

**PARISH CALENDAR 2018**

JANUARY			Event	Sidemen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
7th	Epiphany I	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs B. Lewis		Mr & Mrs H Brown
8th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise			
10th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean		
11th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	<i>Village Hall</i>		
14th	Epiphany II	11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mr I Walton		Mrs S. Travis Mrs A Chadwick
18th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	<i>Village Hall</i>		
21st	Epiphany III	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	<i>Mrs E. Parker</i>		Mr & Mrs B Lewis
22nd	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise			
24th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mr B. Lewis		
28th	Epiphany IV	11.00 am	Matins The Assheton Sermon Revd Andy Froud	Mrs P. McFall	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs L. Whitsey Ms Z. Ward
<b>February</b>						
4th	Epiphany V	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs A. Wallace		Mrs D Braithwaite Mrs F. Eldridge
	Sunday	6.30 pm	Candle Light Supper	Community Church	<i>In aid of the Children's Society</i>	
5th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise			

**OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Revd Andy Froud**

The Vicarage, Church Street, Clitheroe BB7 2DD  
01200 423317 - 0796 957 6691

**OUR CHURCH WARDENS**

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 440173 Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 Mr Ian Walton—445063

**VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Chairman and Bookings Secretary** Mr Shaun Roney—441667

**Hon. Secretary** The Hon Mrs Ralph Assheton—441210

**PARISH OF ST. LEONARD**

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON**

**newsletter**

2018 Issue 1 January



www.downhamvillage.org.uk

**From The Revd Andy Froud**

Dear Friends

**LIKE** the word "love", the word "new" has lost its value through repeated misuse. Everyone, I imagine, has fallen for the old advertiser's lie "new and improved". Perhaps the fact that the word needs the qualification "improved" gives a clue that just because something is new doesn't mean that it is better.

2017 is filled with examples of the new being demonstrably worse than the old. In July The Independent reported that manufacturers have shrunk 2,529 products over the past five years while keeping prices the same. Shoppers with a sweet tooth have been the worst affected by the trend as chocolate, confectionery, jams and syrups have seen the most items downsized, according to analysis by the Office for National Statistics. People have long complained, with good reason it seems, that their favourite confectionary has shrunk. But how many of us have noticed that Andrex have reduced the number of sheets on a toilet roll from 240 to 221?

Only from God, I believe, do we hear the word "new" with its true meaning; these words were revealed to John, in exile on the Island of Patmos, in a vision recorded for all at the very end of the Bible. They are recorded in the last book, the Book of Revelation, or the "Apocalypse". They also address the heart cry of the human race and answer our deepest longing. At this time of the year, when we end one year and begin a new one, we are all drawn to deep reflection and all seem compelled to make resolutions. We want to be able to begin again, to be made new. The gospel of forgiveness Jesus lived and died to proclaim gives us the hope that despite our weakness we can be renewed.

Behold, I make all things new."

Yours in Christ,

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

ST. LEONARD FACTS AND FIGURES		
	November	2017
COMMUNICANTS	42	426
COLLECTIONS	£	
SERVICES	552	11,173
VISITORS		
DONATIONS		
HOUSE BOXES		
SPECIAL	3,269	8,305
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>19,478</b>

### IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS:

Kath Swarbrick, Ann Chadwick, Jean Whitsey, Kath Brown

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

#### Interment of Ashes

26th November, 2017 Edwin Jackson

#### ALAR FLOWERS

APART from Advent and Lent there are always fresh flowers on the altar at St Leonard's Church.

A list for 2018 hangs at the back of Church. If anyone wishes to arrange the flowers or have flowers arranged, for particular date, possibly on an anniversary or in remembrance of a loved one, please fill in your details in the appropriate slot on the list. PMcF

### SPECTATOR



HAPPY New Year to all. 2018. Wonder what this year will bring.

We have already had the excellent news that Lucy, our youngest. Is to marry her partner Gavin. He stuck it out for 6 years but she got her man in the end. We always get our man in the end, So, the sooner men realise this, the happier we will all be! Don't forget that when we do get our man, they need to adhere to the following as soon as possible. "Happy wife = happy life.....unhappy wife = not good"!

I'm sure there will be good times, as well as not so good. I think we need to try and stay positive and cheerful about changes and not worry too much about awful things we hear on the news and read in the newspapers. " if you look for the bad in mankind expecting it to be there, you are sure to find it"

This has been attributed to Abraham Lincoln though I'm fairly certain it wasn't him. Quick, let's google it.

I cannot imagine life now without google or YouTube or internet banking or eBay. Technology has definitely changed my life for good and I can happily spend hours trolling through the internet for bargains on eBay or seeing what illness I have now because I can check my symptoms on google. Mind you, I have to keep this latter pastime to a minimum as I could easily become a hypochondriac!

I laughed the other day when I said to Zoe," I have just realised that when I pop my clogs you will have to tell the undertaker I have a battery in my chest that needs removing. I could just imagine all my loved ones at the crematorium, tearful as the coffin goes slowly backwards into the flames and then !!!!!

