

PARISH CALENDAR June 2025

Date and Event			Officiating	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flow- ers	
1st June	Ascension Sunday	11.15am Holy Communion	Rev. Anne Hardacre	Mr B. Lewis	TBA	Mrs R.
8th June	Whit Sunday	11.15am Matins	Rev. Chris Hegg	Miss A. Cross	TBA	Hon. M Asshet C. Naylor
15th June	Trinity Sunday	11.15am Matins	Rev. Chris Hegg	Mr B. Lewis	TBA	Mr P. & Mercer
22nd June	Trinity II	11.15am Matins	Rev. Chris Hegg	Mr A. Her- ron	TBA	Mrs A. & Mrs
29th June	Trinity III	11.15am Holy Communion	Rev. Chris Hegg	Mrs P. McFall	TBA	Mr I. & Waltor
JULY 2025						
6th July	Trinity IV	11.15am Holy Communion	Rev. Chris Hegg	Mrs B. Lewis	TBA	Mrs A.

YOUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton (Parish Safeguarding Officer) 07817 634392

Mr Ian Walton—07979 598 057

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr Neil Wallace 441196

Hon. Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112

Village Hall Bookings email info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk

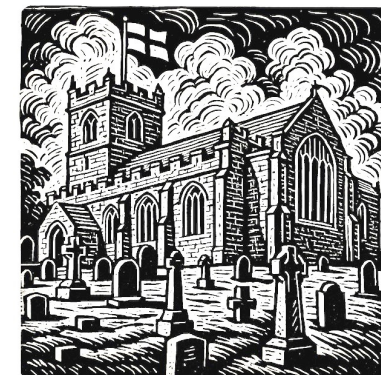
PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

Newsletter

New email: Downham@mail.com

Website: www.downhamvillage.org.uk



June 2025

O Lord our God,
 who crownest the year with thy goodness
 and blessest the earth with thy increase,
 we give thee hearty thanks for the turning of the seasons
 and for the month of June in these green foothills of Pendle.
 We bless thee for the rain which hath refreshed the land
 after long days of parching sun,
 for the vibrant leaves that now clothe the hedgerows,
 and the lush grass that feedeth the flocks upon the hill.
 Prosper, we beseech thee, the labour of all who tend the land,
 and grant peace and fellowship within this rural community,
 that neighbour may serve neighbour
 in charity, patience, and joy.
 Be present with those who mourn,
 especially those who grieve the loss of the lately departed;
 comfort them with thy Holy Spirit,
 and grant them hope in the resurrection to life everlasting.
 As we keep the holy feast of Pentecost and remember Whitsun's fire,
 kindle within us the gifts of the Spirit:
 wisdom, understanding, counsel, and might,
 that we may walk ever more nearly with thee.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,
 one God, world without end. Amen.

O God, who sendest rain upon the dry earth and makest the hills to rejoice in green, bless the fields and pastures of Pendle with thy bounty; strengthen the bonds of our rural community in love and service; comfort the sorrowful with thy peace; and kindle in us the fire of thy Spirit at Whitsuntide, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Some prominent Saint's Days for June:

1st June

St. Justin the Martyr: Early Christian apologist and martyr under Roman persecution (c.. AD165)

3rd June

SS. Charles Lwanga and Companions: Ugandan martyrs killed for their faith in the late 19th century.

5th June

St. Boniface: English missionary who became the “Apostle of Germany”; martyred in 754

22nd June

St. Alban: First recorded British Christian martyr, executed in Roman Britain.

Notable Dates in History for June

June has long been a month of significance in our Island story:

On **15 June 1215**, King John sealed the *Magna Carta* at Runnymede, a foundational moment for English constitutional law. Centuries later, on **18 June 1815**, the *Battle of Waterloo* brought final defeat to Napoleon, cementing Britain's place as a global power.

