

PARISH CALENDAR 2023

OCTOBER		EVENT	OFFICIATING	SIDESMEN/ WOMEN	ALTAR FLOWERS	CHURCH CLEANERS	
7th	Saturday	2pm	Decorate for the Harvest Festival				
8th	Harvest Festival	11.15 am	Matins	Chris Hegg	Mr A Herron	Mrs E. Parker	Mrs A. Chadwick & Mrs S. Travis
15th	Trinity XIX	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Revd Anne Hardarce	Mr B Lewis	Mrs P McFall	Mrs A. Wallace
22nd	Trinity XX	11.15 am	Matins	Chris Hegg	Mrs A. Wallace	Mrs A. Wallace	Mr & Mrs Lewis
25th	Wednesday	10.30	Coffee Club	Village Hall			
29th	Trinity XXI	11.15 am	Matins	Chris Hegg	Mr I Walton	Mrs K Walmsley	Mr & Mrs Herron
2nd	Thursday	7.30	All Souls' Service	St. Mary's Clitheroe			
5th	All Saints' Sunday	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Revd Anne Hardarce	Mrs P McFall	Hon Mrs R Assheton	Hon Mrs R Assheton

THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SPONSOR THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE
Vacancy
OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon RC Assheton 07817 634392 = Mrs P McFall 441484 = Mr Walton 07979 598 057

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr Neil Wallace —01200 441196
Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth —01200 445112
Village Hall Bookings —info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk .

Downham Social Media Resources
The public Facebook page - **"Downham Village"**
The private Facebook page **"Downham & Twiston Residents"**

CHURCH RESOURCES
Morning Prayer for Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham is streamed on Youtube Monday -Saturday. Access it via St. Mary Magdalene' Facebook page or via the link on the website site

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2023 Issue 8 October



www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From The Revd Catherine Heigh-Highway

Autumnal is one of my most favourite words. At His time of year the air has a different smell and the colours of the leaves on the trees are simply magnificent as we move from Summer to another season. Harvest, for many who live in towns and cities perhaps doesn't hold quite the same meaning, but being blessed to live so close to or in the countryside we can really appreciate the work that has gone in to the gathering in of crops through the night before the rain falls and the culmination of so much work and effort. In a time of such dramatic climate change and uncertainty in the world, I hope we can all appreciate the wonder of transporting grain across the world and that we can truly thank God for the harvest, safely gathered in.

Our Harvest festivals give us the opportunity to think once again about our world and how we care for what God has given us. Let us pray that all those who make decisions in our farming world think more about long term rather than short term gain and that we can continue to 'raise the glorious harvest home'.

God Bless
Catherine



IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Dear village friends who have recently passed away and will be sadly missed and their loved ones. Also to friends and neighbours who have been unwell or who are in hospital at this time.



Hedgerow 'Arry- on a long ramble...

A benefit of life in a rural oasis, often bereft of a 5G phone signal, is the opportunity for quiet contemplation when mooching the timeless hedgerows of this Parish. Happy moments to consider the Wheel of Life and how there seems to be little new under the sun.

"Lord Protector" Cromwell, in his dictatorial and puritanical fervour, banned communal bonfires to thwart sacrilegious pagan fire festivals. Now, almost 400 years later, we are now blessed with sermons from the Manchester Guardian, demonising Bonfire Night for its release of carbon dioxide and particulates. Sinners must be punished. Plus ca change...

This inspired me to invent a T-shirt slogan (in the safety of my own head) - "I'm offended that your are offended" could be proudly printed on unbleached hemp fabric.

"Causing offence" to the current regime and orthodoxy was an old shibboleth, but may now also be a modern Thought Crime.

As I watched Pendle turn salmon pink in the late afternoon sun, I began to ponder about 'social media': When printing became common place by the 17th century, the pamphlet became a 'social media' phenomena: James Stuart, the new monarch for the new nation of Great Britain, had some success with his book "Daemononlogie". Perhaps it was a clever move. His publication allowed for a subtle assertion of his divine right to rule over Parliament. It may have also been a clever distraction to cause both a moral panic and establish social control by way of fear and retribution. The devastating power of a 'witch hunt'. I was brought back to the 21st century by the lengthening rays of afternoon sunlight illuminating a spider's web in a hedgerow - fragile beauty crafted with delicate golden threads.

My thoughts turned to a famous trial of a farm labourer in 1935 - the judgment contained an enduring phrase about the "golden thread" of the English justice system: An accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty, in a court of law. A judicial reminder of Magna Carta.

We live in interesting times. Although current news events may rapidly change, as this notes is being penned, a scruffy loudmouth called Russell Brand has been accused of serious criminal behaviour. Within hours, he was 'cancelled' by an braying mob and much of his livelihood taken away - all without being arrested, charged or proven guilty in a court of law.

This is not a defence of Brand, the long-haired, anti-establishment and conspiratorial preacher. Perhaps a quote from the film Life of Brian is rather apt regards his pre-revelation behaviour: "He is not the messiah - he's a very naughty boy". Diverse opinions aside, the Rule of Law must take its course. The people who have made these serious allegations must be respected and evidence relating to the alleged perpetrator should be investigated. But, the 'Golden Thread' - the presumption of innocence, until proven guilty, by due process, should be sacrosanct in a civilised society.