Quick as a flash Zoe said, " I thought you would have liked going out with a bang mother!" Cheeky.

So, as I said earlier, let's stay positive and cheerful and have a happy, healthy and peaceful new year



### DOWNHAM BANNER

THE Banner Group has recently received the good news that the conservation of the Downham Banner is complete. Conservators at the Peoples' History Museum in Manchester, working for about nine months, have painstakingly used many methods including brushing, suction, strengthening of one or two damaged areas with an invisible net and many other techniques that are described in the highly comprehensive, illustrated report issued just before Christmas. The group will be arranging for wider distribution of the conservation report to interested parties in the near future.

The Museum situation in Lancashire is taking a very long time to resolve, in the short term the banner will be exhibited from mid January for a period of about a year at the People's History Museum in Manchester before going on permanent show at Clitheroe Castle, an outcome which is now assured but with some detailed work still to do.





## STAGE 2 DOWNHAM

Downham Village Hall



# 'The Weekend'

by Michael Palin

10pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December saw the final curtain call for our production of 'The Weekend', written by Michael Palin. Over the four nights a total audience of nearly 360 people came to Downham Village Hall and, judged by the feedback, both cast and the audience really enjoyed the performances.

Here is a taste of what our reviewer, Pippa Monroe, had to say: "It is laugh-out-loud funny but has some poignant revelations about the central character." "The production is well staged with good use of music, clever lighting and a strong cast."

Many thanks again to everyone who helped with, or contributed in any way to, this production, including all the local businesses who displayed our publicity and all the individuals who recommended the play either by word of mouth or through social media.

There was positive feedback from the 65 members of the audience who also booked the pre-theatre meal at 'The Assheton Arms.' We thank all the staff of 'The Assheton Arms' for their good service and we look forward to extending this cooperation into 2018.

We will be back in touch with you as soon as there is definite news about our Spring and Autumn productions for 2018 - provisional Spring dates are 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Thank you once again for your support.

From all at Stage Two Downham, our very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

### Parish Church of St Leonard—Work on the Fabric

#### WINDOWS

AFTER many years of suffering from some cracked and broken windows in Church, we were pleased to discover that Lightworks, in Clitheroe, were able to carry out the work in a sympathetic manner and at a reasonable cost. So far they have mended a number of small panes in the ringing chamber (which the ringers will appreciate!) and the long-term patched up window in the Vestry.

#### STONWORK REPAIRS

JOHN Faraday and his team (in this instance mainly his team!) have undertaken a number of repairs and inspections identified earlier in the year as part of our "Quinquennial Inspection". In particular they have re-pointed several patches of poor pointing as well as the castellations on the south side of the Church. They have repaired some slipped slates and some defective guttering.  
RCA

THE PCC IS GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO SPONSOR THE NEWSLETTER.

IN JANUARY THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED

ANONOMOUSLY BY A PARISHIONER .

Whalley Deanery  
Fund Raising Committee

The  
Children's  
Society

## Candlelight Supper

At The Kings Centre Millthorne Avenue  
off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE

SUNDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 - 6.30 for 7.00 pm

soft drinks available  
vegetarian option available  
and a selection of salads  
delicious puddings

Entertainment by

## OCTAMERON

Singers

Why not come along and enjoy the evening

Support the Society by making a donation at the Supper

**Further information and reservations from**

Your Children's Society Committee Member

Philippa 441484 Brian 44925 Tom 445471-

## THE CHURCH YARD

A recent anonymous message grumbling that the grave of a family member was a mess and would the Church "gardener" please tidy it, has highlighted what appear to be some misconceptions about issues surrounding graves.

The PCC is not trying to be beastly or unreasonable. They are merely attempting to ensure that the Church and yard remain beautiful spaces within the local surroundings, for the long term benefit of worshippers, residents and mourners alike.

The Church of England has strict rules surrounding what can and cannot go on in Church yards. The PCC has for a number of years provided a guide (a copy is on the table at the back of Church), but it is perhaps worth mentioning a few points.

The PCC is responsible for the general safety of the Church and yard. The family of a deceased person remains responsible for the tidiness and safety of the grave in perpetuity.

To ensure that our volunteer mowers can carry out their job safely and quickly breakable and especially glass flower containers are not allowed. The PCC policy stipulates that silk and plastic flowers are not permitted.

The only exceptions being Christmas wreathes and Poppy Crosses. These and flowers are allowed on graves for 3 weeks at a time. This has been the policy for years, but we have been too gentle to press the matter until now!



Church Wardens

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

EPHANY is a Christian feast day celebrated annually on January 6 it commemorates the first time the divinity of Jesus manifested itself through the visit of the Three Kings (also known as the Magi or Wise Men) and through his baptism in the river Jordan. It is a significant event in the church calendar as the celebration of the *Baptism of Jesus*.

Epiphany is the starting day of the Epiphany season, the liturgical period that follows the Christmas season and continues until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. We celebrate Epiphany on the closest Sunday this year on 7th January.