In the 20th century, **2 June 1953** saw the *Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II*, a broadcast event that united millions across the British Commonwealth. And on **6 June 1944**, *D-Day* marked the beginning of the end of World War II, with British and Allied forces storming the beaches of Normandy.

From medieval charters to modern monarchs, June carries echoes of Britain's enduring legacy.

Get in a pickle!

Pickleball: the sport with the silly name and seriously addictive fun. A de-lightful mix of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong—ideal for the nimble, the not-so-nimble, and everyone in between. Thanks to the ever-energetic Alan Heron, Parishioners can now enjoy this joyous racket every Monday from 6.15pm in the Village Hall. Whether you're a paddle prodigy or just there for the laughs, all are welcome. Warning: side effects may include laughter, mild competitiveness, and an unexpected love of ‘dinking’.



RSPB Moorland Safari

Friday 13/06/25 (9:30 to 14.00 hrs)

Join the RSPB for a walk along one of the Forest of Bowland's most stunning valleys.

We will be looking out for rare upland birds including hen harrier, ring ouzel, and merlin. We also hope to spot other moorland specialities such as stonechat, meadow pipit, curlew, and have the chance of seeing green hairstreak butterflies.

Approximately 2.5 miles along a rough track. Please come equipped for changeable upland conditions: warm and waterproof clothing and footwear, food and water, and maybe even sun block. Please bring binoculars (and a telescope would be useful if you have one).

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. (Minimum child age 10 years.) £10 (RSPB members £8) + booking fee.



Forest of Bowland National Landscape

Hedgerow 'Arry

The Living Borders of June: A Celebration of Our Hedgerows

In the soft light of early summer, Lancashire's hedgerows become living borders — tangled with growth, humming with insects, and dotted with the soft hues of wildflowers. These ancient, often overlooked field margins are among the richest habitats in our landscape, echoing with centuries of history and ecological interconnection.

At this time of year, *cow parsley* froths like delicate lace along the lanes, its tall, feathery umbels beloved by hoverflies and early bees. It's sometimes nicknamed “Queen Anne's lace,” a nod to its elegant appearance. Peeping beneath it, one may spot the tiny bright-blue blooms of *germander speedwell*, a plant whose cheerful colour belies its old country name, “men's forget-me-not” — once believed to aid memory and loyalty.

Tuberous bistort (or *bistoria*) unfurls its tight pink spikes in damper spots; it was once a staple of dock pudding in northern kitchens. *Cowslip*, with its nodding yellow heads, was so abundant in Shakespeare's England that it carpeted entire meadows — now, its return to hedgerows is a quiet triumph of conservation.

The cheerful yellow of *bird's-foot trefoil* is known as “eggs and bacon” to many countryfolk. As a member of the pea family, it helps fix nitrogen into the soil, benefiting neighbouring plants. Nestled low among the leaves, *violets* bring a splash of purple and a gentle scent, with some varieties providing an essential early food source for fritillary butterflies.

In wetter spots, the *cuckoo flower* — also called lady's smock — blooms as the bird itself returns to herald spring. It is a vital larval plant for the orange-tip butterfly. The striking blue of *bugle*, meanwhile, rises in spires, offering rich nectar to bees and long-tongued flies. Its dark leaves and creeping habit once earned it a place in herbal lore for treating wounds. More subtle but no less vital, *smooth bedstraw* tangles among taller plants, its fine stems once used to stuff mattresses for their sweet scent. Finally, *green alkanet*, though not native, naturalises freely in hedgerows with its bristly leaves and forget-me-not-blue flowers. Its deep roots anchor banks, and its long flowering season makes it invaluable to pollinators. Together, these ten wildflowers weave a quiet but vital tapestry — not only beautiful, but essential to the life that hums and flits above and below. Our hedgerows are not relics; they are wild cathedrals of biodiversity, deserving both our admiration and protection.

