough our coach had left us to park. As we waited for the coach to return some took refuge in Harry Ramsden's, some in Wetherspoon's. At just before nine, when I thought everyone was on board I realised that two of our party were missing (presumed inside the event).



As I stood outside angrily looking for them - what a fiasco! - I stood shouting into my mobile at my wife that we could be hanging around for an hour waiting for Jim and Bob. Then I told her "hang on - I've got to go. The Archbishop of York is right in front of me".

His Grace was kind enough at the end of a long evening to apologise to everyone on the bus personally, chat with everyone, and pray for God's blessing and depart. Just before Jim and Bob got back.

It was a night that went exactly to plan. Just not my plan.



COFFEE CLUB

COFFEE club wasn't as busy in November, for various reasons, but we still managed to have a jolly time.

Young Joseph was on fine form, crawling all over the place. I think he'll be running around by the New Year, then the fun will start! There was a good response to the idea of a Christmas lunch in December and that will be on Friday the 19th at 12.30, so no coffee club on the 11th.

As always, thanks to you all for your continued support, especially Edith, who this month manned the stall on her own. Looking forward to seeing you all in December. BL

GARDEN CLUB



AT the November meeting the blokes were a bit thin on the ground (flower arranging). They missed a right treat. Speaker Barbara Charleston was a hoot from start to finish. She demonstrated seasonal arrangements using mostly fresh greenery and flowers together with some artificial stuff such as ribbon, candles and so on completing five assorted arrangements which she very kindly donated as the raffle prizes for the evening.

The demonstration was given with an endless stream of hilarious patter, interrupted seriously only to show a particular technique or tip. She ensured that we knew how lucky we were to have the demonstration at all given that she had stopped going out late at night in Winter but her love of Downham had made us an exception.

In the course of the demonstration a front-row member had a coughing fit, without hesitation or interruption Barbara produced cough sweets, rendered a kindly word and ever so invisibly moved on. It was a very entertaining evening.

Our next is the Christmas Party at the Village Hall on Thursday, 5th December, at 7.30 pm - crikey that's this week—better get a move on. CA



Members of Downham W.I. took a walk through the foothills of the Himalayas on Thursday night. Their guide was Norman Harris who, since his retirement, has completed many exciting journeys, including going across America on his Harley Davidson. Mr Harris showed his stunning pictures and gave members a very informative guided tour of his trek to Everest Base Camp. It was a most enjoyable and interesting evening and Norman proved to be a very accomplished guide. Even though many of will never go there, we felt we had been there on Thursday night. His knowledge of the places he photographed and the way he involved his audience in what it is like to land by plane at Tenzing-Hilary Airport, at Lukla, the scariest airport in the world, was second to none.

Downham WI's delegate, Margaret Smith, gave a detailed report on the Autumn Council Meeting at King Georges Hall in October.

Julie Parker will be Downham WI's delegate at the Centenary AGM at The Royal Albert Hall on June 4th, next year. Julie has already attended a meeting and reported back on the forthcoming resolutions, which will be voted on in January. Olive Awbery thanked members and husbands who turned out to weed and plant bulbs in the beds around the Village Hall car park on a day of terrible weather. They were rewarded with hot soup from Olive.

There have been over 70 tickets sold for the popular W.I. Bingo Night at Downham Village Hall on Monday, 1st December. This is a fund raising event for the Denman Bursary.

The December meeting is the Christmas Party on Thursday, 11th December 6.30pm for 7pm at the Calf's Head, Worston. AK

BONFIRE

WHAT a good turn out for the bonfire and fireworks on 5th November. More than a hundred locals came along for an evening of fun and friendship and the atmosphere was brilliant. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the event and a special mention must go to our resident pyromaniac, Graham Robinson, who really did make the evening go with a bang! Same time next year? BL

ROUND AND ABOUT

THE PARISH CHURCH

LICENSING our Priest-in-charge

A MOVING and spiritual experience for all who witnessed the licensing service of the new Priest in Charge of the joint benefice of Chatburn Christ Church and Downham St. Leonard, the Revd Andy Froud, on Monday evening 3rd November. A large congregation witnessed the ceremony conducted by the Bishop of Blackburn which included the traditional ritual of moving round from Altar, (celebration of sacraments) to Lectern (duty as teacher) to Font (sacrament of baptism and proclamation to seekers after the truth) and front door (servant to the whole community). The service ended with light refreshments at an informal gathering. Organist James Robinson and the Choir led the music.