**NOTICE BOARD**

FOLLOWING a general comment by the Archdeacon at this year's Visitation, that churches as a whole are not good at providing any information to the uninitiated at their doors, we have bucked the trend. We have taken the opportunity to update the information on the Church notice board. We hope that this will prove useful to all our visitors. RCA

**ASSHETON SERMON 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

THE Assheton Sermon will be preached this year in the 11.00 am Matins service, by the Dean of Blackburn, The Very Reverend Peter Howell-Jones RCA

**DOWNHAM AND TWISTON**

**HISTORY GROUP**

The Corn mills of Billington and Whalley  
On 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, in Chatburn Methodist Church, Brian Jeffery outlined the growth of Whalley Abbey as a regional centre long before Lancashire existed. Set in the Blackburn hundred, the Abbey was surrounded by townships (villages today) each with their own corn mills, some of which were later converted into cotton mills.

With the aid of old maps, photographs, etchings, reconstructions and the odd Turner painting, he gave us a quick historical tour of Whalley, highlighting the sites of the five corn mills, one of which belonged to the Abbey. Much of the stone for the buildings, bridges and millstones was dragged down on sledges from quarries on Whalley Nab, where there is still evidence of it today.

Brian also outlined the main water courses from the time of the Cistercian monks in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The original system of sluices, canals and culverts built to facilitate the grinding and drying of oats, showed a high degree of engineering skills. The monks were no strangers to the dangers of flash flooding and sought to redirect water accordingly, as well as to protect themselves from the dangers of cholera and excessive bugs. JP

**CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CLITHEROE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**T**HE WARDEN at St Paul's Low Moor welcomed congregations of Churches in the Clitheroe area to the annual Christmas Tree Festival, including trees decorated by local organisations, with craft stalls, games and more, and live festive music.

The Festival opening was attended by the Mayor of Clitheroe and opened, during the Service starting at 6.00 pm on Friday 1st December, by Kathleen Nicholson visiting from York with Canon Rodney, our last vicar now retired, Kathleen said she was very pleased to be invited to perform the opening of the fifteenth festival, its having been revealed in the introduction that she had originally suggested having the tree festival in Clitheroe.



**THE GARDEN CLUB**

IN common with its usual practice the Garden Club hibernates for a couple of months, partly to get over the party held on 7th December at the Village Hall.

The Village Hall was beautifully decorated and the preparations for the tables and raffle were artistically provided by Carole and team. The raffle prizes (everyone a winner) were distributed by Santa with some amusing and apt asides.

The evening was crowned by excellent carol singing and Christmas songs led by Diana, Santa and Ann.

The Chairman thanked the organisers and helpers for a most enjoyable and well organised evening.

The new Garden Club season starts on Thursday, 1st March at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.

**COFFEE CLUB Christmas Lunch**

**T**HERE was a record turnout this year. Thirty four members and friends enjoyed delicious home made soup, courtesy of Dave and Michelle and assorted sandwiches, delicious cakes and mince pies, provided by Philippa, Molly and Di. Our thanks go to you all for your generosity. The room looked very festive, with jolly Christmas tablecloths and crackers plus beautiful holly and roses table decorations, thanks to Frances. We even had our own DJ, who made a compilation of Christmas songs and carols, which added to the party atmosphere. Thank you Jonathan, can we book you for next year? I also want to say a big thank you to anyone else who "mucked in" with the preparation and clearing up afterwards.

Finally, Carole Brian and myself wish you all a very a happy New Year.....Our next Meeting is on 11th January, at 10 am, hope to see you all then. BL



**the WI INSPIRING WOMEN**

Christmas came early for Downham WI when they had to vacate the Village hall to make way for the Downham players. The WI members enjoyed their Christmas meal at Shackleton's Home & Garden centre on Thursday, 16th November. This was followed by hilarious musical entertainment by 'Senior Moments' who brought much laughter with their song, verse and parody. Songs included a Beatles melody with their own words and a tribute to Victoria Wood.

Business during the evening was kept brief but bouquets of flowers were presented to members of the committee who were stepping down, including Marion Courtney for 10 years as Treasurer and Rosemary Norgrove for 8-years' service on the Committee.

A collection on the night of £30 was donated to Pendleside Hospice, plus Senior Moments donate 20% of their fee to Macmillan Cancer support.

The December meeting was a fun evening despite the expected Talk being cancelled, due to the speaker breaking her leg.

There were 3 entertaining reports about the Christmas tree decorating competition; the literary lunch at Mytton Fold Hotel and Helen Addy read an hilarious poem entitled 'The WI Committee at Christmas' written by Angela Burn of Washington Concord WI

The committee had organised a Christmas Quiz and once the crackers were pulled, the sparkling Fizz poured, and the warm mince pies passed around, the party was in full swing. With superb Christmas craft table and so many raffle prizes nearly everyone went home with a gift.

Downham welcomed two visitors on the night and looks forward to welcoming more new members in 2018 to share the fun-packed programme that is planned.

The next meeting is 18th January at 7.30 pm