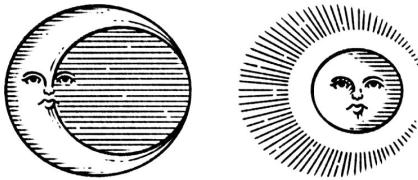
The Heavens above Downham in June ...

On clear June nights in our Parish, twilight lingers late, and true darkness comes only briefly — but when it does, the stars still whisper their ancient stories. The Summer Triangle begins to rise, with bright *Vega*, *Deneb*, and *Altair* marking its three luminous points. Low in the north, *Ursa Major* remains a faithful companion, its Plough guiding eyes to *Polaris*, the steadfast North Star. Though many constellations hide in the summer’s short night, Saturn graces the early morning sky, a pale jewel above the horizon. Even in fleeting darkness, the heavens offer their quiet majesty — a celestial balm to the long days of light.



MOON phases in June

- First Quarter:** Tuesday, 3 June at 04:40 hrs
- Full Moon:** Wednesday, 11 June at 08:43 hrs
- Third Quarter:** Wednesday, 18 June at 20:19hrs
- New Moon:** Wednesday, 25 June at 11:31hrs



The Full Moon on 11th June, known as the *Strawberry Moon*, traditionally signifies the ripening of wild strawberries. This name originates from Native American and European traditions tied to seasonal harvests.

Bin - Collection - which Thursday in June?...

Red bin every week and...

5th	June	Blue
12th	June	Green and paper
19th	June	Blue
26th	June	Green and paper

The Forgotten War: Between VE Day and VJ Day – Lancashire’s Quiet Sacrifice

When the bunting fluttered and church bells rang out on VE Day, 8 May 1945, the streets of Lancashire came alive with celebration. After six long years, Nazi Germany had surrendered. Yet for many, particularly those with loved ones in the Far East, the war was far from over. The so-called ‘Forgotten War’ continued in Burma, Malaya, and across the Pacific, where British and Commonwealth forces, including thousands from Lancashire regiments, still faced fierce resistance from Japanese forces. The brutal conditions, relentless heat, and the psychological toll of a war largely ignored at home made this final chapter especially gruelling. For local families, joy on VE Day was tempered with anxiety. Sons, brothers, and fathers were still in danger. It was not until VJ Day—15 August 1945—that Lancashire could begin to truly count its losses and welcome home its weary, often changed, heroes. For far too many British POWs who were little more than living skeletons after years of harsh Japanese treatment, their return home was delayed. Many first going to Australia and elsewhere to recuperate and to wait for passage back from the other side of the world. Today, we must never forget not only the great victory in Europe, but also those who fought on in silence - unseen and uncelebrated - for peace.

The spiritual traditions of June

June stands at the threshold of light, where ancient pagan rhythms and Christian devotion quietly entwine. The summer solstice, longest day of the year, once marked with fires and songs, still echoes in our midsummer gatherings, our reverence for nature’s turning. Whitsun, with its tongues of flame and celebration of the Holy Spirit, mirrors those same primal themes of renewal, illumination, and community. In village greens and hedgerow processions, we glimpse how Christian and pre-Christian traditions are not opposed, but woven together — roots in the same soil, reaching towards the same light. June, radiant and abundant, reminds us of both earth’s blessing and heaven’s grace.

Well Dressing

At this time of year, the ancient tradition of *Well Dressing* blooms across the countryside — a ritual that honours water’s life-giving gift. Rooted in pagan rites and offerings to sacred springs, it once invoked Romano-British goddesses like Coventina, guardian of wells and flowing waters. As Christianity spread, these deep reverences found new expression in the veneration of the Virgin Mary, herself often linked with purity, healing, and living water. Today’s petal-laced tributes, crafted with devotion and set at many village wells, quietly carry this lineage: a mingling of old and new faiths, where blessing the source still speaks to hearts across the ages.