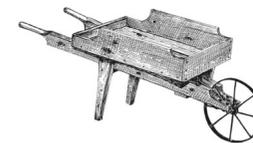
Critics suggest that ancient liberties of England - the bedrock of our Rule of Law - free, lawful speech and access to a fair trial, may be sacrificed at the modern altar of "safety".

Harvest Time in Bygone Downham Days

HARVEST.—The Harvest of the year 1889 is fast being completed, and maybe in some districts it has only been an indifferent one,

yet in others it has been good and bountiful. Our fickle and precarious English weather often disappoints us of earlier hopes. The Vicar says he is willing to have a "Harvest Festival" if *volunteers* will come forward and help in getting it up.

+ + +



Coffee Devotional Reflections at Downham from Mrs. Depa Masih-Hegg

Making a fresh cup of coffee in the morning is one of life's luxuries that I enjoy. The beans are ground, releasing a wonderful aroma and when ground to the right consistency, I then decant it into the coffee jar ready to unleash that dopaminergic coffee moment. This process is helped with the use of a plastic funnel inserted into the coffee jar ready for the ground coffee to filter through. Gentle tapping against the jar encourages the coffee to get a move on. Tedious as it may sound, it's one of those routines I have done for years. Then one day, I initiated a squeeze of the funnel, made of plastic, it complied obediently, and along with a few taps the coffee flowed at speed and at ease. It's not that I lack patience, it's just routine and I'm a great believer in efficiency and trying to do things the best I can with the knowledge I have. Knowledge goes a long way, doesn't it? It also improves in time as one becomes mature and wise in application.



Learning to play the violin is similar. Repetitive daily practice is certainly a discipline and can be tedious. I set clear goals to achieve and monitor progress, gradually getting better. But the hard work soon pays off, as I stay committed and continue to develop the skills needed. It also teaches me patience, and yes it takes time! Obtaining knowledge is a discipline that works with patience and commitment to become wise. But just like the funnel and the violin, they are instruments used for a purpose.

Knowledge that is true is to know, abide with and follow Jesus by faith. Christians who believe in Jesus are instruments, if you like, that are made for a purpose for the Kingdom of God by the empowering of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides the person and the church in the ways of Jesus to life everlasting, not in the world's way, to destruction. In the Bible (Old Testament), in the second chapter of the book of Daniel, verse 21 (2:21), we are told that knowledge is true and good, along with wisdom that comes from God as a gift to those who have understanding. If knowledge is to know and wisdom is the ability to judge what is right and true. Then understanding is therefore knowing how to apply it correctly.

Furthermore, Christians are instructed to increase in the knowledge of God, and this is part of Christian maturity (2 Peter 3:18). We can do this by reading the Bible daily and living by Jesus's principles, seeking Him in prayer and relationship and thanking Him in all things.

Let us all grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus by being instruments of God to show His love and grace to others in our world through our words and actions. When we are squeezed let us pour out with knowledge, in Christ and prove, by our actions to be more like Jesus. As Charles Spurgeon once said, *"Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion...it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ."* Let us mature well, in Christ our beloved Saviour.

Hedgerow 'Arry-(cont.) still rambling...

Meanwhile, just as the media farrago ensued, the Online Safety Bill was passed into UK law. One consequence is that online comments that cause offence may be effectively criminalised. A chilling effect of mass surveillance perhaps worthy of any historic Gestapo or Soviet Commissar. Unelected officials from OFCOM may hold the power of digital life or death for UK citizens.

"Safety" is an interesting word. At the height of The Terror during the French Revolution, citizens, branded "enemies of the State", faced the guillotine at the whim of the "Committee of Public Safety".

"Causing offence" with lawful but apparently "harmful" comments is something that has become easy to be accused of: Some can be offended by the sight of produce in a butcher's window or the rural heritage of hounds and horses with riders wearing hunting pink. Buying coal to keep our home fires burning is now illegal. A van driver stopping Just Stop Oil protestors from obstructing the King's Highway can feel the strong arm of the law for simply trying to get to work.

To honour free speech and lawful activity, I vow to channel my inner Voltaire to steadfastly defend the flagellating, virtue signalling, pious rights of those who want to excommunicate their wood-burning stoves, munch on vegan sausages or boycott fossil fuel products such as detergent and soap.

As the autumn sun set behind Worsaw Hill, there remained a lingering concern as I walked back to the village. In our Brave New World of Online "Safety" - if I dare to post a photo on social media of my sarcastic t-shirt, would I be 'Branded' a heretic, ejected 'beyond the pale', fear a wiki-witch hunt and be sent to a digital dungeon?

PS - Hedgerow 'Arriet says I've had too much strong coffee. (Normal service will be resumed next month)

Talking of coffee 'Arry ...