ST LEONARD'S TIDE

O UR annual tidy up on the Saturday morning nearest St Leonard's day, this year the 8th November, included edging round the memorial stones in the garden where ashes are interred. Some of these stones had been almost obscured by grass. Removing sucker growth from round the lime tree near the road gives a much tidier impression as you walk through the gate. We all enjoyed elevenses half way through the session kindly brought over from the Assheton Arms.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A S ever, a moving and poignant service, led by Revd Andrew Woodhead.

This year as we were a small congregation, a number of people being away and some of our gallant members being on Parade elsewhere. But this did not detract from the solemnity nor leave us feeling that the act of Remembrance and wreath laying were in any way diminished. Assembling at the War Memorial at 10.50 for the wreath laying and silence there was a quiet and restrained atmosphere until our first hymn. When we processed to our seats.

A really inspiring sermon from Andrew led us to Prayers and our National Anthem. The music was led by James Robinson and the Choir and the wreath from the Parishioners of Downham and Twiston was laid by Ian Chadwick.

CAROL SINGING AT TWISTON

N EIGHBOURS old and new are warmly invited to Lower Smithy Fold Barn on Sunday December 14th at 7-ish for mince pies and mulled wine. The Choir will be joining us for a good sing and a collection will be taken for their charity this year which is the EBOLA crisis.

If you need directions ring 445250 or email s.j.wilkins@btinternet.com. Steve and Diana Wilkins are looking forward to seeing you. DW

JOYFUL NOISE

T HIS CELEBRATION continues at Chatburn Methodist Church (unless notified) every other week on Monday at 7.30 pm: 8th, 22nd December, 5th, 19th January & 2nd, 16th February. Further information from Di Braithwaite 441 277.

DOWNHAM & TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

A VIVID description of events a hundred years ago in Sarajevo, France and Belgium and the months and years leading up to the first world war was portrayed by Les Bond in his talk about the Accrington Pals. He told about the way the PALS battalions were formed and marched off to the front in such a deliberate, knowledgeable and respectful way you felt you could see the scenes unfold as he described them—altogether moving and interesting and thought provoking at this time at our October 2014 Meeting.

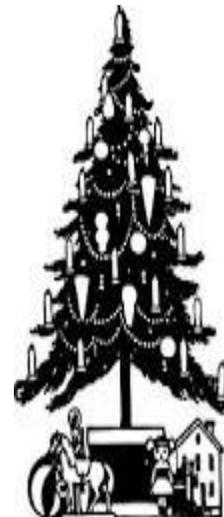
The November meeting was a talk with super landscape and wildlife illustrations by Cathy Hopley, Project Officer of the Forest of Bowland AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). She outlined the purpose of AONBs The boundary and main history of the Bowland AONB, fifty years on from its creation. She pointed out the main features of this area and explained that the primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape, with two secondary aims: meeting the need for quiet enjoyment of the countryside and having regard for the interests of those who live and work here.

Cathy went on to explain the large bid that has been assembled for funding by English Heritage under the lead of the developing "Pendle Hill Partnership" the main purposes of the bid are **to restore the rich natural and historic landscape of Pendle Hill, which has been lost or eroded over time, and to build a sustainable future for our inspiring landscape in partnership with all communities.**

She explained that the programme aims are to:

- * Operate in a creative and sustainable manner which supports the local economy, promotes local distinctiveness and encourages well being
- * Provide opportunities for more people and a wider range of audiences to learn about and explore the heritage of Pendle Hill
- * Support new and innovative opportunities for volunteering, education, training and skills development.
- * Record, restore and improve the physical condition of natural & historic features of the Pendle Hill landscape.

History Group members look forward to the success of the bid and to some future involvement in the programme. Our next meeting will be in January.



Whalley Deanery



Fund Raising Committee

Candlelight Supper

The Kings Centre

Millthorne Avenue off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE

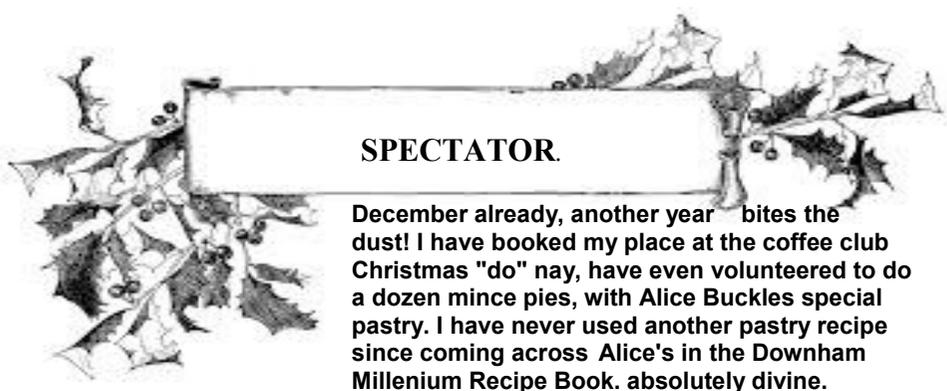
on

Sunday 8th February, 2015 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

BRING A BOTTLE OF WINE (and your glasses) Soft Drinks available
Vegetarian Option available Great Selection of Salads Delicious Puddings

ENTERTAINMENT AFTER SUPPER

Why not come along and enjoy the evening
Support the Society by making a donation at the Supper



SPECTATOR.