Pendle cotton

High on the moorlands of Pendle, the soft tufts of cotton grass ripple in the June breeze — a wild echo of a time when Lancashire’s fortunes were bound to cotton. During the American Civil War, the Union blockade of Confederate ports choked off supplies of raw cotton, plunging the North West into the so-called Lancashire Cotton Famine. Mills fell silent, families went hungry, and in desperation, some turned to the hills. Amid the windswept peat and poor soil, forlorn attempts were made to cultivate cotton — a venture doomed by climate and terrain. Yet still, the moors bloomed with native cotton grass, a pale, haunting symbol of what might have been. The phrase “Britain’s Bread depends on Lancashire’s Thread” rang hollow, but reminded a nation how deeply our textile industries were woven into our nation’s past prosperity.

Hurrah for Midsommar!

In the long light of June, Scandinavians gather outdoors to honour *Midsommar* — weaving flower crowns, dancing around maypoles, and feasting beneath open skies. These joyful rites, rooted in nature and community, echo the rhythms of the land and celebrate life at its fullest. Here in rural Lancashire, where Viking place names and folklore still linger, we might reclaim this heritage with our own gatherings: wildflower garlands, local music, shared food, and fires to mark the solstice. Embracing such traditions connects us to our Norse ancestors and the turning of the year — a celebration not of the exotic, but of what is already deeply ours.

OPEN GARDENS 2025



DOWNHAM HALL CHARITY OPEN GARDENS **Sunday 27th July, 12.00 – 16.00**

Downham Hall's annual charity Open Garden invites visitors to explore the Rose, Kitchen and cutting gardens, formal beds and herbaceous borders of the three-acre gardens with Pendle Hill as their stunning backdrop. The day also features Morris Dancing, performances by local brass bands and other musicians, plant and craft stalls, Prosecco stand, beer stall, burgers and grills, traditional afternoon teas, floral demonstrations, a raffle with some great prizes and the ever-popular 'Human Fruit Machine'. All profits go to Downham Village Hall and the Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham Benefice (Churches of St Paul and St Mary Magdalene, Clitheroe; Christ Church Chatburn and St Leonard Downham). **TICKETS £8. Under 5's free. Free Parking.**

NEWS FOR June 2025

Coffee Club

Hi to all our present Coffee Club members and potential newcomers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month, the next one, being the 25th of June, from 10.30 am. BL

Garden Club

For the Garden Club summer meet-up, we are having a gentle Summer Solstice walk on **Saturday June 21st**. Meeting at **Downham village car park for 7pm**. Walking boots/wellies recommended. A lovely way to mark our longest day of the year and to marvel in our beautiful countryside surroundings. All very welcome. HA

Butter Pie - perfect with a summer salad

One of Lancashire's cherished traditional summer recipes is *Butter Pie* — a simple yet deeply comforting dish once favoured by many on meat-free Fridays. Though often associated with colder months, it graces summer tables when served with crisp salad leaves and tangy pickles. Made with layers of thinly sliced potatoes and gently sautéed onions, nestled in buttery shortcrust pastry, the pie is seasoned with white pepper and slow-baked to golden perfection. Humble yet rich, it reflects the resourcefulness of rural Lancashire kitchens — where modest ingredients, treated with care and patience, yield flavours as warm and generous as the summer sun itself

Twiston defibrillator

There is a new addition close to the Twiston notice board - a defibrillator is in the process of being fitted and commissioned thanks to Cllr Gary Scott and Carol Palmer. With some final wiring being completed when the weather improves, the ribbon is due to be cut by a local celebrity. Sadly, Bullseye's very own Jim Bowen could not officiate due to passing away in March 2018.

Post Office - Hare Green

Just a reminder to Parishioners that the 'pop-up' Post Office is open every Wednesday in the Ice Cream shop on Hare Green every Wednesday from 10am to noon. This welcome facility allows locals to withdraw cash and to pay in cash and cheques (as the nearest branches of some banks are now about 50 miles away!).