September Coffee Club

Our September meeting was a mixture of sadness and celebration. We mourned the loss of Lynda Whitsey and Sheila Knowles, both founder members and long standing residents of Downham and send our deepest sympathy to Jonathan, Norman and both families, they will be greatly missed by all their friends at Coffee Club.

Despite the sadness, we were delighted to congratulate Phyllis and Jimmy Jackson on recently celebrating their Platinum wedding anniversary, which is 70 years! what a wonderful achievement and Phyllis, who came with her daughter Sheila, generously provided a delicious array of cakes (much fancier than anything I can produce). It was a privilege to share in their celebrations and we gave them a card and flowers to mark the special occasion.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, **October 25th at 10.30**. Once again, if anyone new to the area fancies coming along and making new friends, you'll be made very welcome! Best wishes, Barbara and Brian

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 8th October. Anyone who would like to help with decorating Church is asked to come along at 2pm on Saturday 7th.

ST LEONARDS DAY

For those of you who fill your diaries well in advance, do remember that we have our "St Leonard's Day" tidy of the Church and grounds on Saturday 11th November, between 10 am and Noon. This is a chance to tackle some of the tasks that our gallant cleaners (and sheep) are unable to do. Tasks great and small can be allocated on the day to suit volunteers.

CORONA HIGHWAY

The Downham to Chatburn Concessionary bridleway (dubbed the Corona Highway as it opened early in the first Covid lockdown) is well used, especially by walkers. Recently an enquirer asked why the gates (which do not join) were installed? There are a number of reasons for the chosen design.

The Highway authority insisted that there should be a solid visual barrier at every road crossing, in case a horse galloped away with its rider. The thinking being that it would see what appeared to be a fence and slow down before charging onto the road.

It was also thought sensible to have a barrier, in order to thwart would-be off road drivers from thinking it fun to drive down the bridleway.

The gate system was chosen so that in years to come it would be possible to open the gates and lift out the "banging" posts, so that a tractor can gain access to trim the hedges.

TOM PARKER

One of our roving reporters recently called in on Tom Parker (long time resident of Springs Farm), who now resides near the base of Sutton Bank, close to Thirsk. He is apparently in good form and remains as frugal as ever!

MOLLY ROSKELL

After a quarter of a century in Downham, Molly has decided that the time has come to move closer to her daughter in Skipton. We shall miss her, as she has been a stalwart member of the Church and various of the village clubs and organisations. She aims to return periodically to keep in touch with us.

REV DR JUDITH CLARK INDUCTION

Judith will be officially welcomed and sworn into office on Sunday 19th November at 7pm at St Mary's Clitheroe. The service will be conducted by the Bishop of Blackburn and carried out with due pomp and ceremony. Anyone who would like to attend should contact Ian Walton in advance, so that St Mary's know how many to anticipate.

RA

Village Hall Bonfire Night

This year our Village Bonfire is on Sunday, November 5th and to accommodate children's bedtimes, will start at around 5pm with the bonfire being lit at approx 5.15. Fireworks begin at 5.45.

This gives plenty of time to enjoy delicious food prepared by The Pendle Grill and if you fancy a glass of mulled wine, that's available too. The only thing we ask, is you don't bring your own fireworks or sparklers.

The price is very competitive at £6 per head, with children under 12 free.

Please come along and support your local community, in a safe child friendly environment.

Tickets are available online at www.eventbrite.co.uk and search for Village Hall Bonfire Event



Stage Two Downham Forthcoming Autumn Production



Stage Two Downham's next production will be "God Of Carnage" by Yasmina Reza. A beautifully written comedy of bad manners that will make you laugh out loud and cringe in equal measure, it is about two sets of parents who meet to discuss a playground fight between their sons. Despite their best attempts at remaining amicable, they become more and more like their unruly children. The dialogue is witty, fast-paced, and full of clever twists and turns.

It was a smash hit in the West End and Broadway, winning amongst many awards the 2008 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. It was made in to a film in 2011 starring Kate Winslet, Jodie Foster, Christoph Waltz and John C. Reilly.

Building on the success of the "prosecco lounge" at the last production, there will be a bar selling glasses of mulled wine (and equally nice non-alcoholic alternatives) during the interval or each performance. And for those who would like to make a night of it, there will be a pre-theatre meal deal available at the Assheton Arms.

God Of Carnage will be in the Village Hall from Wednesday 29th November until Saturday 2nd December. Tickets will go on sale soon on the Stage Two Website www.stagetwodownham.co.uk. Email info@stagetwodownham.co.uk if you'd like to be added to their mailing list.

Fields of Green Folk Club

Fields of Green Folk Club are presenting their first evening of live music on October 14th from 6pm at our Village Hall in Downham. Three outstanding female acts performing throughout the evening

We will be highlighting songs written about women of local history namely the Pendle Witches and other women who have left their mark in both folk tales and historical events.

Tickets are £17.50/£15 OAP includes a light supper. Licensed bar sponsored by Moorhouse's Brewery, Raffle and artists merchandise stall.

To book tickets contact Linda 07401629304 or email Fieldsofgreenfolkclub@gmail.com
This is a charity event in aid of Downham Village Hall.