December already, another year bites the dust! I have booked my place at the coffee club Christmas "do" nay, have even volunteered to do a dozen mince pies, with Alice Buckles special pastry. I have never used another pastry recipe since coming across Alice's in the Downham Millenium Recipe Book. absolutely divine.

Speaking of divine, a special mention for the bonfire toffee which was so delicious, I took more than my fair share and the children reported to Jon that it kept me quiet for most of the night. Jon said can he have the recipe! I enjoyed the bonfire get together and am looking forward to the aforementioned Christmas "do" which will I'm sure be every bit as good as last year's.

I only hope that I am not asked to give an impromptu thank-you speech again. I still have nightmares where I see Lady Clitheroe's face as I shouted "shut up" to get everyone's attention before I chickened out! Oh dear, but so glad I had nothing to do with the following, which is a collection of sentences entitled, "Thank goodness for church ladies with typewriters" and actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services. Not ours of course! (Yet, Ed)

The sermon this morning, "Jesus walks on water" The sermon tonight, " Searching for Jesus"

" Ladies do not forget the rummage sale which is a chance to get rid of all those things around the house not worth keeping. Don't forget your husbands"

"Don't let worry kill you off, let the church help"

"Remember in prayer those who are sick of our community, smile at someone hard to love and say "hell" to someone who doesn't like you"

"Please put your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered"

"The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoons"

"The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door"

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell" Come early and listen to our choir practice"

"Potluck supper, Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow"

"For those of you with children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs"

"Next Thursday will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get"

And my personal favourite, " Our minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday, " I upped my pledge - Up yours"

A very happy Christmas to one and all and a peaceful, healthy 2015 x.

Our thanks to the Newsletter sponsors for the December issue
Downham WI
Bowland Bio Energy Ltd

CANDLE LIGHT CONCERT
at
Chatburn Christ Church in aid of Church Development Fund
Friday 5th December at 7.30 pm
With Haslingden Choir and Pennine String Quartet
Tickets £8 from Roy Porter's Shop

SUNDAY EVENING 14th DECEMBER
at 6.30 pm
Followed by refreshments at 7.45 pm
At the Parish Church of
CLITHEROE ST JAMES'S
All Clitheroe Churches are Involved
JOY TO THE WORLD

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
A great total of 65 filled shoe boxes together with £246 in donations towards the transport costs, was received from the three Parishes. Clitheroe St. Paul Low Moor, Chatburn Christ Church and Downham St Leonard for children who would otherwise have nothing.
A big thank you to all especially our organisers Derek and Ann



BANG ON PRODUCTION at STAGE 2 DOWNHAM
FLARE PATH



THIS play by Terrence Rattigan is about war and love and waiting and how serious events galvanise men and women into their decision making in a way that they may not have done in different, easier, times. " I used to think that our private happiness was something far too important to be affected by outside things, like war or marriage vows...but that beside what's happening out there; ... it's just tiny and rather—cheap—I'm afraid." It was about the RAF including a tale about one of the Polish flyers. First produced in London in 1942 it must have been a thoughtful picture of what everyone was going through and, if I read it rightly, not greatly comforting until the ending, happy for some, which was not really easily foreseeable. There is quite a thread about a rear gunner and his wife—Rattigan was an RAF rear gunner. Downham was offered a really good version, well cast, well rehearsed and word almost 100% perfect. On Wednesday, first night, just the tiniest bit slow perhaps but with cracking performances from all—the break-down scene with Chris Bowers giving it all he had for example Geraldine Heyworth gave a really fab performance as the barmaid who married a Polish Count. Played against a really good set with the planes overhead filling the room with equally good sound effects it was a jolly ripping evening. Especially so with the good value meal and ticket deal brokered with the Assheton Arms .

This play was revived only three years ago at Her Majesty's Theatre in the Haymarket to rave, four and five star reviews and yet ran for only about three months—does that say its just a bit old fashioned now? In 1945 Rattigan co-wrote the script to "The Way to the Stars" a film with John Mills, Michael Redgrave—and all of them from those times; the film contained very similar themes.