

**PARISH CALENDAR 2023**

SEPTEMBER				EVENT	SIDESMEN/ WOMEN	ALTAR FLOWERS	CHURCH CLEANERS
3rd	Trinity XIII	11.15 am	Rev. Anne Hardarce	Holy Communion	Mrs P. McFall	Hon Mrs R Assheton	Mr I. & Mrs L. Walton
10th	Trinity XIV	11.15 am	Chris Hegg	Matins	Mrs A. Wallace	C.Lee	Mr P. & Mrs M. Mercer
17th	Trinity XV	11.15 am	Rev. Anne Hardarce	Holy Communion	Mr B & Mrs B. Lewis	TBA	Mrs P. McFall & Mrs M. Roskell
20th	Wednesday	7.30 pm		PPC Meeting	In Church		
24th	Trinity XVI	11.15am	Chris Hegg	Matins	Mr I. Walton	D.Braithwaite	Mrs A. Wallace

**OCTOBER**

1st	Trinity XVII	11.15 am	Rev. Anne Hardarce	Holy Communion	Mrs P. McFall	TBA	Mr B & Mrs B. Lewis
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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 —441196

Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth —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 7 September** [www.downhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk)

**Editor's Note:** With apologies, we have a slightly slimmer Parish newsletter this month. The August news has been well, slim - something of what the printed press might call the 'silly season'. Now there's nothing wrong with a bit of silliness at the end of summer, although it rather suggests that we must all become terribly serious when its all done and we move onto Autumn. But with all the joys of that crisp and crimson season to look forward to, I do hope not. As we all return from summer breaks and start looking towards new times ahead and as the Parish awaits our new Vicar, the Revd. Dr. Judith Clark, to join us later in the year, there is in fact a lot to look forward to. In the meantime, for this month only, I hope you will forgive me if I herald not so much the end of a summer, but more the start of another beautiful season, with a poem that seems appropriate for us all.

**Autumn by John Clare (1793-1864)**

The thistledown's flying, though the winds are all still,  
On the green grass now lying, now mounting the hill,  
The spring from the fountain now boils like a pot;  
Through stones past the counting it bubbles red-hot.

The ground parched and cracked is like overbaked bread,  
The greensward all wracked is, bents dried up and dead.  
The fallow fields glitter like water indeed,  
And gossamers twitter, flung from weed unto weed.

Hill-tops like hot iron glitter bright in the sun,  
And the rivers we're eying burn to gold as they run;  
Burning hot is the ground, liquid gold is the air;  
Whoever looks round sees Eternity there.

## IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Friends neighbours who have been unwell or who are in hospital at this time



### NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

#### Rainfall

Since mid June the weather has been decidedly un-summery. Surprisingly though it has not been 'record-breakingly' wet! In July we had 7.87 inches of rain (against a rolling average of 3.65 inches), but we had 7.78 inches in 2009 and a whopping 9.41 in 2007.

#### West Lane Farm

The shortage of consistently fine weather has definitely hampered the roofing works at West Lane. A job that should have taken less than three weeks has dragged on for nearer to eight, as the slates are too slippery to walk on after even the lightest of showers. Once the scaffold has been removed, work will commence to repair and tidy up the buildings behind.

#### Gardens Open

The Hall gardens were opened on the last Sunday of July, in order to raise funds for Crossroads Care Ribble Valley and Downham Village Hall. Despite the ever present threat of rain and a strong wind throughout, it was a bumper day for visitor numbers. Many thanks to all those who helped with the preparations, the running of the day and the tidying up, together with the generous donors of prizes. The day made £7,600.



#### Trees

It is an ongoing sadness how many trees continue to die of disease, as well as just old age. A number of dying Ash have recently been felled on Pendle Road (near Laneside) and there will definitely be more to fell over the coming weeks and months.

On the brighter side, the Jubilee Plantation (which a number of residents helped to plant for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee) seems to be doing alright. Some of the saplings are beginning to poke their tops out of the tree shelters. Hookcliffe Wood is a bit more of a mixed message. The Birch are doing well and can be easily seen from the village. Sadly the other broadleaves seem to have been stunted by deer and occasional sheep browsing.

#### Swearing in of Warden

The usual practice is for Church Wardens to be sworn in at "The Archdeacon's Visitation" (A full blown service for all the Churches that the Archdeacon is responsible for - which is half of the Diocese). This year the Twiston Warden was unable to attend the Visitation, but Elizabeth McLean (the new Area Dean for Whalley) made the unusual step of coming out to St Leonard's to carry out the legal niceties her! The congregation was therefore able to witness the core of the ceremony, without the necessity of giving up a whole Thursday evening!

## Downham Village Hall News



#### Village Hall Refurb

The final building works to complete the upgrade of The Village Hall have been completed. A number of flower beds have been created, in order to soften the exterior appearance of the main entrance. The Slate chippings outside the front door have also been replaced with rather lighter and brighter gravel. Already the building looks more welcoming, so imagine how good it will look next spring when it is fully planted up!

#### 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.

With three outstanding female acts performing throughout the evening, we will be highlighting songs written about women of local history, namely the 'Pendle Witches' as well as other women who have left their mark in both folk tales and historical events. Additionally, we will have two of our local actors to MC the evening's events, appearing in the guises of Old Demdike and Alice Nutter! Definitely not an evening to be missed!

There will be a licensed bar sponsored by Moorhouse's Brewery, a Raffle and an artists' merchandise stall. If anyone is interested in getting involved with this new folk music club please send Linda a message.

This is a charity event in aid of Downham Village Hall.

Tickets are £17.50/£15 OAP includes a light supper.

To book tickets please contact Linda:

Tel: **07401629304**,

or email **Fieldsofgreenfolkclub@gmail.com**

#### Coffee Club

Our next meeting of the Coffee Club at the Village Hall, is on September 27th from 10.30 till 12.30.

We look forward to greeting all our regular members and would also like to invite anyone who's recently moved into Downham and Twiston parish area to come and join us. It's very friendly and informal. Just turn up you'll be made very welcome,

See you soon

Barbara & Brian



#### Stage Two Downham

As the sound of applause and the chink of Prosecco glasses has all but faded from our summer production of Educating Rita, we at Stage Two Downham are already making plans for our autumn play, at the end of November. We will be having play readings at the Hall on September 14th at 7.30pm and after our 7pm AGM on September 19th. If you're interested in what we do or want to get involved, on or off stage, you are very welcome to join us at both the AGM and the play readings.